

POMO SUMMER ARTS & CIRCUS CAMP 2026

Greetings Artist-in-Residence Counselors!

Welcome to the Pomo Summer Arts and Circus Camp 2026! We are thrilled to have you join our team for a week of creativity and fun, held **July 20-24, 2026**, from 9:30 AM – 3:30 PM at Gateway Mendocino, 13771 Hwy 101, Hopland, CA 95449.

This year, we are proudly sponsored by The Solar Living Institute. A special thank you to our gracious hosts, Gail Greenwell and George Fussell, who will be on-site. Directors Kevin Maldonado and Stefan Haves are excited to collaborate with you all once again!

Important Dates & Information:

- **Counselor Orientation & Arrival:** Sunday, July 19th, 2026, from 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM. This is your arrival day, which will include an optional swimming session, a cook-out dinner, planning for the week, and time to relax and connect. We will forward a directory of all Counselors and Jr. Counselors prior to opening day.
- **Overnight Accommodations:** We are delighted that Gail and George of The Solar Living Institute have generously granted staff permission to camp on-site at Gateway Mendocino. Please bring your tents, sleeping pads, and sleeping bags. We will have ample space, food, and beverages available. Detailed particulars will be provided upon your arrival. Children of Counselors are welcome to camp, but no underage Junior Counselors will be permitted on-site after 5 PM. Public showers, bathrooms, and a kitchen for personal snack and beverage storage are available.
- **Camp Dates:** Arrive: Sunday, July 19th – Depart: July 25th by Noon
- **Final Performance & Cook Out:** Friday, July 24th, 2026. The cook-out begins at 4:30 PM, followed by the show at 6:00 PM. Junior Counselors and campers will perform alongside our stellar Artist in Residence staff and special guests.

Key Expectations & Guidelines:

- **Stipend:** We are pleased to announce that the daily stipend for Artists in Residence will be higher than in previous years! We continue to fundraise, and with Junior Counselors capped at 20 participants, more resources are available to enhance your compensation, acknowledging your invaluable contributions to the Pomo Summer Arts and Circus Camp. Payment will be disbursed on Friday, July 24th, 2026. The exact amount will be confirmed prior to camp.
- **Equipment Compensation:** Artists will receive an additional rental fee for aerial and circus equipment utilized throughout the week.
- **Daily Essentials:** Please bring a water bottle, bathing suit, and towel each day. We have a pond on site with a lifeguard (Nate, whom you may remember from last year) available daily from 1:30 PM – 3:30 PM. For any questions, please contact Stefan at 310-628-9960.
- **Role & Responsibilities:** We trust you to continue creating the magic you do so well! Please inform us of any supplies you may need. Joette will not be joining us with her acro-setup this year, and she will be missed. Ella Smith, who was with us two years ago, is returning as the Junior Counselor Coordinator and Activities Coordinator. Jeri Kalvan will also be part of the team structuring each day. We anticipate approximately twenty stipend-collecting Junior Counselors. As we are in a new venue and not on an established Reservation, daily camper attendance is less predictable than in past years. This may require flexibility in our daily planning and encourages an environment where we collectively devise and pivot on the spot – a skill many of you already excel at. The venue is smaller than the gym at Hopland Band of Pomo Indians. We plan to usher smaller groups of campers to a nearby Art Room and a slightly farther air-conditioned dance and theater space.
- **Collaboration with Junior Counselors:** Given the potential variability in camper numbers, there may be times when groups of Junior Counselors supervise children independently, while the remaining J.C.'s are supervised by Counselors in the smaller studio. In these instances, Counselors will guide activities such as storytelling, dance choreography, karaoke, acrobatics, improv comedy, or developing routines for the Friday Circus Recital. Additionally, each Artist in Residence should choose a Junior Counselor to mentor, finding time throughout the day to connect with them individually.
- **Performances:** We will feature performances after lunch daily. If you wish to schedule a performance, please notify Stefan as soon as possible. On Monday, the Bistrevsky Brothers will perform, and Demetrius is bringing some special guests. Junior Counselors should be prepared to perform and assist with tech duties at a moment's notice!
- **Meals:** Breakfast will be served at 9:30 AM, lunch at 12:30 PM, and snacks in the afternoon. Dinner will be around 6:30 PM. Maria will be joining us to cook with the kids and help plan our menus. Please inform us of any dietary restrictions.

We will review all of this and more during the orientation on Sunday, July 19th, 2026. See you there!

Sincerely,
Kevin Maldonado, Stefan Haves, Ella Smith

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The Pomo Summer Arts Admin Team