

Mendocino Sufi Camp



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Greetings,

You have either registered your child, or you have asked to be a guardian for someone else's child, for Mendocino Sufi Camp.

Mendocino Sufi Camp has a general policy that minors are not allowed at camp without their parents except in certain circumstances:

- The minor's parent is a member of the Sufi community. This requirement is based on the idea that members of the community are less likely to blame the camp if something untoward happens to their child at camp. If the parent is **not** a member of our Sufi community, the camp managers would have to feel **extremely** comfortable that the parent understands the nature of the camp, and the nonprofit that runs the camp, to move past this hurdle and on to the next one.
- The parent(s) must choose a temporary guardian for their child(ren) who will be at camp. Guardians must be at least 21 years of age (although we prefer guardians who are older and have parenting experience), and there must be no doubt about her or his ability to fully take on a parental role in relation to your minor camper. If this designated guardian decides to leave camp (to go into town, go on a hike, etc.), he or she must sign temporary guardianship over to yet another person at camp — and the minor's parent must feel comfortable enough with the guardian's judgment that this arrangement would not pose a problem.
- The parent(s) and the temporary guardian must talk by telephone, **at least a month before camp**, with the camp manager **and** a camp youth programs coordinator, to make sure they understand the responsibilities and requirements involved, as well as the extremely limited oversight/responsibility the camp and its youth program have for the minor.
- Our camp manager **and** our youth programs coordinator must be comfortable with the arrangement.
- The parent(s) must sign all required paperwork: an Absent Parent's Assumption of Risk Agreement and Liability Release; a Temporary Release to Guardian; an Authorization for Medical Treatment; a Field Trip Release; a "Cruising" Release (see below); and a questionnaire about the child.
- We must receive all signed paperwork, via postal mail, **at least two weeks before camp begins**.

In particular, we need to make sure the absent parent knows:

- **Mendocino Sufi Camp is not a supervised camp for children.** We have limited children's program activities ("kids' camp") during adult class periods; at all other times, children are the responsibility of the designated temporary guardian. Parents of most children eight years of age and older sign a "Cruising Release" so their children can walk themselves to and from the kids' camp area — but if the children, for whatever reason, don't arrive at kids' camp, the camp/Golden Gate Sufi Circle is not responsible for them; they remain the guardian's responsibility.
- While there are volunteer health professionals at camp, **we do not have a medical staff.** The closest hospital is 30 minutes away in Fort Bragg.
- If for any reason the child of an absent parent needs to leave camp, **the parent or another legally responsible party must be available to come pick up the child;** that is, this person needs to be in northern California and be reachable by telephone.

Love and light,

Amina Meyer Mousa, camp manager

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