



Introduction to LYF Camp

Welcome to LYF!

Leading Youth Forward (LYF) is a youth development non-profit focused on empowering today's youth to become conscientious, proactive, and effective leaders, while fostering awareness of the Taiwanese American identity and culture. We accomplish this through our annual youth summer camp: **LYF Camp**.

What happens at camp?

LYF Camp is an exciting 6 day, 5 night affair, jam-packed with interactive leadership workshops, collaborative teamwork exercises, and both traditional and cultural camp activities.

Workshops



Workshops explore the different themes of what it means to be an effective and giving leader, such as passion, empathy, patience, and courage. We teach our campers important life skills and encourage them to examine the person they want to be and the impact they can make on our communities.

Clinics



Clinics are activities for campers to discover and nurture their interests in sports, science, arts, and culture. Every year, we host over 60 clinics, including:

- Mochi making
- Water bottle rockets
- Hip hop dance
- A capella
- Crayon melting
- ...and more!

Traditional American



Camp would not be complete without the fixings of the traditional American summer camp: singing camp songs into the night, hiking through the camp grounds, roasting marshmallows by the fire, just to name a few.

Cultural Taiwanese



An additional flair of Taiwanese culture makes camp a distinct experience in itself - enjoy a refreshing bowl of tsua-bing on a hot summer day, snack on bahtzang or dou hua at our Taiwanese Night Market, and much more!

TACL LYF 2015: Circle of LYF

This year's camp will be held at Walker Creek Ranch in Petaluma, CA from Monday, June 22 to Saturday, June 27 (counselors arrive a day earlier on Sunday to complete final camp preparations).

General Camp Info



What: TACL LYF Camp 2015!

Where: Walker Creek Ranch
1700 Marshall Petaluma Rd
Petaluma, CA 94952

When: For staff - Sunday, June 21 to
Saturday, June 27
For campers – Monday, June 22 to
Saturday, June 27

Camp Theme: Community

Each year we pick a specific theme, such as identity, leadership or communication, that we want to infuse camp with. Our focus this year is **community!**

For both our campers and staff, we want to:



Introduce and reaffirm a
sense of local and global
community



Establish a greater sense
of teamwork and service



Increase awareness and
celebrate both similarities
and diversity

Our camp name "**Circle of LYF**" alludes to ineffable connection between all beings and the ephemeral yet meaningful role each of us play in the grandeur of life. As the great Mufasa was once heard saying:

"Everything you see exists together in a delicate balance. You need to understand that balance and respect all the creatures, from the crawling ant to the leaping antelope... When we die, our bodies become the grass, and the antelope eat the grass. And so we are all connected in the great Circle of LYF."

What's in it for you?

Camp isn't just a special week for the campers. It's an incredible experience for our staff as well, one of the reasons why our staff members keep returning year after year. The benefits of contributing to this cause are immeasurable.

Opportunity for Growth

As a staff member, you will find yourself developing and growing alongside the very same campers that you are teaching and leading.

Effective leadership can be a trial-and-error process, and camp is a safe environment for you to establish or strengthen your leadership style with immediate feedback and rewarding results.

Platform for Expression

Every staff member makes a direct impact on the outcome and success of camp. Because our staff team is made up of such remarkable and unique individuals - each with something special to share - every year's camp is distinctive in its own way.

As staff, camp is your platform to express who you are and to share with both staff and campers what you love.



Impact on Community

For us as staff, camp isn't about babysitting a bunch of kids for an entire week. Camp is a rare opportunity to influence the lives of our campers for the better. To empathize with their personal struggles, however big or small. To be a voice of compassion, reason, and encouragement.

Your words and your actions carry greater weight than you may think, and your impact on this generation may be greater than you know.

Make your mark – join our staff!

Staff members are invaluable to LYF – every contribution is directly reflected in the overall camp experience, making each year unique with the changing composition and personalities of our growing team. Our three available volunteer opportunities are as follows.

Counselors

Counselors lead their groups of kids through camp, but also inspire, nurture, and build the proper environment for activities. (educational and thoughtful for workshops, encouraging for clinics, high-spirited and fun for large group activities)



Synthesis

Synthesis team members keep camp running through their execution of camp logistics, setup, and clean up - delivering a smooth transition from one activity to the next - and can participate in all workshops, activities, and clinics as desired.



Media

Media team members capture camp's special moments through photography and videography, while participating in all aspects of camp as desired.



Interested? Applications are open!

If spending a week in the gorgeous outdoors, letting loose and having fun, while making an incredible impact on today's youth sounds right up your alley, here are your next steps.

1 Complete your staff application ASAP (click here)

- + This application should take around 30-60 minutes to complete and is critical in helping us assess your fit to determine which role and, if applicable, co-counselor, will best suit your talents and needs
- + We need all applications turned in before Friday, February 27th, but we highly encourage you to submit earlier, so we can onboard you sooner and because our staff numbers directly impact the number of campers we can accept

2 We'll contact you for a brief, informal interview

- + We want to use this time to get to know you better, understand how we can help you get the most out of camp, and answer any questions you may have regarding camp responsibilities and logistics

3 Attend our meetings to prep and our socials to play!

- + We have three mandatory meetings in order to fully prepare you for camp:
 - + February – Introductory meeting / sign-up to lead clinics
 - + March – Workshop walk-through
 - + May – Camp weekend retreat
- + Be on the lookout for emails and Facebook posts about our regular socials, ranging from dinners to hiking to snowboarding!

Can't attend camp but want to contribute?

We understand it's quite a commitment to dedicate an entire week or even the weekend to a cause. If you are unable to attend camp this year and would still like to make an impact on the community and our campers, please consider contributing to LYF through the various means below.



Make a Tax Deductible Donation!

Proceeds from your tax deductible donation will be used towards overhead and camper costs, such as facility rental, insurance, workshop and clinic materials, etc. We thank you for your generosity!

+ To donate online via PayPal, please see lyf.tacl.org/donate

+ To donate via check, please complete the attached form and mail your check along with the form to:

TACL-LYF
Attn: Annie Huang
P.O. Box 1842
Cupertino, CA 95015

Please make your check payable to: TACL-LYF. You will receive a donation thank you card and receipt for any donations \$100 or more. If you prefer to remain anonymous, you may opt to receive a special gift instead.



Purchase a Taiwanese Cookbook!

We recently released the 2nd edition of the "Taiwanese Homestyle Cooking" cookbook. It's a beautifully photographed book with delicious recipes written, tested, and re-tested by Taiwanese mothers and grandmothers.

For more information or to order a cookbook, please go to lyf.tacl.org/cookbook



Spread the Word!

The majority of LYF campers and families first heard about LYF Camp from their own friends and families. Help us expand our LYF community by telling a friend, colleague, or family member about us.

You can refer them to lyf.tacl.org or to this year's Program Directors:

+ Karen Lin – karen.lin@tacl.org
+ George Sun – george.sun@tacl.org

FAQs

Please do not hesitate to contact us with more questions or clarification requests!

Wow, can such a fun and nurturing camp really exist??

Yes. Come see for yourself. 😊

Is camp free for me if I am a staff member?

Yes, camp is absolutely free for staff!

It actually costs LYF over \$400 per staff member (lodging, meals, apparel, etc.), but because we value the hard work and dedication each and every staff member puts into LYF, our Board works tirelessly throughout the year to fundraise and subsidize staff fees.

What is the time commitment expected of a staff member?

At the minimal, a staff member is expected to attend our three mandatory meetings which will help prepare you for the wonderful craziness that is camp and ensure you get the most out of your camp experience. And of course, attend camp!

However, like many things in life, the more you put into camp, the more you get out of it. Ask any of our returning staff members – taking on a leadership role in any capacity, such as crafting a clinic or leading an activity or just giving 110% of your love and attention to your campers, will pay off in a big way.

I am not currently in the Bay Area and cannot attend the meetings in person. Can I still do camp?

Of course! If you want to be a part of camp, and honestly, why wouldn't you, we will make sure you are!

As it is critical that you are relayed the same information and trainings that our other staff receive, we will hold separate conference calls via phone or videochat for all non-local staff to ensure they're up to date on all things camp related.

Do I have to be 100% certain I can attend camp before getting involved?

Not at all - we understand that not everyone's summer plans are set in stone and can change depending on conflicts such as summer school, internships, and family vacations. If you are interested in LYF, we encourage you to jump right in with camp planning and staff socials. The experience will be meaningful even if you unfortunately cannot attend camp. Please let us know your availability and what factors might change your attendance so we can keep track of our staff numbers.

Thank you for your time!
For more information, check out our website at lyf.tacl.org

