Camp Sprig
July 10-12, 2026

Handbook

Located at Bird Haven Ranch
Butte City, California

Contacts:

Jeff Smith – (530) 305-9234

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CAMP SPRIG OVERVIEW

California Waterfowl's Camp Sprig introduces participants to waterfowl hunting and other types of outdoor activities. Campers learn from experts in a safe, positive and supportive environment.

At Camp Sprig, participants will learn about or hone their skills with shotguns, waterfowl identification, gear, decoys and lots more. Campers will receive Hunter Education instruction and complete the test for earning their Hunter Education certificate.

ABOUT CWA

California Waterfowl (CWA) is a **501c3** non-profit organization whose mission is to grow California's waterfowl populations, wetlands and hunter-conservationist communities. Our vision is a California with thriving waterfowl populations, vibrant wetland ecosystems and respected hunting communities.

Pre-Camp Instructions

1 - This camp includes Hunter Education training. For us to issue Hunter Education certificates, you must register with California Department of Fish and Wildlife prior to the camp, by clicking **HERE**.

2 - The hunter education material is available online and needs to be reviewed ahead of time.

Here are the instructions:

- The study guide can be found HERE
- **We would like for you to review Chapters 1, 2, 3 and 6 in the online study guide to prepare for the course**

Note: We will provide Hunter Education booklets when you arrive at camp. If you go ahead and finish all the course material, **DO NOT PAY** to complete the online course.

CAMP SPRIG PROGRAM INFORMATION

Arrival and Departure

Campers are to check in at Bird Haven Ranch on Friday at 5:00 PM. *Please do not arrive early.*

Friday, June 19th

5:00 PM: Turn in paperwork, check in and store all personal belongings.

5:10 PM: Parents and campers will be given an overview of the camp. After the overview, campers will begin hunter safety instruction and parents are free to leave.

Dropoff Reminders

1. Notify Camp Coordinator and Medic of medications.
2. Will anyone other than a parent or guardian be driving your camper home?

Sunday, June 21st

3:00 PM: 'Graduation ceremony'

Parents should plan to attend a brief graduation ceremony on Sunday. Please arrive by 2:45 pm and relax while we celebrate your camper's experiences at camp. After the ceremony, the campers will be released to their parents or guardians and should plan to collect all their belongings.

Note: If the parent or guardian will not be picking up their camper, please inform the camp coordinator who they should be released to at the end of camp.

Cancellation Policy

Circumstances arise that may result in you having to cancel your camper's registration. If we are able to refill the spot, your camp fee is refundable minus a $20 processing fee. If we are unable to refill the spot, the entire camp fee is non-refundable.

Contact

Campers will be very active during their stay at camp, and we don't anticipate them needing to contact anyone. They will be having a great time at camp learning and discovering new things. See emergency contact numbers if you must contact your child during camp.

Food Regulations

Please do not supply your child with food, chewing gum, candy, etc. during their stay at camp. We provide ample, balanced meals, and numerous light snacks. The food can attract ants and mice to the campsite and may also cause hard feelings among the other campers. All food brought by the campers will be confiscated by the camp staff. Please let us know if your camper has a food allergy or restricted diet.

Hospital

The nearest hospital is Orchard Hospital, 240 Spruce St, Gridley, CA (530) 846-9000

Hunter Education

Hunter Education Instructors have the discretion of deciding whether a student is given the final examination after completing at least ten hours of instruction. Upon evaluation, if the student does not display the appropriate maturity level when handling firearms, the student will not be given the final examination. Students displaying inappropriate behavior will not be certified regardless of knowledge or skill level.

Medical – First Aid

The Coordinator holds current First Aid and CPR cards. See *Camper Health Record* for additional information in case of emergency.

Medications

All medications must have the child's name, medication name and strength, dosage and the prescribing doctor's name and phone number on each bottle. Also send written administering directions from the doctor. Please place medications and instructions in a zip lock bag with the child's name printed in bold letters on the outside. **Give bag and instructions to the camp coordinator for administration.**

Telephone Regulations

We ask parents only to call the camp in an emergency situation. If your child is homesick or has an emergency, you will be notified immediately.

Important Phone Numbers

Jeff Smith – Hunting and Education Programs Supervisor
jsmith@calwaterfowl.org
(530) 305-9234

Carson Odegard – Hunt Program Coordinator
codegard@calwaterfowl.org
(916) 960-9848

WHAT TO BRING TO CAMP

Suggested list of clothing and items you may want your camper to bring to camp, as well as items to leave at home.

Clothing/Bedding

1-2 Pair of Sturdy Pants
1-2 Pair of Short Pants
3 T-shirts
1 Pair of Old Tennis Shoes
1 Pair of Hiking boots (optional)
Socks & Underwear
Sleeping Bag & Pillow

Toiletries

Toothbrush & Toothpaste
Showering Necessities
1 Old Towel
Washcloth
Deodorant
Comb and/or Brush
Needed Medications

Items You May Want To Bring

Chap Stick/Lip Protector
Hat or Sun Visor
Mosquito Repellent
Sunglasses
Sunscreen

What To Leave At Home

Candy & Food
Cell Phone
Any Flame Lighting Device
Firearms and/or Ammunition
Knives
Any Electronic Devices
Open toed Shoes

DIRECTIONS TO BIRD HAVEN RANCH
9263 COUNTY ROAD 67
BUTTE CITY, CA 95920

Google-Click Here

From Sacramento
• On Highway 99 at the north end of Gridley the 4 lanes will narrow to two.
• Go 3.0 miles to the first signal.
• Turn left to Biggs on B Street.
• Go 1.3 miles through the town of Biggs. There are 3 stop signs.
• After crossing the railroad tracks take the first right onto 8th Street.
• 8th Street will take a sharp left in ½ mile and 8th Street becomes Afton Road.
• Go 9.4 miles. There will be a left then right curve just before the bridge over Butte Creek.
• After crossing the bridge continue approx 1.5 miles to Bird Haven ranch. You will see a large sign on your right.

From Redding
• Go South on I-5 to highway 162 in Willows.
• Take 162 east and follow for approx 20 miles.
• Turn right on Road Z.
• Follow Z for approximately 3 miles to the stop sign.
• Turn left onto Road 67
• Follow the road for approx. .5 miles to Bird Haven Ranch.
• You will see a large sign for Bird Haven Ranch on your left.

Coordinators

Camp Sprig is coordinated by Jeff Smith, California Waterfowl's Director of Hunting and Education Programs. Since 2008, Smith has participated in a multitude of different programs within CWA. Involvement includes youth shoots, youth hunts, waterfowl hunter camps, outdoor adventures, hunting clinics, marsh madness, CSUC CWA chapter, wood duck box monitoring, mallard and pintail banding**.** Other qualifications: California State University Chico, Bachelor's of Science Degree in Recreation Administration, Option in Parks and Natural Resources Management, CA Hunter Education Instructor, NRA Range Safety Officer, NRA Shotgun Instructor, and USA Archery Instructor.

Carson Odegard is California Waterfowl's Hunt Program Coordinator. He has been working for CWA for over 8 years and has participated in numerous facets of California Waterfowl. Carson is in charge of CWA's Hunt Program and strives to bring new and innovative ideas to CWA. Involvement includes youth shoots, youth hunts, waterfowl hunter camps, veteran fishing trips, veteran shoots, hunter education instruction, wetlands work, CSUC CWA chapter**.** Other qualifications: California State University Chico, Bachelor's of Science Degree in Biology, Pathway in Ecological, Environmental, and Organismal Biology, CA Hunter Education Instructor, CPR certified.

A Message from Jeff

I grew up hunting and fishing with my dad and brother in Fall River, Ca. This special small town is where my passion for the outdoors started as a young boy and has now grown into a lifestyle. My life's work is dedicated to bringing my appreciation of waterfowl and the outdoors to others. I would like to thank you for supporting California Waterfowl.

The goal of California Waterfowl's Hunting and Education Program is to generate a lifelong passion for wildlife and the outdoors by hosting fun, exciting, hands-on outdoor recreation activities for conservationists, hunters, and shooters all ages and gender.

REQUIRED FORMS FOR CAMP

Enclosed with this handbook are the various forms which need to be completed in full. Please complete these forms and bring them with you to the camp. **Click here to find the camp your camper will be attending, be sure to complete all pages in the 'Camp Forms' packet. Forms included are:**

1. **REGISTRATION, PERMISSIONS AND RELEASE AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENTS**
   Please complete all necessary information on both sides.

2. **CAMPER HEALTH RECORD**
   This form must be completed on both sides. The camp staff will review this form and notify your child's counselor of any recommendations or restrictions.

3. **CODE OF CONDUCT STATEMENT**
   Parents, please review and complete this form with your child and stress the importance of proper conduct while at camp. We want all campers, counselors and staff to have an enjoyable time and create fond memories to last a lifetime.