

Camping at the Presidio



2017 STATISTICS

4,721

Participants served
in 2017

46,233

Total participants served
since 2007

102

New CAP leaders
trained in 2017

992

CAP leaders trained
since 2007

96

organizations and schools
served in 2017

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

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

Community organizations and schools must qualify for the CAP program by meeting eligibility criteria such as offering free to low-cost services, or working with families on a limited income or who receive free/reduced lunch. Consideration is also given to groups experiencing barriers that have typically prevented them from visiting their national parks, such as vulnerable and/or marginalized groups, including people of color, individuals who identify as LGBTQ, and

people living with disabilities.

CAP staff contribute years of invaluable 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.

In order to bring a qualified group camping at Rob Hill, all leaders must complete a training course with CAP staff and program partner Bay Area Wilderness Training (BAWT). Using a train-the-trainer model, the leadership training prepares adults of all skill levels to bring up to 30 people camping. Leaders spend an overnight at Rob Hill, practice using the gear, and experience activities that they could share with their group. In addition, qualified CAP leaders can attend a BAWT orientation, granting them additional access to an extensive gear library for use on outdoor trips beyond the Presidio.





PARTICIPANT STORY | HIGHLIGHTS

The Ohlone Costanoan Rumsen Carmel Tribe represents the first peoples of the lands that became the Presidio of San Francisco. The Ohlone Big Time is a three-day celebration of native culture, where indigenous tribe members and families strengthen and reinforce tribal identity, culture, and tradition with food, dancing, hand games, storytelling, and a singing competition.

Everyone celebrates and honors young men who spend multiple days fasting, sweating, and praying before they take on distinct roles in the tribe, becoming stronger community leaders. These events allow the Costanoan Rumsen Carmel Tribe to show their presence and heal from oppression and environmental degradation.

Only two people in the 2,000-member tribe reside full-time in this ancestral homeland located in a national park; all other members live across the United States. The Gathering offers a chance to live together as a tribe for a brief time, gathering shells, conducting ceremonies, and building temporary structures.

The Camping at the Presidio staff support the event by providing camping gear, reserving campsites, offering logistical assistance, and coordinating permits. Staff also provide a screen printer to make T-shirts for participants, split fire wood, and help gather willow to build a ceremonial arbor.



“The ongoing relationship with the CAP program and the Crissy Field Center is important to the success of the Gathering. This year CAP was honored with sage sticks and a smudging ritual to help them cleanse their spirits and remember the tribe.”

—Desiree Munoz, National Park Service Ranger and member of the Costanoan Rumsen Carmel Tribe



TRENDS | LEARNING | FUTURE PLANS

OVER THE BAY AND INTO THE WOODS

Planned for spring 2018, Urban Backpackers is a four-day, three-night trip with youth from the Urban Trailblazers (UTB) program. Trekking both state and national parks, backpackers hike from Rob Hill in the Presidio, over the Golden Gate Bridge to the Marin Headlands, and then ferry to Angel Island State Park.

The curriculum empowers young people with backpacking skills, as they learn tips for a well-loaded pack, fundamentals for building sturdy shelters, and endurance training to assure completion with 35 pounds of weight on their back. During the trip, educators deliver lessons on leadership competencies, including leading their peers in activities, creative writing and journaling, and reflection.



KEY PARTNER



BAY AREA
WILDERNESS
TRAINING