



2018 STATISTICS

6,516

Total participants served and supported by CAP

161,684

Total program contact hours

4,854

Overnight campers

90

New leaders trained

160

Participants engaged through the Costanoan Rumsen Carmel Tribe ceremonies and events

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Camping at the Presidio (CAP) provides youth with meaningful overnight camping opportunities in their national park. Co-designed by community organizations and schools, CAP focuses on young people who lack access to national parks and traditional camping experiences. Rob Hill Campground in the Presidio offers youth a dynamic gateway to their Golden Gate National Parks and public lands.

Community organizations and schools qualify for the CAP program by meeting eligibility criteria including offering free to low-cost services and working with families

on a limited income or who receive free/reduced lunch. Consideration is given to groups experiencing barriers that typically prevent them from visiting their national parks, such as vulnerable or marginalized groups, including people of color, individuals who identify as LGBTQ, and people living with disabilities.

CAP staff contribute years of expertise in working with youth and training adults on outdoor skills and knowledge—ranging from basic gear use to advanced backcountry techniques on safety and recreation.



Qualified groups elect one or more representatives to become certified leaders by completing a two-day overnight training course at Rob Hill campground with CAP staff and partner Bay Area Wilderness Training.

When trip day comes, groups are greeted by CAP staff who help them get oriented to their temporary overnight home and set up camp, sometimes for the first time in their lives.

CAP staff also provide educational support to groups in the way of guided hikes that focus on indigenous history, local ecology, and sense of place. These types of activities supplement classroom lessons, bringing messages to life in tangible ways that only a national park can provide.



PARTICIPANT STORY | HIGHLIGHTS

This past spring, Camping at the Presidio staff helped to create a new backpacking program with the Urban Trailblazers middle school program participants. The group explored both state and national parks on a four-day, three-night backpacking trip. Hiking 22 miles, this backpacking trip included visits to Angel Island, the Marin Headlands, Kirby Cove, crossing the Golden Gate Bridge, and the Presidio of San Francisco. During the evening, youth enjoyed a campfire program led by the National Park Service. Before leaving Rob Hill, young people were invited to a morning circle with members of the Costanoan Rumsen Carmel Tribe.

CAP staff trained and prepared youth for the trip. They were certified in Leave No Trace principles and completed backpacking leadership training, empowering them with skills like efficient backpack loading and fundamentals of building sturdy shelters. Endurance training helped ensure everyone could complete the journey while carrying 35 pounds of weight on their back.

CAP staff play an integral part of the Crissy Field Center team, assisting with trip planning, providing trainings to staff and gearing up Center participants and staff for overnight trips. The backpacking trip is a great example of collaboration between program departments.



“My experience has been the best. We learned things in a fun way. When I joined I felt like I had another family. We all treat each other equal. During the backpacking trip, I saw people encouraging each other during the tough uphill. It was awesome to see Blazers put in so much effort. UTB will always be a part of my family.”

—Capajizn, UTB Backpacking Participant



TRENDS | LEARNING | FUTURE PLANS

In 2019, CAP will offer evening programming to all groups who stay two nights. This offer will expand a group's suite of activities and support group leaders hesitant to take nighttime excursions. Night hikes build comfort with the outdoors and allow for deeper exploration of the natural environment. CAP staff give importance to delivering the program with a culturally sensitive lens due to community issues that might make it

unsafe for participants to explore their own neighborhoods at night.

The trend for groups is to supplement their second evening with a campfire led by a National Park Service ranger. Participants are entertained with stories that relate to the animals, plants, and cultural history of the Presidio of San Francisco and surrounding Bay Area.



KEY PARTNER



BAY AREA
WILDERNESS
TRAINING