



February 15, 2020

Dear friends and supporters,

Spring Camp is seven weeks away, campers slots are filling up, and we're already well over halfway toward our fundraising goal of \$10,000! This includes contributions from individuals like you as well as our partners, the Wukchumni Tribe, the Fresno American Indian Health Project (FAIHP), and the Pacific Yearly Meeting (Quakers) Youth Programs Vogel Fund.

Many thanks to all our donors! Can you help us toward meeting our goal today?

Donations of all sizes help us bring together a camp community of Native and non-native youth and adults for five days of learning, service, community, adventure, and changemaking. About a third of our campers come from the local Wukchumni Tribe, a third other Native youth from the region, and a third Quakers of diverse backgrounds from all over California and beyond. Our staff has similar diversity and shares leadership. Quaker Oaks Farm is a non-religious, educational, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. We operate as a working farm and gathering place to learn, live, and share lessons of peace, social justice, and sustainable living. Spring Camp is one of the pillars of how we care for the Land and one another.

**What campers and parents have to say about
Spring Youth Service-Learning Camp at Quaker Oaks Farm:**

"The most important reason as to why I want to be a part of this camp is to connect with the Earth more. Since my younger youth, I have been [concerned] with the issue of climate change and pollution; I have always wanted to learn ways to protect nature."

"I learned more about the types of relationships I would like with people."

"[My daughter] was not raised or taught our Native ways. It is a great opportunity and a privilege to have her attend as many activities to learn our Native culture and to interact with other Native kids."

"Each year I learn so many things about both the Quakers as well as the Native Americans. I view [both] as an outsider because I am originally from such a different world. I learn how to respect people, their culture, and the land around me. Learning about the 'Discovery of America' from this perspective truly makes you look at everything with a different perspective."

"[Camp] helped me during a difficult time."

"I want to go to camp to meet new people and teach them about the land. I'm able to teach things about my Wukchumni tribe. I will be respectful and helpful."

“The sense of community among everyone was very strong, and I enjoyed learning about Wukchumni history and culture.... I have also been getting more involved in Quaker activities and leadership, and I think Spring Camp would be a good environment to continue doing this.”

“I feel so blessed and nurtured knowing that I have a loving community that spans across the state, and that I can carry that feeling through the year no matter how challenged or isolated I feel.”

“I enjoy learning about the Wukchumni and their relationship and history with their ancestral lands. I'm excited to serve the Quaker Oaks community once again this year.”

“Well I've been a camper for around 3-4 yrs now and I enjoy being able to go... This is one of the best places that I get a good educational experience learning my native cultural ways and practices.”

As these young people grow up together, some now having attended 5+ years of camp, we see their friendships deepen as they develop trust and understanding, both *despite and because of their differing social circumstances*. As their leadership skills develop, they step up in new ways to give back to the land and the community here and at home.

We ask you to please give generously so we can continue to serve all youth who wish to attend. \$5 covers a meal for a camper, staff member, or Elder. \$50 buys supplies for the service project. \$100 helps us bring in a culture-bearer and/or environmental expert for a session. \$500 pays for a camper for the whole week. \$1,000 provides field trip transportation. If your employer offers a matching program, please note we are certified with Benevity (Apple and others) to accept matching funds. Donations can be made at QuakerOaksFarm.org or by check mailed to 17216 Ave 296, Visalia CA 93292 with memo notation, “Spring Camp.”

More about Spring Youth Service-Learning Camp at Quaker Oaks Farm: April 6-10, 2020:

This year's theme at camp will be “Air”, building on past themes of Fire, Water, and Earth and the interrelatedness of all Beings. Please see the flyer at our [website](#) for more details. Camp includes a service project on the land and a field trip, grounded in traditional knowledge and science. Donations and camper fees combine to cover the costs of materials, facilities, meals, field trip, and honoraria for our all-volunteer staff. Please be sure to let families with youth in grades 6-12 know about Camp and invite them to apply on our website ASAP. Our maximum capacity is 25 campers and the deadline to apply is March 9th. We welcome all who wish to come regardless of ability to pay.

With gratitude on behalf of the Quaker Oaks Farm Board of Directors, the Camp Planning Committee, and all our campers,

Melissa Lovett-Adair, QOF Board Chair & Spring Camp Co-Director

Darlene Franco, QOF Board Member, Spring Camp Co-Director, & Wukchumni Tribe Chair