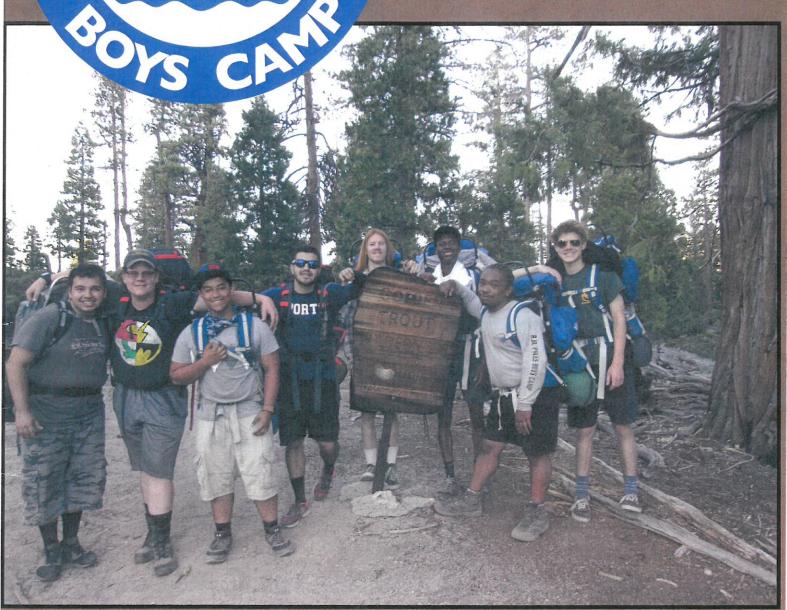


The Pylet 2017



The Secret of Getting Ahead...

Is Getting Started!

Welcome to the 2017 Pylet

By the time you are reading this the summer is long past and the winter holidays are upon us. The Pylet is our yearbook and a gift to you from your time at camp this summer. Our hope is that while you read through the pages you will reflect on the things you learned and the challenges you overcame.

This past summer was one of challenges for all of us. What most of you don't know is that due to last winter's heavy rain and snow storms the road to camp was damaged and not passable. If it was not for a lot of hard work, time and personal expense from Maverick and Gloria we would not have been able to even get to the

camp.

Thank you to Maverick, Gloria, Billy Bear and a crew of Work Party Volunteers we were able to get the camp up and running and looking really good for all of you to come and experience Pyles Camp. Sadly in July, due to a wildfire very close to the camp we had to close the camp for the health and safety of all the campers and staff. In the past 30 years, this has been the most active wildfire year I have ever seen. Since July we have had four wildfires in the areas near the camp and Lion Meadow.

It is sad to see the fire burn through areas of the backcountry that I know so well, but nature will get to work and the forest will be back healthier and stronger. Although we had to run a shorter summer, just like the forest, we will be back as strong as ever.

- Shotgun



A Message from Stripes

- Executive Director

"Whether you think you can, or you think you can't - you're right." -Henry Ford

This summer I saw many of you arrive at camp unsure of yourselves, and apprehensive about the experience you were about to face. After a few days with your counselor, you quickly gained confidence and bravely took on the challenge of the outcamp experience. When you returned, the feeling at camp was different. Camp was no longer filled with boys trying to find their way, but instead filled with young men ready to lead others. At some point during outcamp, your mindset most likely switched from "I can't" to "I can," and that "I can" attitude was present in camp.

I hope you have been able to return to school this year with a new sense of confidence and outlook on life that our counselors worked hard to instill in you. Life has a funny way of consistently throwing obstacles in our way, and the way we face those obstacles speaks to our character. When you're facing an obstacle at school, at home, or in your community, remember the challenge you faced at Pyles and apply the same lessons. If you are facing something that you don't believe you can handle alone, don't be afraid to reach out to a teacher, counselor, coach, friend, and/or Pyles! With your hard work, an "I can" outlook, and the help of those around you, no

challenge is too big for you to face.

Please remember that the Pyles family is here for you and is only a call away. Those big challenges are much easier to face when you have others to help you on your journey - just as you did at Pyles. Our team will work hard to support you in achieving your goals. Keep an eye out for letters from our office and keep an ear open for phone calls from our team. If you think you can, you're right, and we believe in you!

Finally, I'd like to thank all of the hard-working staff, volunteers, selectors, donors, and friends who made camp possible this summer. Thank

you for your time, your talents, and your treasure!



Thank you, Adam "Stripes" Bell

This years Pylet is dedicated to Shotgun 30th Year with Pyles Boys Camp



Havoc, Shotgun & Halftime - 1988

"I remember when Shotgun first came to us as a walk-on at Pyles in the summer of 1987. He walked in appearing so out of place, with the legs of his pants cuffed, a pink tank top, and bright highlights in his perfectly trimmed, short, spiked hair. It was hilarious. Half-time and I took one look at him and we knew he was going to need help fitting in. We soon found out that his heart and soul was, in fact, that of a mountain man. We thought we were going to guide him into fitting in, when actually he taught us so much about nature, backpacking, camping, and acceptance. He fit into the Pyles staff like a glove and quickly became accepted as part of the Pyles family. Even though Shotgun hadn't gone through the program, he had a natural inclination toward the spirit of the camp and neither campers nor staff could tell that he had not grown up at Pyles camp like many of us had. He was a natural. Half-time and I were very proud of our new brother, now we just had to get rid of his silly clothes and highlighted hair.

Shotgun and I spent many summers together, in the Swamp, in counselor cabins, in the old "Lioneer" cabin, and even a couple in the Tent cabin. He gave advice as well as sought out and accepted advice. He was a quick learner and quickly moved up within

the ranks, gaining respect and admiration from us all. He has always been a dedicated, committed member of the Pyles Camp family and I am proud to call him Brother. "– Jose "Havoc" Becerra

30 years is a special time to celebrate for anyone. But 30 years with the same employment, it's a time to honor, "Shotgun" Darren King. Shotgun is the embodiment of Pyles Camp. He has the spirit, the work ethic and the love for the boys. Instrumental in the innovation of the Voyager Program, the building and implementation of the Ropes Course, to the fantastic condition of our current main camp facilities. Shotgun has been there. In these 30 past years, from behind the scenes Shotgun has impacted so many boys, staff and volunteers alike. He has shown us all how to be dedicated; His efficient do-everything-right-the-first-time attitude exemplifies Pyles Camp's work ethic. His thorough approach shows us his commitment to excellence for himself and highest standards for Camp. Thank you, Shotgun for your commitment to the Pyles Camp Family!

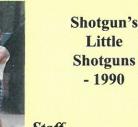




Shotgun's Pacers - 1987



Staff -1987







Lioneers - 1992



1st Voyager Group - 1997



Bamm Bamm - Camp Director

START THE CHAIN REACTION!

Rachel Joy Scott was the first person killed in the Columbine High School shooting on April 20, 1999. That was only the beginning of her story. After her death, many of Rachel's fellow classmates reached out to share stories with her parents about the profound impact her simple acts of kindness had on their lives. Her parents found this passage in one of her notebooks:

"I HAVE THIS THEORY THAT IF ONE PERSON CAN GO OUT OF THEIR WAY TO SHOW COM-PASSION, THEN IT WILL START A CHAIN REACTION OF THE SAME. PEOPLE WILL NEVER KNOW HOW FAR A LITTLE KINDNESS CAN GO."

What I love about Rachel's story is her message of kindness and compassion. This message is so desperately needed today. It is a message about being human, and the responsibility each of us has to take care of one another through a kind word or going out of our way to show compassion to someone. It is a story about love, and deep in our hearts we all desire to love. From our bullies to those who are being bullied, those who long to feel loved, to those who know they are loved.

Much like our home up at Pyles Camp, one phrase from my counselor changed my world, "Good Job! Look what you just accomplished. I'm Proud of you." From there it started a chain reaction to where I stand today. If it wasn't for my counselor, I know I wouldn't be around to spread this message. Now that you are part of the

greater Pyles Camp family, it is our duty to spread the messages of Pyles Camp and become the points of light in our neighborhoods. We need to push ourselves to dream big. We need to look for the best in others, end petty prejudices based off where a person lives, or what they might wear. Choose people that are positive influences that want the best for you and you want the best for them. Speak with kindness, your words are the most powerful and destructive tools we are born with. It all starts with you! Start the chain reaction of compassion and you never know how far it will go.



Bamm-Bamm - Camper 1995

Message From Libre - Assistant Director & Worker Coach

To the boys of second session it was a pleasure being your assistant director, though our time together was short. Make the best of the things you learned. Take the knowledge that the specialists gave you during your activities, apply that out in the real world and I guarantee you'll be successful in life. Even though our session was cut short due to the fires, remember all the good things that camp has showed you; from the leadership of your counselors to the friendship of the workers. Keep in touch with the camp; let them know how your life is going. Whether you're having troubles or everything's falling into place for you, camp would love to hear from you.



Remember to keep in touch for our second year program. Remember the thoughts of the day and apply those to your daily lives. Continue to work hard and strive for greatness. You can be anything you want to be as long as you work towards that goal and never give up.

Author John Green said "What is the point of being alive if you don't at least try to do something remarkable?" Think about that, don't be afraid to fail, do something or be something remarkable. As long as you give it your all and continue to give it your all, you're not a failure. You only fail when you quit. I look forward to seeing you and the things that you have accomplished next summer.

Ozomatli - Program Director

As the holidays approach and with a new year on the horizon, we would like to help you remember those moments created at Pyles Camp through the Pylet. My name is Manuel "Ozomatli" Delgado, Program Director for R.M. Pyles Boys Camp. You may receive a phone call, email, or letter from me reaching out to you to see how things have been since you last attended camp. For those of you interested in returning as a Lioneer or Voyager, I will be working with you to see how we may make that into a reality. Take one step at a time to reach your goals. Remember there is a helping hand within reach. Strive to be "Pyles Camp" at school, with your family, and your community through your positive actions and efforts.

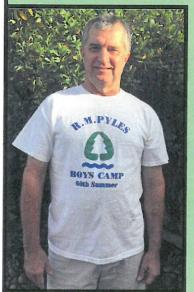


Sincerely, Ozomatli

Message from Big Al

Assistant Director & Worker Coach

Let's start out by asking... How are you? How is school and are you giving it your best? Are you helping out more around the house? I hope from what you learned at Pyles Boys Camp this past summer that your reply would earn a "First Class Hand Clap."



Big Al - Summer 2017

I'm sure your time at camp last summer was an experience that you will never forget. The memories you have will never be forgotten. I would guess that when you returned home, your mind was still at camp. It may still be. For instance... that first night back did you think, "If I was at Pyles Camp right now, I would be at campfire." Well, it happens to me every summer, and I'd bet that the rest of the staff would say the same.

For those who remember me sharing with you at campfire, I was a camper at R.M. Pyles Boys Camp... a long, long time ago, and the camp experience I had was not a whole lot different than yours. Outcamp, archery, nature, K.P., cabin inspection, friendship circles, and receiving my camp t-shirt (of which I still have) are some of the experiences I remember just like you.

In closing, I wish all of you the best, and I know that Mr. Pyles is looking over all of us. I would like to share a quote from my favorite story about "Kyle" of which some of you may remember me reading the final day of camp.

Never underestimate the power of your actions. With one small gesture, you can change a person's life.

In Loving Memory of Pat "Socks" Rees

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Pat "Socks" Rees. Socks was and will always be known as the "Queen of the Mending". She would come to the couples work party along with her husband "Stairs" and spend the weekend mending and repairing sleeping bags for the campers.

Not only was she amazing at mending sleeping bags, she was also an amazing individual. Socks was known for her polite and kind personality. On behalf of the camp and all of those who had the pleasure of knowing Socks we send our condolences to her family. Her presence at camp will be missed but her memory will not be forgotten.



First Session Bakersfield & Kern County



Barnabas's Black Bears

Gerado Cortes, Brandon Flud, Carlos Heredia, Damiond Jimenez, Daniel Magana, Jr, Carlos Orellana, Braulio Sanchez

Rhino's Maskoffs

Anthony Castillo, Jayden Clark, Joel Correa, Dylan Johnson, Jesus Lozano, Preston Parker, Anthony Rivas



odicas

Beast's Beast

Christian Castro, Jerry Keaton, Jr, Angel Montes, Jr, Maxwell Partain, Avery Perez, Miguel Urquidi

Gus Gus's Mysteries

Juan Behill, Travis Brooks, Zachary Hunt, Stephen Nagi, Nicholas Olsen, Christian Soto, Braden Tate





Grizzly's My Guys

Seth Anderson, Edgar DelGado, David Lawrence, Nathaniel Montes, Jacob Reynolds, Willie Roberts, Ezequel Santoyo

Red's Warriors

Carlos Cubillo, Peter Escobar, Ivan Guzman, Richard Hernandez, Andres Mejia, Julian Reyes, Kentrell Williams



Kirby's Kirbsters

Shia Clayton, Israel Fernandez, Mauricio Oliveros, Nathaniel Onsurez, Zachary Pedraza, Britton Weller-Kime

Simba's Wolf Pack

Eduardo Hernandez, Christopher Holguin, Morgan Johnson, Erick Lopez, Salvador Ortuno, Caiden Salcido, Frankie Valenzuela



Summer Scenes

































































Second Session Kern County, Santa Maria & Santa Clarita



Red's Predators

Raul Alvarez, Istrael Gonzalez, Isaiah Lewis, Osbaldo Lopez, Benjamin Lopez-Hernandez, Alex Pablo Cruz, Zander Pulido, Ayden Sparks

Rhino's Warriors

Brayan Canongo, David DeJesus, Jairo Martinez-Justo, Rigo-Roberto Molina-Santiago, Alejandro Ortega, Ruben Pico-Delgado, Carlos Reteguin



Jaybird's Maze Runners

Daveon Crenshaw, Rylee Hunt, Daniel Medina-Tapia, Trent Negus, Rafael Sanchez-Arana, Cristofer Visoso, Ronald Ward, Jr, David Zavala

Hulk's Minions

Jacob Camarena, Noe Garcia, John Gardner, Khalid Headspeth, Alex Mora, Andrew Ortega, Xander Russell, Austin Williams



Matrix's Golden Phoenixes

Oscar Diaz-Sanchez, Efren Galicia, Denilson Guardardo, Braulio Lopez-Hernandez, Juventino Ramirez, Evan Vargas, Julio Vargaz, Jacob Velasquez

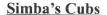
Tab's Titans

Santino Aguilera, Saul Alvarez-Mezta, Jesse Eulloqui, Tredarius Jones, Gabriel Isaiah Perez, Ayden Price, Rodolfo Ramirez, Matthew Wray



Gus Gus's Gusbusters

Iciano Balcita, Andrew Cuellar, Joshua Faubus, Carlos Hernandez, Oscar McClain, Omar Olozagaste-Rojas, Bradley Reeves, Thomas Stroud



Angel Aguilar, Angel Blanco, Tejon Collins, Connor Corett-Petrie, Dylan Franze, Joseph Roybal, Cristopher Sprague, Cameron Taber



Grizzly's Trailblazers

Freddie Cisneros, Anthony Dominguez, Angel McClain, Miguel Navarro, Dylan Nobles, Ryan Palacio, Christian Saldivar, Nathan Williams

Summer Memories



































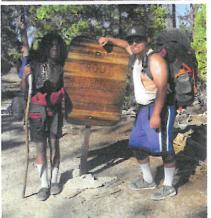




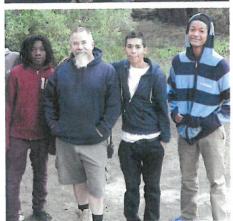


























Lion Meadows



Fellow Lioneers, sending my best regards to you from California Polytechnic University in San Luis Obispo. I hope all of you guys are succeeding in your classes and finished strong halfway through your school year. As we're almost at the end of this year it's always great to look back at the past and relive the memories we created together. As I look back to summer I was honored to be your Lion Meadow counselor. Even though our summer was cut short we still made the best out of it. Our accomplishments and memories together at Lion Meadow will always stay with us. When I look back to our days at Lion Meadow I remember the two day hike that took us to get to lion, playing mafia, sharing stories, helping cook meals for the group, cleaning up lion meadows and looking out for one another. And of course, who could forget escaping and evacuating from the fire that shorten our trip.

As I look back from our experience and memoires I saw

some of the valuable lessons that I hope you will not forget. I saw you guys look out for one another, going the extra mile with Billy Bear and I, serving the people around you. Now that you're back in the city, continue to do the same. Continue looking out for others, extend a helping hand, offer yourself to serving people who need your help. I saw many of you do that when we had to evacuate Lion Meadows. Pyles Camp is about making the people around you better and caring for others. Be there for a friend, offer help to others who need it and bring out the best in people by putting them first. One thing I did learn from my years of counseling at Pyles is that we are stronger together then we are alone. There's a saying "If you want to go fast go alone, but if you want to go far go together".

Pyles camp is about family but it is also extending the family to people in your communities, your siblings, classmates, teammates and friends. I encourage you to be that caring friend in your hometown.



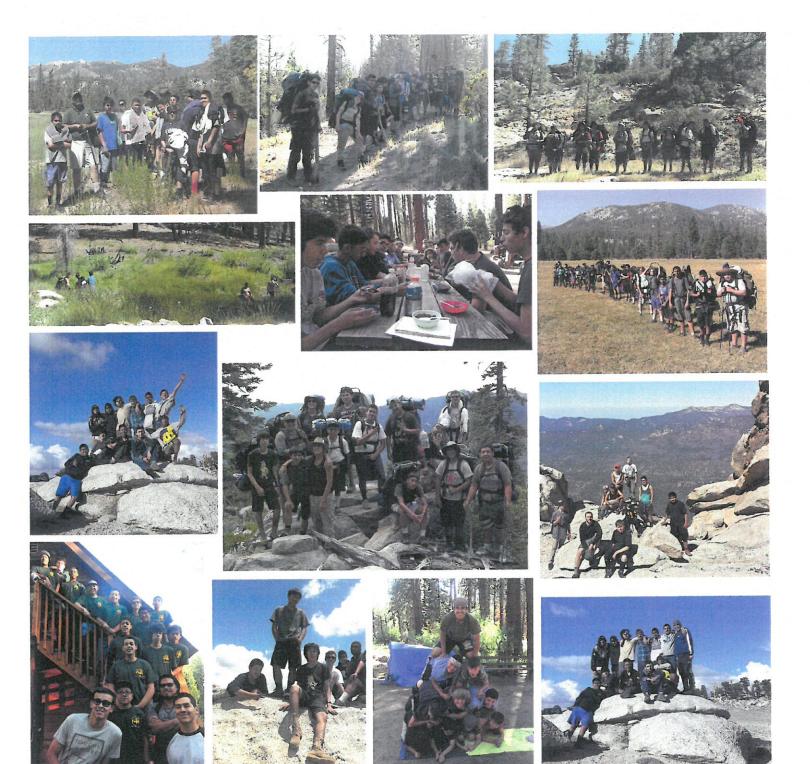
Billy Bear & Barnabas

Sam Avila, Abel Cervantez, Bryan Cruz, Antonio Evangelista, Elijah Hall, Isaiah Hall, RJ Higgis-VanNoort, Andre Medina, Diego Medina, Nathan Miranda, Heriberto Montano, Alexis Moreno, Thomas Testa, Yarid Zaragoza









Lion Meadows is our second year program and offers the camper an opportunity to return to camp the following summer as a Lioneer. Lioneers participate in a whole new program from the main camp experience. One hundred and twenty acres located in the Golden Trout Wilderness about 12 miles from the main camp is where we call home. There are no roads to Lion Meadows. Lioneers hike anywhere from 12 to 17 miles to get there, but the hike is well worth it.

Lion Meadows provides the Lioneers with a large meadow, creek and several rustic buildings. The uniqueness of Lion Meadows only adds to your experience, such as cooking over a wood-burning stove. The Lioneers learn to work together, get to see and do new and exciting things, and pull together as a team.

Campers, we would love to see you next summer and experiencing what the Lion Meadows program has to offer. If you are interested in or have questions about being a Lioneer please contact the camp office.

Congratulations to this years Lioneers, each of you accepted the challenge of the Lion Meadows program and learned more about yourself and your potential.

The Voyager Program

The Voyager program is about self-discovery; learning more about who you are and thinking about who you want to be in the future. The program challenges you both mentally and physically. During the session you and your group learn to become one. The majority of the time is spent challenging nature's obstacles such as the alpine mountains that make the Sequoia National Forest. As a Voyager you are honored with the opportunity to backpack in these mountains, see alpine lakes; cool your feet in mountain streams. As a Voyager you learn living skills and group discussions allow for personal growth. The Voyager Program is an opportunity that only a few get to experience and an opportunity you will not want to pass you by.

Due to fires in the area we were unable to run the Voyager Program this past summer. We highly encourage all of you who were signed up to participate in the Voyager Program or were Lioneers last summer to keep in contact with the camp so we can get you back up to camp this coming summer. Again, being a Voyager is an opportunity of a lifetime, the friends you will make and the memories you will gather are some of the things you will not want to miss out on. Keep in touch and let us know you want to come back.











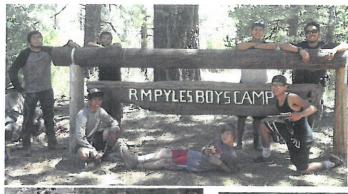






























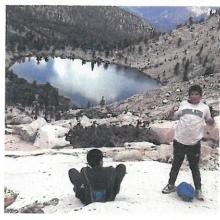














If you look closely at these photos you may recognize some familiar faces. Most of these Voyagers are now staff members. This could be you! We would love to hear from you about returning to camp next summer.

Pyles Leadership Training

The Pyles Leadership Training (PLT) program is an opportunity for young men to become leaders in their communities. They are trained to follow the philosophy of camp by learning to be positive role models and to grow as counselors. This year, we were fortunate to have a group of young men that were eager to learn and make a difference. Although our session was cut short due to the fire, the PLTs showed that they were prepared to take the next step in their journey. Pyles camp will be fortunate to have a new group of leaders leading our campers next year. To our PLTs, you have what it takes to make a difference. Remember what you learned and be confident in your journey!



2017 PLT's Leaders: Gizmo & Spuds

Stix, Cyclopes,
Daredevil, Spuds,
Cookie Monster,
Geo Dude, Torch,
Slayer, Apex,
Gizmo





















Pre-Camp Training & Backcountry Emergency Care

To be a top-notch staff member it takes hard work and dedication to the program. Each staff takes time out of their busy winter schedule to participate in various training sessions. These training sessions include Basic first Aid, CPR, Bug-eye's Backcountry Emergency Care, Outdoor living Skills, and counseling skills. At various times staff get together to upgrade their existing skills. These information packed session are intense and require each staff member to be involved in the learning process. The mission is to serve you better and to make camp the best possible program anywhere. Perhaps you will be a staff member one day and join us for these exciting opportunities to grow.





























The Winter Program A fun way to see your friends from camp again.

Summer is over, camp is closed up for the winter and the winter program is in full swing. Take a moment to remember all of the fun you had at camp. All of the new experiences you had, the new friends you made, and the tools you were given to improve your life. The winter program continues to help you grow from the seeds planted in the summer. During the past few months we have had our reunions. We are also planning some outings. Please respond quickly to any letters you get from camp. Space will be limited for each of these events. The sooner you send your response back the better your chances will be to attend. There are sporting events, field trips, and other exciting events.

Some of you will receive your Lioneer or Voyager applications in late January/ early February. If you haven't received your Lioneer or Voyager application and want to come back, WRITE to us, include a copy of your report card and we will find a way to get you to come back to camp. IT'S IN YOUR HANDS to make it happen!



Thought for the Day "You can make a difference"

A man is walking down the beach after a large storm blew through the night before. All along the beach are star fish that have been washed ashore due to the storm. A little ways up the coast the man observes a boy throwing things into the ocean. As the man get closer to the boy he realizes the young man is picking up the star fish and one at a time throwing them back into the sea.

As the man approaches the boy he asks him what he is doing. The boy replies that he is saving the star fish by throwing them back into the ocean. The man tells the boy; "look around you there are thousands of star fish on the beach, how do you think throwing some of them back is going to make a difference?" The boy stopped and thought for a moment, reached down picked up a star fish and throw it back into the ocean, turned to the man and said "it made a difference to that one."

We encourage you to be that boy on the beach, always try to make a difference in your life and the lives of everyone around you. Throughout the day, the year and your life always look to lend a hand, but a smile on someone's face, or positively change a life. You have the power to make a difference, but it is up to you on how you do it.

By attending Pyles Camp you have chosen to make a difference in yourself. As you progress through the program and work your way up the staff ranks you are making a difference in each of the young men coming to camp after you.



















2017 Summer Staff R.M. Pyles Boys Camp 27211 Henry Mayo Dr. Valencia, CA 91355 (661)294-1394 or Toll Free (877)767-9537 www.pylescamp.com















Aztec Jonathan Ramos
Bambi Amber Parcher
Bamm Bamm Dale Decker, Jr.
Barnabas Oscar Velasco
Beast Gabriel Molina
Big Al Allen Shelby
Billy Bear Jose Romo

Blackout Koaltin Cornelius-Lon Carnivore Daniel Zadykian

Charger Raymond Hoffman

Chavo James De Luis Christmas Jeremiah Pauls

Christmas Jeremiah Paulsness Cloud Richard McEnulty

Cookie Monster Devin Vasquez

Cyclops James McEnulty
Dallas Ralph Anderson

Daredevil Jeremiah Hall

Felix Ahatzin Mendoza

Fizz Edgar Castillo

Foxtrot Seth Hollis

Geo Dude Joshua Devorce Gizmo Ruben Sanchez

Goku Cristian Rodriguez

Grandpa John John Suniga

Grizzly Cesar Ramos Gus Gus Gabriel Munoz Havoc Jose Becerra Hulk Roberto Campos Humor Gabriel McCool Jerome Capili **Jaybird** Kirby Alberto Damian-Sanchez Libre Joseph Valdez Matrix Julio Chavez McLovin Dylan Lopez Mouse Isaac Luque Mr. Blue Andres Guerrero Nine-Tails John Lawson Pilot Brian Duran Raptor Alex Capili Rascal Nick Diaz Red Paul Sturmer Rhino Brian Lopez Rocket Pedro Celis Rubio Ruben Madrid Salamander Francisco Jimenez Scuba Steve Marcos Trevino Simba Jess Cobos Skunk Cade Magallanes Slayer Drake Gascon Christian Pedraza Slugger Spuds David McEnulty Stix John Jackson Tabs Jose Ruiz Torch Samuel Hall Zinger Nathan Banks

















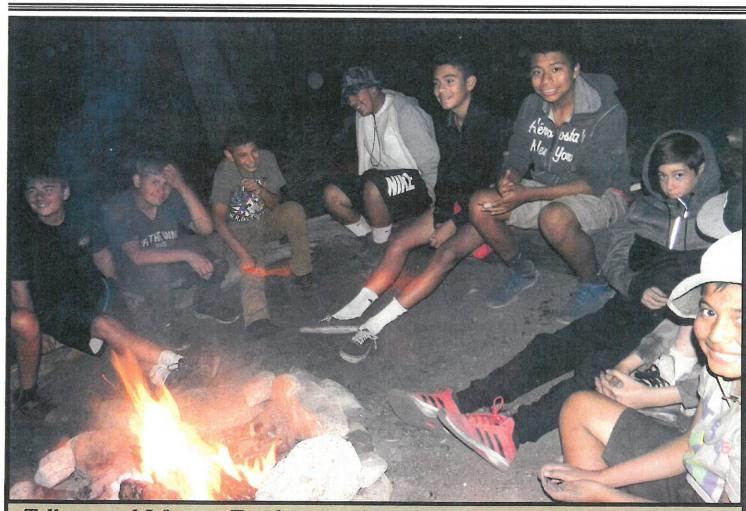


Please contact the Camp Office if you want to get in touch with any of the staff.

R.M. Pyles Boys Camp 27211 Henry Mayo Dr. Valencia, CA 91355

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Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn.
- Benjamin Franklin