

TRIP INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Dear Parents,

We are thrilled that your child will be attending Pali Institute! The following pages are designed to give you a good overview of our program and answer any questions that you may have.

While most other outdoor schools have a set, inflexible curriculum, at Pali Institute your school has the ability to choose exciting classes from our three key learning components: Science, Outdoor Education, and Leadership. This enables your school to customize their visit in order to meet the specific scholastic needs of your student! Each child's visit at Pali will be unique and exciting as they gain a better appreciation for the environment around them.

Our goal at Pali is to open a whole new world of education for young people; thus providing a unique learning experience that extends beyond classroom walls. Our innovative curriculum and professional staff give students the thrilling opportunity to touch, see, and experience what they learn in the scenic San Bernardino Mountains.

Safety is our number one priority at Pali. Students are supervised 24 hours a day by our highly trained staff and on-site nurses. Emergency services are located within minutes of our facility.

Your child is your most precious possession and we thank you for giving us the wonderful opportunity to share our teaching environment with them. If there are any other questions you need answered after reading the enclosed information, please contact your child's school, visit our website at www.paliinstitute.com, or call us at 909-939-0888.

Sincerely,

Emily Bauder
Director of Pali Institute

Accreditation

Pali Institute is a leader in outdoor education and is extremely proud to be the ONLY outdoor education program to be accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). As such, we are held to more than one hundred professional standards and guidelines. Pali Institute is also accredited by the Association for Experiential Education (AEE), which means we adhere to an experiential model of learning. Pali Institute maintains strict standards for education, program governance, and operations management.

Location

Pali Institute is located in the San Bernardino Mountains, near Lake Arrowhead, within 90 minutes of Los Angeles, Orange, and San Diego Counties and 3.5 hours from Las Vegas. Our 74-acre property is gated and surrounded by beautiful national forest land.

Staff

Our highly trained outdoor education staff provides 24/7 supervision and instruction. In addition to having appropriate experience and a minimum of a bachelor's degree, our staff has a great passion for life and an endless love for teaching. We only hire the best educators and our staff must complete a rigorous two-week training before beginning work at Pali. Instructors hold current certifications in CPR & First Aid and in Ropes Course Facilitation. In addition, we have two full-time Registered Nurses, with at least one of them living on-site, available 24/7. With the Pali Institute team in place, your child is guaranteed to have the time of their life!

Curriculum

At Pali Institute we offer a customized program to suit your school's requirements. While the majority of our students are in 5th and 6th grade, we offer programs for grades 4 through 12. Educators can choose a three to five-day program and then select from our 30+ class modules, which are divided into three categories: Outdoor Education, Science, and Leadership. A full-day schedule at Pali Institute consists of five modules, each 90 minutes in length. Some modules can be selected as a double sessions (180 minutes) for a more in-depth learning experience. Classes align with California, Nevada, and Arizona state standards.

Accommodations

Our authentic mountain cabin environment accommodates up to 500 guests, with each cabin housing up to eleven students and one Pali Institute instructor. Students sleep in cabins featuring solid wood built-in bunks, radiant floor heating, and unlike many other science camps, 2-3 full in-cabin bathroom and shower facilities. Visiting teachers stay in our semi-private accommodations with access to a teacher's lounge complete with computers, television and Wi-Fi access.

Dining

Pali Institute features buffet-style dining with something for everyone at every meal. Vegetarian options, fresh salad bar, fresh fruit and beverages are all included. Teachers and students alike come away talking about how much they enjoyed our meals.

Mountain Weather

As an outdoor education center, most of our programming will, of course, take place outdoors. The majority of our days enjoy beautiful California sunshine, but we find it is best to be prepared for all types of weather. Throughout the season the temperatures drop at night, so always be prepared for chilly night temperatures with long pants and a sweatshirt or jacket. The snow season can begin as early as October - boots, beanies, jackets and lots of socks are a must. The ground can be snowy January through March, and some school groups are lucky enough to be here for beautiful fresh snowfall.

Pali Institute staff keeps on top of the weather forecasts and road conditions, so if we encounter snow on a travel day we will work with your school's administration to keep them updated of all conditions. We are located on the most accessible and well-traveled roads in the mountains, and snow control is excellent along these highways. We are fully prepared for any type of weather and we work with schools to change programming activities and schedules as necessary for the best and safest trip we can provide your students.

Parent Pack

3 weeks prior to arrival you will need to complete your online parent pack. Included in the parent pack is valuable information about our program, Pali Institute's rules and policies, a packing list, and a Health History form. Login information and instructions will be sent to you via email from our Visiting Schools Department one month prior to arrival date. If you need any assistance with your parent pack please contact the Pali Institute Team at 909-939-0888.

Medications

Medications are taken very seriously at Pali. To ensure proper administration, all medication that your child uses on an ongoing basis and plans to use at Pali must be in its original pharmacy labeled bottle. Our nursing staff will not administer any medication not in its original pharmacy labeled bottle. All medication is kept in the infirmary; students may not store nor administer their personal medications. The only exceptions would be children who have asthma or anaphylactic allergies and should keep their inhaler or epi-pen, respectively, with them or with their instructor for emergency use. This is for the protection of all students on site.

Communication and Visitation

Please be aware that your child will not have access to telephones or email during their stay. Please do not send your child with a cell phone or expect that your child will be calling home during their stay at Pali. Parental visitations are not permitted while your child is at Pali. Your child's stay at Pali is a wonderful opportunity for them to gain independence and establish a sense of self-confidence.

Mail

Parents are welcome to send a personal letter via a one-way email to mail@paliinstitute.com or via USPS addressed as follows:

Child's Name-School Name
Pali Institute
P.O. Box 2237
Running Springs, CA 92382

Pali Camp Store

The Camp Store has a wide variety of items ranging from sweatshirts to lip balm. The Pali Store is 100% optional and it is not a requirement that your child bring money. Before your child visits, your school may place an online pre-order for camp store merchandise.

Camp Store Contact Info:

Anastasia Morris
store@palimountain.com
(909) 939 - 0888 ext. 216

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the ratio of students to instructors?

In cabin, the ratio is no higher than 11:1. Activity groups are no higher than a 16:1 ratio.

Are the instructors qualified?

All instructors are over the age of 21, hold a minimum of a Bachelor's degree, participate in extensive and rigorous staff training spanning 14 days, and are CPR/First Aid certified. We employ two full-time RNs on-site. All instructors carry radios 24/7.

Are parents prohibited from attending?

We do not allow parents to attend our program for a number of reasons. Our program is designed to provide students with an opportunity to grow and explore independence. Our model allows students to wholly interact with our instructors from the moment they arrive at camp to their departure. Pali Institute instructors are trained to provide a safe atmosphere for growth and personal exploration.

Also, the safety of students from all schools that attend Pali Institute is paramount. Every employee that works on our property has a LiveScan background check through the DOJ & FBI and is checked against the National Sex Offender Registry. Classroom teachers that attend with their students undergo the same process. Pali Institute cannot guarantee that parents have gone through the same thorough background check and must err on the side of caution to protect all students on site.

Will other schools be at Pali while our school is attending?

Yes. Pali is a 74-acre facility and is able to accommodate several hundred students at any given time. All programs are completely private and separated by school. The only time your child will see students from other schools is during meal times and occasionally on trails within the Pali property. Students will eat with their cabin groups and will always be accompanied by an Instructor.

Why can't my child bring a cell phone?

Pali has a strict no cell phone policy. We want students to get away from technology for the duration of their trip and enjoy the experience. Additionally, for safety reasons, we want to know with whom students are communicating while at Pali. Any technology capable of connecting to the internet will be collected and given to your school's teachers for safekeeping. Cameras are always welcome, provided it is separate from the cell phone.

Is my child in school when they are at Pali Institute?

Yes. Pali institute is the only program in California accredited by both the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) and the Association of Experiential Education (AEE). All of our classes hit common core standards and are regularly updated and improved upon by our Education Department.

Can I contact my child while they are at Pali?

Parents are welcome to send letters. You can mail letters via USPS or email a letter to mail@paliinstitute.com. If you email a letter, please put your student's name and their school name in the subject line. All letters will be delivered the evening before departure from Pali.

Further, we do not allow students to call home during their stay. If your student is homesick, a call home and the sound of your voice will send them further over the edge 99% of the time. If your student is injured or spends longer than three hours in the Wellness Center, we will contact you. Teachers and Pali Institute administrators are always available to speak with you if you have any questions during your student's stay, or if you need to contact your child due to a family or other emergency.

My child is a picky eater. What are his/her options?

The cuisine at Pali is incredible! There is always something for everyone to enjoy. Fresh fruit is available at every meal, as well as a full salad bar during lunch and dinner. Please ask your teachers for a menu if you have any concerns.

My child has a nut allergy. Are there nuts at Pali?

No! Pali is a nut-aware facility. If we see nuts, they will be confiscated and given to your student's teachers. There are no nuts in any of the food prepared at Pali.

My child has special dietary needs. Should I send food with him/her?

Please call Pali to speak with our staff and/or Chef to discuss your child's dietary requirements. We may ask you to send supplemental food that will be prepared by our kitchen during mealtimes.

Is there anything my child should not bring to Pali?

We ask that parents refrain from packing snacks. We are located in a national forest and do our very best to keep our cabins pest free. Kids never go hungry at Pali and are welcome to help themselves to seconds at meals.

We discourage sending any over-the-counter medications, as our nurses have an ample supply of over-the-counter medications and will dispense them if necessary. Please indicate that your child is allowed to take over-the-counter medications on the health form in the event that your child should need them. This prevents children from sharing medication without supervision.

Once again, cell phones and other devices with Internet capabilities are strictly prohibited.

What should I pack for my child?

You will receive a comprehensive packing list prior to your child's trip, and it is available for download on our website at www.paliinstitute.com/forms/student-packing-list.pdf.

What is the weather like at Pali?

Please check the weather the night before sending your child to Pali. The weather in the mountains is very unpredictable and varies from day to day. If the weather report calls for rain or snow, please ensure that your child is prepared with waterproof clothing and appropriate shoes/boots. Use www.noaa.gov for an accurate forecast, with zip code 92382.

Where are the nearest emergency facilities?

The nearest paramedic station is located less than two miles away from Pali. The closest hospital is located in Lake Arrowhead, 7.2 miles away.

My child has never been away from home. What if he/she gets homesick, sleepwalks, wets the bed, or has night terrors?

Our staff is well trained in how to handle any and all situations that may arise. All personal student issues are handled with the utmost discretion and respect. If you have a specific concern, please outline it in detail in the parent pack and call us to relay your concerns. We will ensure that your child is kept safe both physically and emotionally.

Conclusion

If you have any additional concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. We will be happy to address any questions in order to ensure that your child has a wonderful, life-changing experience!

Thank you!

The Pali Institute Team
(909) 939-0888