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Camp Mather Tips

1. Group reservations are multiple families wanting more than one cabin during the same week choices. If you do register as a group, remember that if we don't have cabins for all parties in the group, the system will put everyone on the waiting list, even if we have one cabin available for one of the families.
2. You have the opportunity to select 2 cabin choices and 3 week choices. The more available you are, the greater opportunity of getting a cabin through the lottery even if you get a poor lottery number.
3. If you choose weeks 3, 8, & 9, you may have less of a chance of getting a cabin based on your lottery number. Traditionally, those are the most popular weeks and they fill up quickly.
4. If you choose a cabin for which there are few in number, such as 2, 3, or 4 person, you have a less likely chance of getting a cabin unless you get a very low lottery number. See the [cabin information](http://www.sfrecrecreation.org/cabin-information) at www.sfrecrecreation.org to understand the number of cabins available: Remember that you cannot have more total bodies in a cabin than the size permits.
5. If you don't get a reservation from the lottery - don't give up hope! Last year, we had some leftover cabins and out of the 357 families on the waiting list last summer, we booked almost 150 of them from the waiting list.

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I get a cabin or tent site reservation for Camp Mather this summer?

Interested applicants register online into a lottery and are placed into available cabins or tent sites by lottery number, based on their week and cabin/tent site size choices. San Francisco resident applicants are processed before non-residents.

When is the lottery registration?

Registration for the lottery typically begins the first week of January and ends first week of February.

What do I need to apply for the lottery?

You must have a Rec & Park Family Account to register into the lottery. SF residents must provide documentation annually to prove residency.



How do I set up a Family Account with Rec & Park?

If you've applied for Camp in the past 3 years, you already have a Family Account. Call 415-831-6800 to verify.

1. go to sfreconline.org - *click the Account Tab, click the Create New Family Account button*
2. go to McLaren Lodge M-F 9-5
3. go to an [open registration site](#) during open registration

How do I register for the lottery?

Camp Mather Family Camp lottery registration is online only at sfreconline.org. There is a \$100 registration deposit required at registration. This \$100 will be applied to your final bill if you get a reservation or will be refunded if you don't get a reservation.

If SF Residents get priority, why does it seem that there are so many non-residents at camp?

Only the lottery applicant must be a documented SF resident in order for the reservation to be processed with the resident registrations. The reservation holder can bring anyone they wish to camp with them.

We are a low-income family. Do you offer a discounted rate for needy families?

Low-income, SF Resident families can register in a separate lottery by filling out a Campership application. Download an application at sfrecpark.org. Families applying for Camperships can not apply in the regular lottery.

How do I find out if I got a reservation?

Applicants will either receive a reservation invoice or a waiting list letter around the middle of March. Please don't call us before March 19th – your calls slow our processing down.

What are "meals?"

All reservation holders and overnight guests must purchase meals. The reservation holder is the only one required to have a full week of meals. There are two meal plans: adult and child. Child meals are for children 12 & under. Please bring proof of age for your children under 12 to check-in.

One of my guests is only staying for 2 nights. Can I buy daily meals?

You can book your overnight guests by the day. If you're not sure about your guests' schedules, you can buy meals for them at check-in at camp. Reservation staff must charge a \$17 change fee for all changes to your meals.

I want to add a guest meal to my reservation. How do I do that?

You can add guest meals, remove guest meals, or substitute guest meals (up to maximum cabin capacity) for a \$17 charge until the final payment has been made. After your final payment has been made, you may only add or substitute guest meals of the same type (child for child, adult for adult, etc.)

How do I cancel my reservation?

You may cancel your reservation 30 days prior to your rental. Cancellations must be in writing (via email, mail or walk-in). See our cancellation policies in the Rules and Regulations for more information.

Can I cancel a guest meal?

You can cancel a guest meal prior to your final payment for a \$17 change fee. There will be no refunds for meals after the due date of your final payment.

When are payments due?

An initial payment of \$200 is due upon receiving your reservation. This payment holds your reservation until your final payment is due. Final payments are due 30 days before your rental begins. Postmarks will be accepted.

What if I don't pay my final bill on time?

If payments are not received by the due dates, there will be a one-week grace period prior to cancellation. A late fee of 5% of the total reservation will be applied to the bill during this time. If payment still has not been made after the grace period ends, your reservation will be cancelled.

How does the waiting list work?

All lottery applicants who do not get a reservation from the lottery will be placed on a waiting list. Placement on the list is by lottery number but the chances of getting a reservation off the waiting list is based on the applicant's week and cabin/tent site sizes. For example, if 10 families above you on the list didn't choose the same weeks as you, you may be first on the list for your week choices. You will receive a call from reservation staff if a rental is available.

How can I check my status on the waiting list?

The waiting list will be posted online at sfrecpark.org early April and will be frequently updated.

I forgot to register for the lottery. Can I add my name to the waiting list?

No. There will be no additions or changes to the waiting list. You can try to get a rental of available cabins or tent sites not requested by waiting list customers. We will post available cabins online after April .

What is a day pass and how do I get one?

A day pass allows public access to the lake area and pool at Camp Mather for the day only from 8am until 7pm. Passes must be purchased at the camp office each day. Each day user will be given an identifying bracelet.

Can day pass users purchase meals?

Day users may purchase individual meals (breakfast, lunch, or dinner) to access the dining room.

How do I apply as a group with another family?

See below for group reservation FAQs

What else should I know?

It is extremely important that you read and understand the Camp Mather Rules and Regulations when they are posted online at sfreconline.org. You should also go to campmather.com for information about Camp Mather.

Camp Mather Group Reservations FAQs

What is a “Group”?

A group is 2 or 3 families wishing to attend Camp Mather during the same week but staying in their own separate cabins.

Do I have a better chance of getting a cabin if I apply as a group?

No. Your chances are actually better if you apply as a single family.

**If even one family in the group cannot be placed, then all the families in the group will be placed on the waitlist.*

How do I apply as a group?

Failure to follow group registration instructions will result in families being processed individually.

First: Figure out which families (up to 3) want to register into the lottery as a group.

Second: Register your family in the Camp Mather Family Camp Lottery

Make sure you answer the “group” questions on the lottery registration and reference the other families in your group.

Third: **With the other members of your group, complete and MAIL in the Group Request Form by February 5, 2012.** The form must be postmarked by 2/5/12 or each family in the group will be processed individually and not as a group.

Can my family apply with multiple groups?

No. Each family can only be a part of ONE group. If a family is referenced in more than one other group, the family will be separated from the group and processed as an individual family. If any family gets a cabin that they cannot keep or do not want, they will be held to the rules regarding cancellations.

If a family is referenced by more than one group or not referenced at all, that family will be processed as an individual family.

If one family in the group is not a S.F. resident can we still apply in the resident lottery?

No. All families in a group must be verified San Francisco residents or the group will be placed in the non-resident lottery.

If our group gets in, will our cabins be next to each other?

We will try to book groups in the same vicinity of camp if requested. This however, is not a guarantee and if any family gets a cabin that they cannot keep or do not want, they will be held to the rules regarding cancellations.

Sometimes, families choose cabins that are not all on one side of camp at all. For example, if a group chooses “lakeside” and family #1 chooses a 4 person, family #2 chooses a 2 person and family #3 chooses a 5 person, it is impossible to put them all together because there are no 5 person cabins on the lakeside.

***If our group gets put on the waiting list, how do you decide each family's order on the list?
How do we get placed from the waiting list?***

If you register as a group, you will be placed on the waiting list as a group. We will place you off the waiting list only if enough cabins open to accommodate all of the families in your group at the same time.

Mail Group Request Form to:

Camp Mather Group Request
SF Rec & Park Dept.
501 Stanyan St
SF, CA 94117

All Group Request forms must be post marked by February 5, 2012

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