



WELCOME WOMEN* DRUMMERS!

** women, woman-identified, and gender nonconforming*

Drum camp is in 3 weeks, and we are so very happy that you are coming. It is a moment we give ourselves to be in the company of beautiful, fun, and inspirational women for a couple of days. It is a time to relax and recharge, sing, play and dance with other Maestras in beautiful West Marin. What a blessing!

For those of you who have been to Walker Creek, you will remember its beauty and the great classrooms, the concerts, and the delicious food. For those who've only been to Bort Meadow, this will be a very different experience and we hope you'll love it!

In this letter you will find information about camp logistics. You will find more information about Born to Drum 2023, the program and the teachers and other camp information on our website: www.womendrummers.org.

SCHEDULE OVERVIEW (see our detailed [class and event schedule](#))

Friday August 25

12 - 2pm – camp opens for registration and setup

2:30pm – first class session

Dinnertime – registration re-opens

11pm or later – evening jam session ends

Saturday August 26

7:30 - 9am – camp opens for Saturday arrivals and registration

9:15am – first class session

Lunchtime – registration re-opens

11pm or later – evening faculty concert ends

Sunday August 27

8 - 9am – camp opens for Sunday arrivals and registration

9:15am – first class session

10am – Latest Check-out time for Dorms and Lodges

4pm –Departure time from camp

GETTING TO CAMP

- Walker Creek Ranch is on the Petaluma-Marshall Road in Marin County. [Click here for directions.](#)
- Parking at Walker Creek is somewhat limited. For that reason, and of course for our precious environment, we encourage you to get together with others you know and carpool.

WHEN YOU ARRIVE

1. You will be greeted in the driveway and directed where to park temporarily for check-in at registration.

2. Check in at registration in the dining hall. You will be given a campus map (attached here) with information about your specific schedule, meal selections, and where you will be staying. (Campers will be shown all the campsite options.)
 - a. *If you do not have your Google registration confirmation or are not 100% sure of the schedule you signed up for, please email us at womendrummers@gmail.com.*
 - b. *You do not need to print your confirmation or the map. We will have all of your information and will give you a map.*
3. In many cases, you will be able to drive to drop off your gear where you are staying. If there are no overnight parking spaces, you will be asked to move your car to a permanent spot before you set up your camp or your room/dorm space.

NOTE: We will have a few carts/wheelbarrows for moving gear. ***Please bring your own if you have it, especially for moving heavy drums.*** (You'll be able to store your drums in the classrooms). If you indicated in your registration that you need assistance, we will have a couple of volunteers available to help.

WHILE AT CAMP

Accommodations and Bathrooms

- As you know, Walker Creek has camping, dormitories, and small lodges with semi-private rooms. Please see the attached map for locations of these lodgings. *(You do not need to print it, we will have one for each of you, personalized with your information.)*
- The lodges and the dorms have toilets, bathrooms, and showers. Campers use the large central bathhouse for toilets and showers. For those of you who have not preselected roommates, we will assign you roommates in your semi-private rooms or dorms.
- Bedding is supplied in the semi-private rooms – do bring whatever else you want and need to make sure you are comfy. **Bring your own bedding if you are staying in the dorms.** *Make sure you bring whatever you need to keep warm at night!*

Meals

- Walker Creek engages a caterer who will make us delicious meals. Your diet selections are being accommodated. In addition, WDI will supply tea and light snacks in the afternoon in the dining hall.
- *If you need or want to bring supplemental food, please store it in a kitchen or in your car.* There are MANY wild animals wandering around and you do not want unexpected company. Semi-private lodges have kitchens. If you are camping or staying in a dorm, there is a communal kitchen in the Discovery Center (near the Bathhouse).

Getting around camp and storing drums

- Walker Creek is a large property with nice hiking trails, but the main campus is clustered close together. There is some distance between classrooms, at most a 3-5 minute walk, depending on your pace. The walking paths are paved, and the buildings are accessible, with most that we are using being ADA compliant.
- *Storing drums:* We have localized most of the West African classes in Buckeye, although there are several in Maple and in Muir. Most of the conga-related classes are in Muir. *You can safely leave your drums in the location where most of your classes are held, which will limit the amount of schlepping.*

Weather

Walker Creek is often warm/hot in the daytime and quite chilly at night. Bring LOTS of layers!

Cell phone reception, WIFI, and emergency call-in number

- There is NO cell reception but there is WIFI. If your cellphone has WIFI calling (not iPhones is our understanding), you will be able to use it.
- We will have our own phone extension in Willow, where Mar Stevens, one of our WDI Board members and camp managers, is staying.
 - **The number for urgent calls from family/others: 415 419 6600 ext. 385.** If no one answers, call the main number (without the extension) for a Walker Creek staff person.
 - To use the phone to reach an outside line, dial 2, the area code, then the phone number.

COVID safety

We are requiring masking in all indoor events. Please bring your own masks.

First Aid Supplies and Emergencies

Please bring all the medicines and healing supplies you will need during camp. We will have some limited basic first aid supplies located at the Registration Desk

*Information about emergencies is in the Camp Guidelines at the end of this letter. **IF you have CPR/AED training or certification, we are asking that you volunteer in case of emergencies.*** We are not appointing anyone in advance because of liability concerns; however, California Good Samaritan laws protect on-the-spot volunteers from liability if they step in to assist in an emergency situation.

The Sonic Sound Healing Area

Amikaeyla and Nonnie have joined together to expand the new Sonic Sound Healing area, after a successful debut last year! Also offering sessions, in addition to Amikaeyla's crystal bowl chakra clearing, will be Regina Oji (Song - vocal tone); Debbie Fier (Hang - handpan); and Jnana Gowan (Gong). While you wait for the start of your session, you can sit enjoy soothing sounds from chimes and fountains while you journal or do arts, crafts, or make prayer ties.

- The sign-up sheet for individual sessions will be at registration. Sessions will be available every day.

Community Altar

There will be community altars in Maple. You are invited to bring something meaningful to you to place on the altar.

Swimming and Campfires

- The pond will be open for swimming with an attending lifeguard from **12:30-3:30 on Saturday**. It is beautiful and pristine. Bring your bathing suits.
- There will be late night campfires & frivolity on Friday and Saturday.

CHECKING OUT

Our camp will continue until 4 on Sunday, **but we must be out of the lodge rooms and dorms by 10am Sunday morning** so the staff can start cleaning for the next group. ALL PERSONAL ITEMS AND LUGGAGE SHOULD BE OUT OF THE DORMS AND LODGES AT THIS TIME. Please leave comforter, pillow, and linens on bed.

WHAT TO BRING:

- Your camping equipment, or if you are staying indoors, enough bedding or extra bedding to make sure you are comfortable at night. If you like a softer bed, you might consider a foam or camping pad.
- Prescription Medications
- Your drum(s) or percussion instrument(s)! [Check class descriptions](#) for instruments, equipment, and clothing recommended for various classes. *In addition, please note:*
 - Linda Tillery is teaching 2 classes of Gullah Sea Isle music and drum. In this class she will teach how to play the pounding stick, which is a 5 ft dowel used in Gullah music. If you have a pounding stick, please bring it. We will have a limited number of sticks available for the class.
 - If you have a Chekere (beaded gourd), be sure to bring it, as we will have several classes that will use the gourd; i.e., Amy Vitro's Chekere class and Carolyn's Güiro class.
 - Bring your dancing tights and shoes because we have 4 amazing dance teachers this year!
- We will have plenty of chairs, but if you have a stool or a favorite chair, feel free to bring it.
- A recording device with extra batteries, a notebook and pens. (*Voice recording only*)
- Still Camera (**no videos of classes please!**)*
- Masks for indoor events/classes
- Sunscreen
- Hat
- Sunglasses
- Water bottle with your name on it!
- Refillable spray bottle if you want to stay really cool
- Clothing for hot days
- Clothing/layers for cold mornings, evenings, and overnights
- Good walking shoes
- Stretchy/loose clothes for dance classes (jeans not recommended)
- Swimsuit for pond swimming Saturday
- Towel or two
- 2+ Flashlights, with backup batteries. **The campus is dark at night.**
- Bedding: **required** if you're in a dorm, *optional* if you're in a lodge (anything you like from home to add to your comfort)
- Phone charger
- Toiletries in a portable bag: you will not be able to leave toiletries in the bathrooms/showers
- Contribution items for the community altar
- Cash or checkbook for tee shirts and vendors! (Electronic payments are not reliable due to lack of cell service!)

WHAT NOT TO BRING:

- Valuables. **Women Drummers International assumes no responsibility for loss of or damage to personal property.**
- Video camera/recording device. **Video recording of your classes is not allowed.**
- Portable speakers. **Recorded sound is strongly discouraged at camp. We encourage you to take this opportunity to have 2.5 days of only live sounds. If you do want recorded sound for yourself, headphones are strongly requested.**
- Recreational drugs

CAMP GUIDELINES

All are welcome at Walker Creek Ranch! Below is helpful information from Walker Creek to orient and prepare you for your stay.

Meals ♣ Meal service is buffet style. Please bring your own plates, cutlery to the bussing station. ♣ Staff will clean the dining hall promptly at the end of the meal service. ♣ Standard mealtimes are 8 am breakfast, 12 pm lunch and 6 pm dinner. Meals last one hour. Check with your event leader if your mealtimes vary. ♣ Anyone with dietary needs may go directly into the kitchen to be served.

Service requests/housekeeping ♣ Staff are available in the dining hall from 8 AM-8 PM. ♣ After 8 pm, please call the on-duty manager from your lodge phone in case of an emergency.

Water ♣ The water is safe, delicious, and minimally treated. Please enjoy from any faucet, fountain or spigot.

Critters ♣ Please close doors to lodges and meeting rooms to keep animals out. ♣ Please give space to the animals and remember we share a home. ♣ Please keep food in the dining hall, in the lodge refrigerator, or stored safely in your car.

Smoking ♣ Smoking is only allowed on patios where an ashtray is located. Walking around while smoking is a fire hazard and is prohibited.

Emergency phone ♣ A landline phone is available to you in your lodging. Confirm the location of your phone with Walker Creek Ranch staff and familiarize yourself with its use. **(WILLOW)** To use the phone, dial 2, the area code, then the phone number to reach an outside line. ♣ If you need after hour emergency assistance between 9 PM and 7 AM please call the scheduled on-call manager. The telephone number of the on-call manager can be found on the placard by the telephone. ♣ In the event of an emergency dial 911 from emergency phone. The Ranch address is 1700 Marshall Petaluma Road, Petaluma CA. After you have contacted emergency services, alert a Ranch team member.

First Aid/Safety ♣ Your group is responsible for injuries, illness, first aid and the safety of your participants. Please inform your group of the location of your first aid supplies and appoint someone to handle injuries and illnesses. ♣ The AED is located in the Dining Hall. ♣ In the event of an emergency or evacuation you will hear an alarm sound. Please gather your group in the ball field at the entrance to the ranch. ♣ If you need additional first aid resources, please speak to a Ranch team member.

Fire emergency ♣ Alarm will sound ♣ Gather in basketball court ♣ Establish incident command and take roll ♣ Establish search and rescue Internet ♣ Password for guest wi-fi network: wireless

Parking ♣ Parking is allowed in the following designated areas: o Main parking lot by the Ranch Office o Next to many of the lodges o Additional parking is behind the Dining hall o Limited parking by the barn.

Campfire ♣ Please thoroughly extinguish the campfire using the water hose. Wildfire season. Please be mindful. PLEASE NOTE CAMPFIRE MAY BE CANCELLED DUE TO RED FLAG WARNINGS. Check with Ranch Staff.

Hiking trails ♣ Please stay on designated paths to avoid poison oak.

Swimming at the pond ♣ Please only use the pond when a lifeguard is on duty. Pond can be reached from the organic garden bridge and making a left. Please bring water. Swimsuit is required.

Check-out ♣ At the end of your stay please leave comforter, pillow, and linens on bed. ♣ Check out time/out of lodges: 10 AM – ALL PERSONAL ITEMS AND LUGGAGE OUT OF THE DORMS AT THIS TIME ♣ Check out of meeting rooms: 1 PM for those enjoying breakfast and 4 PM for those enjoying lunch.

Stewardship ♣ Please be good stewards of Walker Creek Ranch and leave this special environment better than you found. We kindly ask that you: ♣ Stack all chairs at the end of your stay ♣ Throw away trash and recyclables in appropriate containers ♣ Turn off thermostats and lights in your lodges.