



PINES TO PALMS



YMCA OVERNIGHT CAMPS
MARSTON | SURF | RAINTREE

ymcasd.org/camps P 760 765 0642

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A newsletter for Alumni & Friends of YMCA OVERNIGHT CAMPS – MARSTON | SURF | RAINTREE

SUMMER CAMP UPDATE



Best News Ever = Best Summer Ever!

We are very excited to plan our return to youth camping at YMCA Camp Marston. The California Department of Health recently announced that overnight camps will be permitted this summer.

We are awaiting the specific operating guidelines from the County Health Officials.

For now, here is what we are planning:

We will hold overnight camps at Marston & Raintree Ranch.

CAMP MARSTON

50% of normal capacity starting July 3 for 7 weeks.

RAINTREE RANCH

20 horses, 44 campers starting June 20 for 9 weeks.

CAMP SURF

200 campers a week Day Camp including Family Camping on weekends.

Registrations for Marston & Raintree will be launched online in mid-April, stay tuned.

For health and safety, COVID procedures will be in place (masks, distancing, health screening, sanitation). Summer camp will continue building friendships and fun in the great outdoors.

Hope to see you this summer!

Tom Madeyski



RED RUMBLE & THE TREE

One of the famous Marston stories comes from the 1950's, and we must caution readers, "Do NOT try this at home!"

Red Rumble was a camp staff member at Marston and as a young man, had learned tumbling and gymnastics at the San Diego YMCA. On a parent arrival day, for show, Red decided to climb a very tall pine tree near the lower athletic field. He made his way to the very top, came down, and upon his return, a friend challenged him with, "I bet you couldn't do a hand-stand on top of that tree".

Using his Y gymnastics experience, Red accepted the challenge and climbed right back up, and sure enough, as the photo shows, he performed a hand-stand on top of the tree.

We were honored when Red and his wife Kathy visited Marston in 2005. We were able to locate the exact tree stump for Red to strike a "before and after pose", although for this photo, he skipped the hand-stand part. Red has since passed on, but his memorable tree-climb remains as Marston folklore. **Thank you Red!**



FAMILY CABIN RENTALS – HAPPENING NOW!

Since the fall, we've been open at Camps Surf and Marston, renting our cabins to family bubble-groups. Families have thoroughly enjoyed quality outdoor time in a COVID-safe environment. Weekend rentals are affordable at \$350 for a family of four. Bring your own meals and enjoy the great outdoors on the beach or in the mountains. We even had some snow weekends this year!

Family Cabin rentals are open to all. Weekend and mid-week reservations are open up to June, 2021.

Book your cabin today, spots are filling fast.

For more info:

ymcasd.org/marston-retreat | ymcasd.org/surf-retreat



CENTENNIAL YEAR IS HERE!

We're thrilled to celebrate this cherished treasure of our community. Camp Marston has grown to a thriving year-round recreation, personal growth and environmental education center. Marston is deeply adored by hundreds of thousands of San Diegans, 6th grade school campers, Y-Adventure Guides, summer campers and staff. Countless lives have been impacted, all guided by the Mission of the Y. The powerful formula of God's great creation, inspiring leaders, purposeful programming and a pervasive emphasis on character development have led to changed lives and saved lives.

Calling all alumni, have you heard about the Marston Century Club? In honor of Camp Marston's 100th, if your time at camp holds meaning to you, please consider making a gift at ymcasd.org/marston100.

THREE GIVING LEVELS:

\$19.21 \$192.10 \$1,921

ymcasd.org/marston100



Camp Surf's First Camper of 2021!

For the last two months, Camp Surf has been hosting family retreats over the weekends in hopes of giving families the opportunity to enjoy the outdoors while fighting through the pandemic. During one of our family retreats over president's day weekend, campers and Families were surprised to see a rather unexpected and unconventional camper. hopping through the beach gate early president's day morning, our first camper of 2021 had arrived!

A stranded California Sea Lion pup waddled its way into camp. It made its way through the beach volleyball court, got tagged out at Gaga Ball, and finally stopped off at the Sugar Shack for its drink and snack for the day. Needless to say, its parents had not set up a store account yet, so Program Director Kyle Millard used some of the scholarship money fundraised over the past year to help support our little camper. The sea lion pup followed up on the snack and drink with some siesta time, napping and posing for pictures in the sun before finally making the voyage back home and into the sea after a fun day at camp.

It was a brief visit from our very first camper of 2021, but it was a valuable reminder of how important our camps are to kids and

families. The joy on the kids' faces and the excitement of seeing wildlife at camp brought up many questions and teachable moments for our curious campers. What kids need now more than ever during this unprecedented pandemic and increased screen time is the experience and learning in the outdoors that only camp can offer.



SERVICE TO ALL

For the second year, our gratitude to Kim Lim, Annual Campaign Chair. Kim serves on the camp Board of Advisors and is a proud camper parent.

"Helping the YMCA Camp community through fundraising has been an amazing opportunity to connect with generous and kind people who truly care about our young people and their access to outdoor education. Whether they are riding horses or waves or climbing mountains, seeing happy and active kids makes volunteering on the Camp Board a rewarding experience."

We anticipate increased need this summer, and whether it's Day Camp, Overnight Camp or serving military families at Family Retreats, we will continue our commitment to not turn anyone away due to inability to pay. Our thanks to all the donors & campaigners that have raised over \$100,000 so far, all in service to youth. Make a donation conveniently online at ymcasd.org/donate, choose Camps Surf, Marston or Raintree Ranch from the pull-down.



LET'S GO VIRAL!

All alumni visiting camp in 2021 are asked to take a photo at the 100th banner near the camp entrance.

Post on your social media apps and let's spread the word. RJ and Simon here. . .

@ymcacampmarston

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



Howdy from New Orleans y'all, and happy almost Mardi Gras!

It has been a wild ride since deciding to pursue an educational adventure into nursing. I think about camp every single day; the people, the ponies, the brownies! I wanted to share a little bit of how camp has molded me all the way down to the core. I figured I could share a few of the lessons in the style of "All I Ever Really Needed to Know I Learned in Kindergarten" by Robert Fulghum. One of my favorite stories from the C in the YMCA book.

All I ever really needed to learn about being an Emergency Room Nurse in New Orleans, I learned at Raintree. Yes spending 3 years of my life studying everyday was important, but now that I am officially done with school and working in the field, I can tell you that Raintree and Camp lessons are what guides me through my days.

First... smile. Smile when you are scared, smile when you are happy, smile to encourage those around you to breath. People are watching you, even when you have a mask on, a smile is a universal sign that you are there to help!

Patients are just like ponies... predictably unpredictable. Always trust that they will tell you the truth. Non-Verbal cues are just as important with patients as ponies. If you see ears pinned back, it is time to walk away for a minute and try again, in a different way.

Overprepare the night before. It never fails, the moment I think I will wake up early and get it all done, the world has other plans. So take a few extra moments before bed to prep the coffee, have a packed lunch, and be ready for your day to start off with a surprise.

5am is one of the BEST times of the day. It is when the world makes sense. All is quiet and the world is just waking up. Take a few minutes on your walk to morning feeding or your drive to the hospital to take stock in all the good in the world. It may be your only time in the day to do so.



Find your tribe and hold them close. You can accomplish so much more as a group than an individual. Dumping wheelbarrows and moving sick patients are better done with buddies. Reach out to your camp family often. They are the ones who know you, know when you need a cry, know when you need a hug, and the first ones ready to celebrate.

Set personal goals... big and small. Have a friend available to hold you personally accountable. Becoming an Emergency Department Nurse was much like going for my Trail Master. A lot of hard work, more early mornings than I can remember, and coffee; so much coffee. Of course there were also some amazing memories with people I will never forget. In the end, walking across that stage and getting your Bolo or RN degree both feel the same; it is the proof that all the hard work was worth it!

Camp is truly the best, but the lessons last long and far.

Raintree Love,

Shawners, RN

