

## WELCOME!

Bay Area Country Dance Society  
Family Week 2026 at Monte Toyon  
familyweek@bacds.org  
[bacds.org/familyweek](https://bacds.org/familyweek)

### June 2026

Welcome to BACDS Family Week 2026! As the time for camp approaches, we invite you to revisit the website to learn more about lodgings, food, and the environment of [Monte Toyon](#), and our [camp activities](#). We've also updated the [For Campers](#) page to include helpful items such as a packing list and preliminary schedules for this year.

## Before Camp

Please print out the documents at the following links and bring them to camp:

- [Camp rules and medical authorization](#)
- [Family Bio](#) (please print out photos of your family)

Consider taking extra [COVID precautions](#) and a COVID test in the week leading up to camp. Please take a COVID test in the morning before you travel to camp and take a picture of it to show at Check-In.

## Arrival and Check In

Follow signs when you drive into camp, and back into your parking space so that you leave your car pointed nose-out. We will have folks in or near the parking lot, helping you to park and directing you to the Check-In table on the deck of our main dance hall. **Please plan to arrive between 3pm and 4pm Sunday.** Late arrivals disrupt our set-up and community-building.

Bring your picture of your COVID test, auction items, and completed forms to Check-In. On the deck, you will also be able to choose your camper chores and pick up your name button with an optional pronoun sticker. There will be a new camper orientation and tour at 5pm.

## Weather

Camp is underneath the redwoods and is surprisingly cold. For many of us, it is the coldest week of our summer. Temperatures range from 45 degrees in the middle of the night to 70 degrees in the afternoon. This means you need to bring jackets and hats and pants for the evenings. It also means if you are not sleeping in the dorms you need more bedding than normal for summer camping in order to stay warm.

# Electronics

Family Week is an immersion in traditional culture. Please help your children and everyone experience our authentic live-music environment by **minimizing/limiting your and your children's use of handheld electronic devices**. There is spotty-to-zero cell service at Monte Toyon. We realize that your camera may also double as a totally smart device outside of camp, but for camp, please dumb-down your smart devices as much as possible: put them on silent airplane mode and Do Not Disturb; use them to take pictures, make movies, record music (with permission) and then put them away. Leave the editing, posting, and sharing of photos, videos and music until you get home.

Parents, we ask you to emphasize and reinforce this rule and lock such items in your car. (If you cannot use your smart devices for recording purposes only, consider bringing single-function devices and leaving your smart devices at home.)

If you are an adult who needs access to the internet, please come talk to a camp manager.

# In-Camp Purchases

We have a camp bookstore that sells special books and recordings offered by our program staff, also T-shirts, batteries, and some toiletries & sundries. Come by and browse; please accompany your younger children. Checks are accepted for both the bookstore and auction items; we do not process credit cards, nor can we guarantee that you will be able to access our PayPal payment option. (If you do want to try using PayPal, you will probably need to know your account password; having PayPal text you a code will not work at camp, where there is no cell coverage.) **Please bring your checkbook!**

BACDS is an affiliate member of the national Country Dance and Song Society. If you are not a BACDS or CDSS member, this is a great time to join! ([BACDS](#)) ([CDSS](#))

We also sell ice cream, snacks, and juice drinks every afternoon and evening in our Snack Shop. We encourage families who wish to enjoy the Snack Shop to set up pre-paid accounts for each family member at the beginning of the week, which keeps money transactions to a minimum. Cash and checks (made out to BACDS) are accepted.

In addition, Craig Johnson has agreed to return this year as everyone's favorite coffee slinger and will have his espresso machine up and running for those of us who need something extra special in the morning. Hot chocolate and chai and other specialities, too!

## **Can I bring my own snacks?**

Yes, but please do not keep open packages of food in the dorm rooms or leave them sitting around in the camp outdoor spaces. Open packages attract mice and other critters. Any food in dorms must be kept in rigid coolers or rigid sealed containers. If you plan to bring food that needs refrigeration in order to supplement the camp meals due to food allergies or pickiness,

please let the managers know and they will show you where to store your labeled food. **Monte Toyon is a nut-free facility**, so please do not bring food with nuts.

### **What if I need to buy something during the week?**

Please do not leave camp without letting one of the managers know. If you need something, there will be a shopping list area on the whiteboard by the Dance Hall. Please add the desired item followed by your name, so we can help arrange for items to get purchased.

## Camper Involvement

Every year camp is a little different because of what *you* bring to the woods. Here are a few things you might want to consider in advance, in case you want to pack extra supplies.

Think of talents/skills/objects you can bring to offer up at auction. (e.g., wood bowl turning lesson, hair braiding for Maypole parade, massage, fruit jam, instruments cluttering your closet, chocolate, etc...)

Think of short displays of talent, skits, or jokes that you might want to share at Roundup or Family Gathering. Speak to our MC, Iridaea, at camp to get on the schedule. This is useful particularly if you can do something early in the week, since later Gatherings will be showcasing work from the classes at camp. If there are songs you would like to sing with others at camp, consider bringing printouts of lyrics or music sheets to share.

Campers can also lead afternoon sessions they think others might be interested in joining. Feel free to check in with managers if you are unsure of whether there is a suitable place for the activity you want to lead. Expect to bring most of your own supplies. Camper-led sessions in the past have included Shape Note singing, acro-yoga, and bottle rocket making, to give you some ideas.

David will again be leading a Beatles sing-along at camp and, at the suggestion of many of those who took part last year, he'd like to provide lyric sheets. Since the Beatles released close to 200 original songs, he'll need some help deciding which songs (maybe 15-20) will be on the sheets. If you're interested in this, please email David ([DJandJJ@aol.com](mailto:DJandJJ@aol.com)) the names of 2-3 of your favorite Beatles songs by June 14th; he'll put the top vote-getters on the sheets. Please put "Beatles" in the subject line of your email.

## Notable Things to Bring for 2026

We will have optional Tie-dyeing this year! Please bring white items to dye or buy a white Family Week T-shirt from the bookstore!

We will have a special Square Dance on Wednesday, bring clothes and hats for the occasion.

This year we have stage fighting classes for ages 7+. The instructor has requested that everyone taking her class bring a pair of gloves or two. These can be gardening gloves, winter gloves, etc. and are in order to keep oil from our hands off the equipment.

There are a number of annual special events. See the [packing list](#) for more details.

## Work Trade

Work Trade campers are expected to arrive early at 10:00am on Sunday for set-up and will be getting a separate letter with more information about how Sunday and the rest of the week will work. We will need an accurate count of how many people we are feeding lunch to that day, so if you haven't already, please get in touch with the managers to confirm your family count and arrival time.

## Teens + Parents Sunday dinner meeting

At the beginning of camp every year, we have a meeting with teens and their parents/guardians. Be at the **dining hall by 6pm and cut the line** at the buffet table. Once you've gotten your food etc., meet at the **outdoor picnic tables** and join Sola and Jamie. The meeting is mandatory for teens, and we ask that one parent or guardian attend for each family that has a teen(s). Other family members are welcome to join, but we do ask that they not interrupt the meeting.

## Contacts

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