



22988 Ferretti Road, Groveland, CA 95321
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SPRING 2025 NEWSLETTER

Meet CTT's New Camp Director



Michael Yaley

CTT has named Michael Yaley to the new position of Camp Director. Mike is responsible for managing CTT's day-to-day operations, including overseeing summer

camp and managing year-round programs, projects and business development. Mike spent 17 years as General Manager for Lair of the Golden Bear's three family camps (Blue, Gold and Oski) in Pinecrest, which are run by UC Berkeley's Cal Alumni Association. Mike earned his bachelor's degree in history from CSU Chico. Welcome aboard Mike!

Camp Director's Message

As the days get longer and the green grass is starting to turn brown, we are excited to be closing in on our camp season! In less than a month, our camp counselors will descend up Groveland, eagerly training for our 8-week summer season. While I am new to Camp Tuolumne Trails, I have decades of experience with camps, and the feeling this time of year doesn't change. Knowing that we are preparing to host so many campers that have been waiting all year to come back is what drives and motivates those of us in the camping business! I've been on the job here for only three months but I already feel how special this place is and can't wait

to see CTT, and all of the hard-working and dedicated staff and volunteers in action in just a few short weeks.

I'm also excited to look beyond the summer to the months ahead as we plan for the future at Camp Tuolumne Trails. Jerry has had the foresight to hire some full-time staff in anticipation of growing our business in order to serve more people with disabilities throughout the year. We have a beautiful property and a top-notch, fully ADA compliant facility that is under utilized. Additionally, we are well equipped to host more outdoor education programs for schools around the area. One benefit we have over other camps is that we are able to accommodate virtually any student that wants to attend, regardless of their situation. Often, when schools attend a science camp, they may have to exclude a student with disabilities and leave them back at home while their classmates attend the camp. That will never be the case here at Camp Tuolumne Trails!

Finally, I'm really excited to be a part of the present and the future here at CTT. I look forward to meeting our campers, our supporters and everyone who comes into camp this summer and in the months and years ahead. I feel extremely fortunate to be a part of this team and know that great things lie ahead! I look forward to meeting you soon!

~ Mike

Camp News

Second Annual Resource Fair

Camp Tuolumne Trails hosted its 2nd Annual Community Resource Fair on Saturday, May 24, 2025 from 12:30- 4:30pm. This event brought together and connected our local community, our campers and their families and caregivers to organizations and non-profit resources in their area. Organizations offering resources for young families, seniors and people with disabilities in Tuolumne, Calaveras and Stanislaus counties were invited to have a table at the event, and vendors sold food and non-alcoholic beverages were available. It was another successful Resource Fair, with fun activities for kids and adults, including face painting, crafts, fishing in CTT's fish pond and a petting zoo.

Once again, CTT combined this event with an opportunity for potential campers and their families to get a tour of camp as a prelude to the start of CTT's summer program. Camp staff led tours of the camp facilities, answered questions and shared more detailed information about CTT's programs. This provided first-time campers the opportunity to be better prepared for their camp session, become familiar with the grounds and get an idea of what to expect during a typical camp session. This also provided an opportunity for parents and caregivers to feel more at-ease about sending their children off to camp and preparing them for their upcoming stay.

Comings & Goings...



After seven years, our superstar Director of Operations Jacquie Montero will be leaving this summer CTT to pursue her master's degree. Her vitality, knowledge and dedication to our campers will be truly missed!



CTT is very excited to announce that Kaylee Reynolds has joined CTT as its new Program Director. Moving here from Iowa in April, over the next few months she will be immersing herself in the day-to-day

camp operations and CTT's culture. Kaylee has experience in various leadership roles in environmental education, behavior technician and working with youth with Autism. Kaylee graduated *Summa Cum Laude* from Iowa State University and majored in Animal Ecology and Interpretation of Natural Resources. Welcome Kaylee!

CTT's Ambassador Program

CTT'S Ambassador program is off and running. It has approximately 20 volunteers who have committed to become more deeply involved and spend more time with our campers, help spread CTT's mission in the community and help in fundraising efforts. This effort is intended to broaden our support within our community and beyond to ensure that CTT can continue changing the lives of all those who we touch.

Summer Readiness

Summer camp sessions are nearly sold out, and waitlists have started. Family Camp, which can accommodate up to 12 people, is filling up quickly. CTT's summer counselors, staff and nurses have been secured, including three male staff from Ireland! What many people don't realize is the amount of training CTT's staff receive each summer before they meet campers.

CTT spends nearly \$20K annually to provide staff with training in: personal camper care, first aid and wilderness training. This amount of training is typically not available at other camps.



Created by Greg Jones

A Very Special Donation...



Donna was born with no arms and very short legs—effectively a quadriplegic. Before she passed away about 10 years ago, her condition

had deteriorated so that she could no longer drive her adapted van. Donna lived a full life despite her disabilities. After she passed, her mother Jeanne Yaeger (now 96) from Mountain View heard about CTT and thought how much Donna would have enjoyed coming to camp. At that point, Jeanne decided to donate Donna's accessible van to CTT, and Jeanne is thrilled that it will be used to help transport our campers with disabilities. It will support at least 2 wheelchairs and four other passengers, plus a driver and an attendant.

Some of our campers find transportation from their group homes to camp somewhat difficult. We will offer transport to those who otherwise might miss camp. We will also use it to transport those with mobility challenges around camp for various activities.

Summerville Elementary Retreat

For the third consecutive year, Summerville Elementary School from Sonoma, has held its 8th grade retreat at CTT. This year, 35 students, plus 15 chaperones and teachers, took day trips to Yosemite and Hetch Hetchy. While at camp, they participated in recreational activities and a science project.



Art in Nature, by Summerville Elementary 8th Graders

Meet CTT's Board of Directors

Many of you may not know CTT's board, who helps provide guidance and makes recommendations to CTT.



Jerry Baker ~ Jerry is President of the Jerry & Paula Baker Foundation and Chairman of the Board for Camp Tuolumne Trails. After Jerry retired as Executive Vice President of Global Operations at Fairchild Semiconductor

in 2001, he and Paula decided it was time to move into the world of philanthropy. The impetus for supporting children with special needs was planted when their youngest son was diagnosed with a brain tumor years before. The planning for CTT started in 2005 and after three years of construction, they opened the doors to its first campers in June 2008.

Paula Baker ~ Paula is Secretary of the Jerry & Paula Foundation and develops camp's arts & craft projects, adapted for a wide range of physical and mental abilities. Paula was raised in Los Altos, worked at Digital Equipment and the medical industry, and was active in their sons' school activities.



William (Bill) Bent ~ A native of Wisconsin, Bill was employed by the U. S. Department of Agriculture for 42 years. Since retiring, he spends much of his time, including every Saturday, at CTT—even prior to its opening in

2008.

Peter Carlino ~ A native of San Jose, where he founded Entrees Unlimited - one of Silicon Valley's largest corporate caterers--42 years ago. Pete enjoys spending time with his wife Pam and his family, boating, hot rodding and hunting.



Tony Flores ~ Tony spent 27 years as a union plumber. He is a member of The Groveland Garden Club and was responsible for refurbishing and maintaining Groveland's historic jail and surrounding gardens.

Phillipe Habib ~ Philippe works in Silicon Valley where he works as a firmware engineer. Phillip and his wife Heidi and other parents founded and built a lifelong, affordable housing facility--Common Roots--for their developmentally disabled adult children. Philippe and his family were first introduced to CTT when their son was part of the camp's first group of campers on opening day in 2008.



Dori Jones ~ Dori Jones spent 30 years in high-tech public relations in Silicon Valley, after which she and husband Greg moved to Groveland and operated Dori's Tea Cottage for 9 years. She also manages public relations for CTT.

Jacqui Montero ~ Jacqui, recently named to the board, has worked for CTT for the past 7 years--most recently as Program Director. She has been instrumental in growing and improving what CTT provides to its campers. Having earned her degree in elementary education from CSU Humboldt, she will be leaving CTT in July, to pursue her master's degree, while remaining on the board.



Chris Noe ~ Chris spent 35 years in Silicon Valley, serving in multiple roles in engineering, marketing, service and sales at large tech companies. He also co-founded Test Design and Elite RV Vacations, a luxury Airstream trailer rental business. Chris joined the board in 2014, and is focused on fundraising.

Financials

Our commitment continues to be the most accommodating camp in the U.S. As we continue our efforts to improve camp accessibility and create programs that will benefit more campers with all levels of disabilities—a huge undertaking from a resource and financial standpoint—we hope you can help us further our mission by donating to CTT today. Please consider committing to a



monthly pledge, an annual donation or include us in your legacy giving planning. Many of CTT's supporters have shared some of the following ways in which they benefit CTT:

- Making a cash charitable contribution to the camp.
- Gifting highly appreciated stocks, bonds or any other financial security.
- Making the camp the sole or fractional beneficiary of your annuity or life insurance policy.
- As part of your Estate Plan, making CTT a beneficiary of their Will or Living Trust.
- Making the camp one of the beneficiaries of any real estate.
- Making the camp one of the beneficiaries of an IRA.
- For those who have reached the age of Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from their IRAs, making a direct Charitable contribution from their IRA as part of their RMD requirements, may provide some tax advantages.

Camp Tuolumne Trails will continue helping people with disabilities long after we are gone. Your continued support to this noble cause is greatly appreciated. *Note:* Tuolumne Trails Camp is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit public charity. We recommend that you discuss any of the above actions with your tax accountant prior to taking any action.

Our Mission

Camp Tuolumne Trails is dedicated to helping those with disabilities and those who support them by providing an accommodating and stimulating environment for healing, respite, education and recreation.



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