

Camps & Schools

Unplugged, rustic bliss: Camping in the High Sierra

By Nina Adams

As summer approaches, every kid has an activity he or she looks forward to most. For some it might be video games; for others it is traveling with family; for me, it was always Gold Arrow Camp.

Gold Arrow is a sleepaway camp located on Lake Huntington in the High Sierra for kids ages six to 15. The camp is a traditional summer camp in the truest sense, offering campers an unplugged (as in no electronic devices!), rustic outdoor experience. Campers live in cabins for two weeks, and they participate in daily activities including horseback riding, hiking, water skiing, backpacking and rock climbing.

When I left for sleepaway camp at age 10, I had tears in my eyes and an unmatched anxiety. Would I make friends? Would I get homesick? I was beyond nervous concerning the two weeks I was about to have away from home. After my long, five-hour bus

ride to the High Sierra, my feelings instantly changed. No one could have prepared me for the thrill and excitement I would feel when I stepped off the bus onto the campgrounds on Lake Huntington.

As the days went on, I started to make friends through activities like water skiing, archery and horseback riding. As my first year of summer camp came to an end, I was so sad to leave that I cried on the bus ride home. My parents, temporary empty nesters, were excitedly waiting for their kids' (I went with my brother) returns home. Instead of a joyful reunion, they got two weepy kids begging to go back for another two weeks.

The following years, returning to Gold Arrow Camp was the highlight of every summer. Returning to familiar counselors and friends became a staple in my life, and camp quickly felt like a second home. The experience of

(Please turn to page 20)



Above: **CAMPERS** Nicole Isacsen and Nina Adams.



Right: **A YOUNG** Nina Adams boards the bus for camp.



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CAMPS & SCHOOLS

Teens dig it at La Brea Tar Pits fossil site

Curious and motivated teens were invited to join La Brea Tar Pits Teen Program debut season, which ran from last November to this past March 2019. Ten 13- to 16-year olds worked behind-the-scenes at the Ice Age fossil site with experts from La Brea Tar Pits. Applications for the 2019-20 season will be available in the summer on the website, tarpits.org/museum/programming.



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PARTICIPANTS sort microfossils.



TEENS from the Tar Pits Teen Program work with fossil lab manager Stephany Potze. Applications for 2019-20 will be available in the summer.



TEEN Program participants explore the new "Mammoths and Mastodons" installation.

Have fun, make art, raise money at Hammer Museum

People of all ages can take part in painting, sculpting and other artistic hands-on workshops, and help fundraise for "Hammer Kids," at the Hammer Museum, 10899 Wilshire Blvd., Sun., May 19 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The 10th anniversary of the Kids Art Museum Project (K.A.M.P.) will feature art workshops throughout the museum courtyard and terraces, favorite stories read aloud by celebrity guests, and music spun by DJ Chocolatebarbans.

Guests will take home artworks ranging from ceramics to paper plane sculptures.

Tickets are \$150. Visit hammer.ucla.edu/kamp.

Sleepover with bugs, butterflies, dinosaurs at NHM

Kids ages five to 12 years old can have a sleepover with bugs, butterflies and dinosaurs at the Natural History Museum, 900 Exposition Blvd.

Besides access to exhibits, sleepovers feature themed crafts, a scavenger hunt, 3-D movie and performances.

The next sleepovers are with bugs and butterflies Fri., May 31 and with Antarctic dinosaurs Fri., June 21.

Children must be accompanied by an adult. Campers need to bring a sleeping bag, pillow, sleeping pad, pajamas, toiletries, flashlight and walking shoes, as well as an adult chaperone.

Tickets are \$75 for members and \$85 for non-members and include admission to the museum the next day.

For more information, visit nhm.org.

Gold Arrow Camp

(Continued from page 19)

making friends without phones and social media in the beautiful Sierra mountains changed me for the better. My closest friends are still the ones I met at Gold Arrow Camp eight years ago, and my fondest childhood memories are the ones I made waterskiing, sailing and sleeping under the stars.

Since I "graduated" as a camper in 2015, I have taken on other projects to fill my summers. This summer, I will finally be returning home to Gold Arrow Camp, this time as a counselor. I am looking forward to reuniting with my friends from several summers ago and reliving my camp childhood memories.

Former intern Nina Adams spent her freshman year at John Cabot American University in Rome.

Antarctic dinos explored at NHM

Follow the journey of Antarctic scientists and paleontologists when they discovered a new species of dinosaur. See the exhibit at the Natural History Museum, 900 Exposition Blvd.

The new species was discovered at a dig on Mount Kirkpatrick from 2010 to 2011. Featured in the exhibit are full-sized replicas of four species of dinosaurs in their prehistoric habitat, touchable fossils, and gear and equipment belonging to past explorers.

The exhibit is on view through Jan. 5, 2020.

For more information, visit nhm.org.



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