

## LODESTAR

Located at 3,000' elevation in the Sierra foothills, about 45 minutes from Jackson (east from Sacramento) and 2 hours from Sacramento, Lodestar occupies 425 acres of meadow and woodlands once inhabited by Miwok Indians. The camp has four main areas for groups to stay, Toad Hall, the Dorms, the Tents, and the adults only I-House. Lodestar also offers many outdoor meeting spaces. Lodestar is perfect for youth groups and adults who want a simple and rustic camp with outdoor opportunities. The United Methodist Church owns Lodestar.

**LODGING:** **I-HOUSE:** This **adults only** retreat area holds **15-22** persons. Its location, about a 5-minute walk from the main camp, gives a sense of privacy and seclusion. An open-air walkway/bathroom facility divides the meeting room and kitchen area from the long hallway where the bedrooms are. I-House has heat and a ceiling fan, but no air-conditioning.

**Bedrooms:** There are 11 bedrooms, each with 2 single beds, a closet, a sink/mirror, and an electric space heater. The bedrooms are not accessible, especially for those using wheelchairs.

**Bathrooms:** The bathrooms are around the corner in the open-air area. The men and women's each have 2 toilets, 2 showers, and a sink. The bathrooms are accessible.

**Meeting:** This room can hold **22** persons in a circle, and **30** persons theatre style. The meeting room has a red clay tile floor, 4 couches, a usable fireplace, and a piano. There are 3 round tables available for the meeting space. There is also a small library room off from the meeting room. There are large sliding glass doors that lead to a small deck that overlooks the main part of camp. The other sliding glass doors open to the inner deck that takes you to the bathrooms and bedrooms.

**Meals:** Groups may take meal service at the dining hall or may do their own cooking for the **22** person max. There is a full kitchen with all supplies stocked.

**Accessibility:** The bedrooms are not accessible, but there is a ramp up to the meeting area room. The bathrooms (not the showers) are accessible.

**Recreation:** I-House has a fire circle with stumps to sit on and a horseshoe area.

**TOAD HALL:** This space can house **16-32** persons and is located next to the Dorms. It has a living room that divides the two hallways where the bedrooms are. Toad Hall is carpeted and has heat. It has a large **deck** that looks into the trees and there is a **loft** that looks down to the meeting room. Sliding glass doors open onto a large wooden deck off the meeting room.

**Meeting:** The living room can hold 20-25 persons. The room borders the kitchenette and has sofas, chairs & tables that can be set up for a meeting, and a wood burning stove.

**Kitchenette:** Small area contains a microwave, refrigerator and sink. Groups can not do their own cooking while at Toad Hall.

**Bedrooms:** There are 8 bedrooms (divided into two wings on either side of the living room) that hold 4 persons each in metal bunkbeds. Every bedroom has a sink, a mirror, and a baseboard heater. There is no air conditioning.

**Bathrooms:** The bathrooms are at the far end of each wing. The men's has 1 toilet, a urinal, 1 sink, and 2 showers; the women's has 2 toilets, 2 showers and 1 sink.

**Accessibility:** Toad is not accessible, but there is a ramp leading up to the porch/living room.

**EAGLE AND HAWK DORMS:** These rustic dorms are best for youth groups. They are identical and both accommodate 20 people on wooden bunkbeds. There are two bunkrooms in each dorm that is divided by a (partial) wall with an open doorway. There are two entrances to each room and a storage closet. The dorms are heated and have a ceiling fan, but do not have air conditioning.

**Bathrooms:** Both dorms have two bathrooms at either end of the dorm, each with a toilet, sink, and shower. Groups over **50** can use shower house.

**Accessibility:** The dorms are not accessible.

**EIGHT TENT CABINS:** These cabins (wood floor, wooden and canvas sides, and shingled roof) hold **64** persons, **8** in each cabin in wooden bunkbeds. They are **available generally from Memorial Day to Labor Day**. Each cabin is screened, has a light, an electrical outlet, and a fabric door.

**Accessibility:** One cabin has a ramp (#4) that leads to the shower house. Cabins 1-5 are closest to shower house.

**Centrally Located Bathrooms:** The new men and women's bathrooms are nearby the tents. The Men's bathroom has 4 showers, 3 toilet stalls, 2 urinals, and 3 sinks. The Women's bathroom has 4 showers, 4 toilet stalls, and 4 sinks. The bathrooms are heated.

**Accessibility:** Both have an accessible toilet/shower.

**LEADER'S CABIN:** This cabin sleeps **7** persons in 2 bedrooms. 3 extra beds are possible when using the infirmary and the nurse's room. It overlooks the tent area, located directly across from the Dining Hall and

should **only be reserved in conjunction with the Dorms/Tents**. It has a living room with a fireplace, 3 couches (one is a hide-a-bed), an easy chair, and sliding glass doors leading out onto the deck that overlooks the camp. The floors are linoleum in the bathroom and kitchen, carpeted in the bedrooms and living room. The kitchen has a fridge, sink, oven, microwave, phone, coffee maker and a desk.

**Bedrooms:**

1<sup>st</sup> Bedroom: 2 single beds  
2<sup>nd</sup> Bedroom: 2 bunk beds (4 beds)  
Infirmary: 1 bunk bed (2 beds)  
Nurse's Room: 1 single bed

**Bathrooms:** There are two bathrooms, one has a tub/shower, toilet, and sink, and the other is located next to the infirmary and has a bathroom with a toilet, sink, and shower.

**Accessibility:** Not accessible, since there is one step leading into the cabin.

**DINING:**

The new **DINING HALL/LODGE** can hold up to **127 (legally)** persons at round tables seating 8 each and is sometimes used to accommodate 2-3 different groups at the same time for meals. It is possible to feed **167** persons in good weather by utilizing the deck outside. The dining/meeting room has a fireplace and large windows that overlook the camp. Half of the Dining Hall can be used as a meeting space, if the group is around 50 people and they are the only group using the camp. Several glass doors open onto a large wood deck that surrounds two sides of the building. Groups using the dorms, tents, or Toad Hall must have meal service. Behind the lodge by the deck are 7 picnic tables. A large dinner bell summons campers to meals.

**OWN COOKING:**

I-HOUSE groups have an option of taking meals in the dining hall or doing their own cooking in I-House. The fully equipped commercial-size kitchen has a stainless steel double sink, 1 refrigerator and a gas stove.

**MEETING:**

The **Dining Hall** is normally used by groups in the dorms or tents for meeting. Max occupancy is **127** persons. The dimensions of the main dining room are 43'x 44' and the lobby entrance to the dining room is 32' x 15'.

**Toad Hall** and **I-House** groups meet in their respective buildings. See

lodging section for details.

**APRICOT HALL:** This space can hold **30** persons at 3 tables for arts and crafts. There are also chairs available for meeting. Apricot is near the Leader's Cabin and the Dining Hall. It has a linoleum floor, cabinets, sinks, and a wood burning stove.

**THE AMPHITHEATRE:** This meeting place is large with redwood bench seating and a lighted stage with back walls and wings. It can hold **167** plus persons.

**THE FIRE CIRCLE:** This area below the Dining Hall has space for **167** plus on 17 benches that can seat 8-10 each.

**EYMANN OUTDOOR CHAPEL:** This area is in a wooded grove beyond Toad Hall. It has a podium located in the front and wood bench seating for up to **167**.

## **RECREATION:**

**THE SWIMMING POOL** (built in 1994) is large and rectangular, and has a diving board. The **bathhouse** has a men and women's changing areas. It is generally open Memorial Day to Labor Day depending on the weather. The pool is not heated.

**Bathrooms:** The men's has one toilet, one urinal, one sink, and two showers (men and women's showers are spaces with showerheads, not individual stalls).

The women's has 2 toilets, one sink, and 2 showers.

**Accessibility:** The pool area is accessible; however the long path to the pool area is dirt and is rough. Groups may drive to the pool.

There is a **volleyball court** with cedar chips and a paved **basketball** area with two backstops. There is also a large meadow for field games, a smaller grassy field by the pool suitable for an informal softball game, 2 **horseshoe pits** (1 by lodge, 1 by I-House), and 2 **ping pong tables** by the lodge only out during summer months.

**Kirkwood Meadows** is a downhill skiing area 1.5 hour winter drive from Lodestar. Many historical sites and attractions are within 1-2 hour's drive.

**Environment:** Lodestar is rich in varied ecological environments and steeped in the history of the Motherlode country. Towering yellow pine trees, sugar pines, cedars and other conifers are interspersed with a variety of oak

trees, and other deciduous trees. "Mountain misery" and a variety of wild flowers carpet the forest floor. An immense meadow becomes a garden of wild flowers in spring. One of the many trails crossing the meadow passes a lava cap adorned with manzanita and chaparral, and descends to the Mokelumne River through a dense forest of fir trees and ferns. A **self-guided nature trail** (with an information booklet) leads to a pond area with an ancient apple orchard nearby, probably the site of a pioneer cabin. There are Indian grinding stones, evidence that Miwok lived here at one time.

### **HOW TO RESERVE:**

<u>TOAD HALL</u>	Minimum <b>15</b> , Maximum <b>32</b>
<u>I-HOUSE</u>	Minimum <b>15</b> , Maximum <b>22</b> Bedding and linens are optional in I-House; fee is \$7.00 per person or group may provide their own.
<u>1 DORM</u>	Minimum <b>12</b> , Maximum <b>20</b>
<u>BOTH DORMS</u>	Minimum <b>20</b> , Maximum <b>40</b>
<u>TENT CABINS</u>	Minimum <b>15</b> , Maximum <b>64</b>
<u>LEADERS CABIN</u>	<b>ALWAYS</b> reserve with DORMS or TENTS, <u>NOT with TOAD or I-HOUSE.</u> Sleeps <b>7-9</b> .
<u>EXCLUSIVE USE</u>	Winter: Min <b>50</b> (without Tents) Max <b>103</b> Summer: Min <b>65</b> (with Tents) Max <b>167</b>

**Shares:** A group filling Toad/Dorms (72 persons) may share with an I-House group (22 persons). **Consult with Site Director before booking.**

Dorms/Toad/Tents may be filled during the summer when the Dining Hall deck can be used if I-House group is own cooking.

**No Own cooking groups in summer unless it relieves potential dining hall conflicts.**

Groups provide own bedding and linens except as noted at I-House.

**Turnaround:** Allow at least 4 hours between Exclusive use groups, 2 hours when only part of the camp has been used.

**MISCELLANEOUS:**

- 50 parking spaces, located throughout camp.
- Driving time from SF: 3.5 hrs, Sacramento: 2hrs, Jackson: 45min.
- Payphones:
  - Leaders: (209)293-9901
  - FAX: (209)293-4984
- Audio/Visual Equipment: TV and DVD/VCR in main Lodge
- 1 piano in the lodge/One piano in I-House
- **Wheelchair Access:**
  - I-House: Bathrooms/kitchen/meeting room only
  - Toad Hall: Living room only
  - The Dorms: Not accessible
  - The Tent Cabins: Not accessible
  - Leader's Cabin: Not accessible
  - Dining Hall: Accessible

The **GENERAL STORE** is a small building located across the road from the lodge and is used by summer youth groups for selling food, T-shirts, etc., and is equipped with a freezer and refrigerator.