

2023 Kerrville Music Camp for Teens

July 16 – 20

sponsored by

Boys & Girls Clubs of Bandera County & Kerrville Folk Festival Foundation

GUIDELINES FOR ADULT SPONSORS/COUNSELORS

1. Those attending will be participating with your designated youth during the camp. Youth and adults will be expected to participate fully in all activities. **There are no “adult” activities separate from “youth” activities.** The purpose of this camp is for youth to discover their own music talents and to develop strengths to transfer these skills for use in everyday life. In today’s world, our youth face many challenges. This camp will be a unique opportunity for youth to learn how to express themselves through their own music and together with staff and adult sponsors, develop a partnership of learning and personal development. **All volunteers/sponsors must have a completed volunteer application, background check, and must complete online training on sexual abuse. Please contact** Jon Charles at (512) 525-9037, jcharles@bgctx.org **if you have any questions.**
2. **Once you arrive at camp, you are expected to stay at the camp facilities.** The camp director will ensure that a trip is made into Kerrville for supplies. Should you find that you or your youth participant(s) has forgotten something, please contact staff to inform them of your needs.
3. The 2023 Kerrville Music Camp for Teens is a **DRUG & ALCOHOL-FREE** sponsored camp. This also means that youth **are not allowed to smoke.** If you are an adult sponsor and smoke, please be discreet. Smoking is not allowed in any of the buildings at camp.
4. As adults, we receive unbelievable feelings of satisfaction and personal growth when we participate in positive programs with young people. But as professional adults, our sole purpose is NOT to be there to socialize with other adults. **The schedule has been designed to provide participants with specific activities, meals, and bedtime.**
5. Quiet Valley Ranch is located in the Hill Country of Texas. It is a great place to reflect on nature and the environment. Please talk to your kids about protecting the environment and encourage them to recycle whenever possible and to help keep the area clean.
6. All meals will be served together at set times. **Any special dietary concerns that you have should be documented on the camp application.** Contact Jon Charles at (512) 525-9037, jcharles@bgctx.org with any questions.

7. **Adults are responsible at all times for the youth they are sponsoring/supervising.** The camp staff is responsible for facilitating activities and offering opportunities, *not for enforcing curfew, attendance at activities*, etc. Rules are minimal and generally for the health and safety of participants and the environment. If there are particular problems, camp staff can serve as consultants to adult participants as can other adults. This level of responsibility, beginning at departure to camp and remaining continuous until their arrival home, may be a new role for some adult participants. Being an adult sponsor is very demanding. If possible, youth and adults should be of the same gender and have had the chance to meet and get to know each other prior to camp. Each group of youth or organization will be responsible for bringing their own camping equipment: tents, cots, sleeping bags, etc. No kitchen or cooking equipment is needed. If you or your organization needs help in this area, contact Jon Charles at (512) 525-9037, jcharles@bgctx.org.
8. While at camp, youth will have some choices in programming. Every effort to include youth in all activities will be made. However, if after reasonable efforts have been exhausted, a youth is disruptive and interfering with the positive experiences of others attending the **2022 Kerrville Music Camp for Teens**, staff may opt to send the youth home. Please note that in our experience with a wide variety of youth, this option is rarely used and remains as a safety measure for those attending.
9. It is our experience that the vast majority of those attending will participate enthusiastically after some initial shyness. **Discussion around expectations prior to your arrival at camp can be helpful.** Adult participants expressing their excitement, enthusiasm and willingness to have new experiences helps to increase the ease of full participation by youth.
10. Keep in mind that the **primary objectives of the camp are having fun, building self-esteem, providing new experiences, teaching positive leisure time activities, and integrating music with developing leadership skills.** The youth attending will make many new friends. Most will leave camp feeling very differently about themselves and their music. In discussing the camp with youth, you will probably want to emphasize the fun aspects, as well as the opportunity for new experiences.

We look forward to meeting you!

If you have any other questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to call.

Jon Charles
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