



EL CERRITO HIGH SCHOOL BANDS

Keith Johnson, Director

2019 BAND RETREAT OVERVIEW

Our 8th Annual Band Retreat will take place on **September 20th through 22th**. The retreat will be held at Cazadero Performing Arts Camp located in a redwood grove near the Russian River. The retreat will include three days of intense rehearsals, sectionals, performances, and teambuilding that will help strengthen our program and give us a strong foundation in which to start the school year. Students will have the opportunity to spend the weekend with guest conductors and each student will have the opportunity to attend two master classes on their instrument with professional musicians. This packet has information pertaining to this event and will answer many questions you may.

COST

- Cost is \$185 per student
- Payment includes lodging, transportation, all meals, and guest conductors/master classes.
- Please make payable to Friends of El Cerrito Music.
- **Commitment to attend:** Wednesday, May 1, 2019 with \$50 deposit **
- **Final payments due:** Friday, August 30, 2019

** It is important that we have commitment from all participants by **May 1st** so accurate bus reservations, camp accommodations (including food), and final costs for families can be made.

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation to and from camp will be provided for all students and chaperones via charter bus. Parents are required to pick up their students at El Cerrito High School upon arrival on Sunday afternoon.

INSTRUMENTS

Students are responsible for bringing all of their instruments with them to camp. Jazz students should plan on bringing their jazz instruments in addition to their band instruments.

FORMS AND DOCUMENTS

The following signed documents are needed by **Friday, August 30, 2019**. Students that do not have forms submitted and payment submitted by the deadline will not be allowed to attend the trip.

- **Permission Slip**
- **Behavior Contract**
- **Emergency contact info sheet**

CAMP CONTACT INFORMATION

If you need to contact your child at camp in an emergency please call the camp office at (707) 632-5159. Messages will be checked at the camp office periodically after regular hours. The Berkeley office will be open during regular business hours at (510) 527-7500.

CAMP ACCOMMODATIONS AND PACKING LIST

Camp accommodations are rustic. Campers sleep on wooden tent platforms above the forest ground. Each camper has a camp bed with a mattress and sleeps outside under the stars. Tents are used for storage and for privacy. Bathrooms and showers are in buildings nearby.

- ⇒ Sleeping bag, pillow and extra blanket
- ⇒ Instrument(s)
- ⇒ Warm clothing for early morning and evening wear
- ⇒ Flashlight with extra batteries
- ⇒ Casual clothes for everyday wear
- ⇒ Towel and toiletries
- ⇒ Rubber sandals or other non-skid shoes for the shower
- ⇒ Sturdy shoes for lots of walking around camp
- ⇒ Personal sports equipment
- ⇒ Personal medication
- ⇒ Insect repellent

PLEASE DO NOT BRING

- ⇒ Electronic games
- ⇒ Fireworks
- ⇒ Matches or Lighters
- ⇒ Anything valuable!

FAQ'S

“We just went to Caz with Korematsu Middle School in May, why should we go?”

The focus of the retreat is not on the location but rather on rehearsals, master classes, and building relationships. Cazadero Music Camp is simply a place that allows us to “get away” and is designed specifically for music groups, providing rehearsal space and equipment as well as recreational space, making it an ideal location. We do not follow the “Jump Start” model that Korematsu Middle School uses when they attend. A detailed itinerary is attached to this packet with the activities scheduled, but here is how the retreat is different:

- All students spend concentrated rehearsal and sectional time with the band they are a member of, working on music and concepts related to the fall semester’s curriculum.
- Students have the opportunity to work with guest conductors in each of their ensembles as well as two master classes with professional musicians that play their instrument.
- Students spend many hours in small ensembles preparing for an in camp performance of chamber music, prepared by the students. Students do not have the opportunity to work in chamber ensembles in class or during the school year.
- More of an effort is placed on team building and development of musical skills than recreational time.

“Do I need to pick up my child at Caz after the retreat is over?”

No – charter transportation is provided to and from the camp. Students will be dropped off at ECHS.