



2026 BAND RETREAT OVERVIEW

Our 15th Annual Band Retreat will take place on **September 25th through 27th**. The retreat will be held at the Cazadero Performing Arts Camp located in a redwood grove near the Russian River. The retreat will include three days of full band rehearsals with guest conductors, sectionals, workshops, performances, and teambuilding that will help strengthen our program and give us a strong foundation in which to start the school year. This packet has information pertaining to this event and will answer many questions you may.

COST

- Cost is **\$295** per student
- Payment includes lodging, transportation, all meals, and guest conductors/master classes
- Preferred method of payment is online via PayPal (link in email)
- If paying by check, please make payable to **El Cerrito Band Association**

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 **Tuesday, September 8th**. Forms will be distributed to students on Friday, August 28th and also available at echsbands.com on that day. 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**

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.

MEALS

All meals are provided while at camp EXCEPT for lunch on Friday. Students need to bring a lunch with them on Friday morning.

CAMP ACCOMMODATIONS

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.

PACKING LIST

Students are responsible for bringing all items needed for the weekend retreat at Cazadero Music Camp. **Students should plan on bringing the following...**

- A lunch for Friday afternoon (lunch not provided by the camp on Friday – all other meals are)
- **Sleeping bag and pillow**
- Instrument(s) and Music
- A jacket or sweater for early morning and evening wear
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- Casual clothes for everyday wear (enough for three days at camp, including extra in case of emergency)
- **A towel**
- Toiletries (toothpaste and toothbrush, soap, shampoo, deodorant)
- Rubber sandals or other non-skid shoes for the shower (don't shower barefoot!)
- Sturdy shoes for lots of walking around camp
- Personal sports equipment (frisbee, football, soccer ball, etc.) that is marked with your name on it
- Personal medication
- Insect repellent
- Snacks

Students should NOT bring the following...

- Laptops, iPads, and/or electronic games
- Fireworks
- Matches or Lighters
- Water guns
- Pocket knives or other items that could be considered a weapon



2026 BAND RETREAT ITINERARY

FRIDAY 9/25/26

7:15 am	Report to Band Room
7:30 am	Load buses
8:00 am	Depart for Cazadero
10:15 am	Arrive at Camp
10:30 am	Camp setup
11:15 am	Meeting at the shell
11:30 am	Lunch (BYO Lunch!)
12:30 pm	Guest Conductor Introductions
1:00 pm	Full Band Rehearsals (90 mins)
2:30 pm	Break
2:45 pm	Group Activity
3:00 pm	Free-time
6:00 pm	Dinner
7:15 pm	Full Band Rehearsals (75 mins)
8:30 pm	Rehearsal clean-up
8:45 pm	Campfire
9:30 pm	Report to tents
10:00 pm	Lights Out

SUNDAY 9/27/26

7:00 am	Wake-up
8:00 am	Breakfast
9:15 am	Group Activity
9:45 am	Gacho Band Rehearsal (45 mins)
10:30 am	Break
10:45 am	Gacho Band Sectionals (30 mins)
11:15 am	Free time
11:45 pm	Lunch
12:30 pm	Pack equipment + camp clean-up
1:30 pm	All equipment at shell + group photo
2:00 pm	Load Buses
2:15 pm	Depart for ECHS
4:00 pm	Arrive at ECHS

SATURDAY 9/26/26

7:00 am	Wake-up
8:00 am	Breakfast
9:00 am	Workshops (Session 1) <i>Jazz Ensemble Clinic at the shell</i>
10:15 am	Break
10:30 am	Full Band Rehearsals (75 mins)
11:45 am	Break
12:00 pm	Lunch
1:15 pm	Workshops (Session 2) <i>Jazz Workshop Clinic at the shell</i>
2:30 pm	Break
2:45 pm	Full Band Rehearsals (60 mins)
3:45 pm	Free-time
6:00 pm	Dinner
7:15 pm	Meet at the shell
7:30 pm	Movie Night!
9:30 pm	Report to Tents
10:00 pm	Lights Out