



UCLA UniCamp

# 2024 Impact Report



Campers canoe at Jenks Lake

**UCLA UniCamp is no stranger to curveballs.** Tropical Storm Hilary caused severe damage to Camp River Glen at the end of the 2023 season. Since then, we've rallied to secure Camp Pine Mountain as our home-away-from-home. With the support and generosity of our alumni and institutional funders, we were able to fulfill our promise to the campers and UCLA student volunteers of another amazing camping season in the mountains.

On Sunday, June 23rd, UCLA UniCamp's 89th summer camp season officially kicked off! Over the next 5 back-to-back weeks, 225 UCLA student volunteers welcomed 520 underserved youth campers to the San Bernardino Mountains. New campers were wide-eyed at being in an unfamiliar, natural environment while returning campers were excited to experience UniCamp at a new location.

We are so thankful to everyone who helped us land on our feet this year. There is much left to be done in the years to come including all the repairs at Camp River Glen all while ensuring that we continue to provide a meaningful camp experience each and every summer. We are more hopeful than ever and eagerly await our homecoming to Camp River Glen.



WALL campers "M&M" and "AG" return from their 4-day backpacking trip



Sam "StarLord" Galvan shares a moment with a camper





## Greetings from CAMP PINE MOUNTAIN

Camp Pine Mountain, just a mile from Camp River Glen as the crow flies, is a cozier site in the same mountain range that provides a similar feel as Camp River Glen. However, with a lower camper capacity, smaller kitchen, different sleeping arrangements, and fewer amenities, we had our work cut out for us.

Starting in late May, we set out every weekend with a scrappy crew of current and alumni volunteers to rake, sweep, and clean our new home. Fourteen round trips off roading on a 20-foot flatbed trailer later, we transported all the beds, kitchen equipment, bows and arrows, bikes, canoes, and other program equipment that we needed for the summer. Several more weekends later, everything was in place. We were already exhausted even though the most exciting part was yet to come!



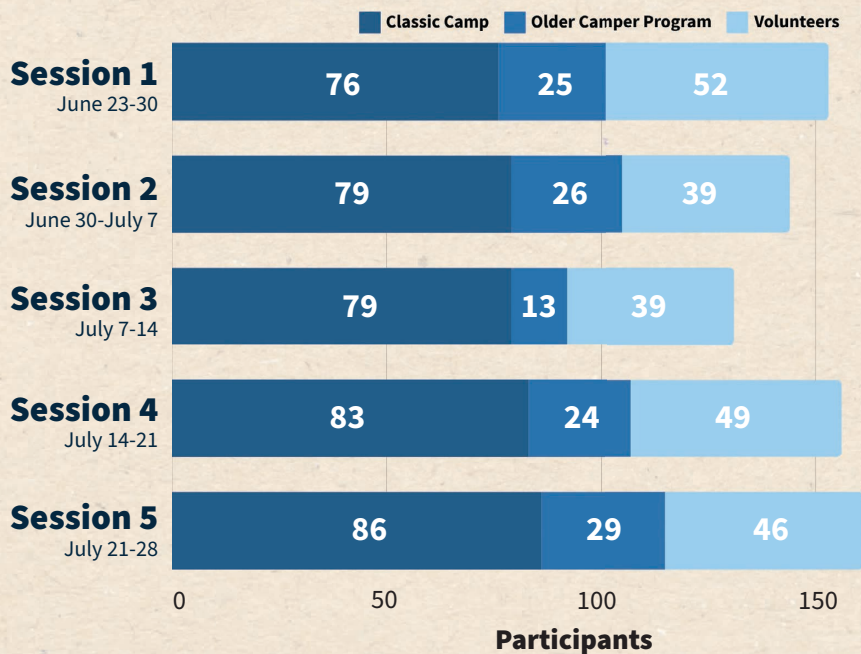
# A summer with UCLA UniCamp

520 campers

225 UCLA student volunteers

5 weeks of camp

We served 520 campers (403 in Classic Camp and 117 in Older Camper Programs), including 71 foster youth. Out of our 225 total volunteers, 118 were returning and 107 were new this summer.



2.3:1

camper to  
counselor ratio

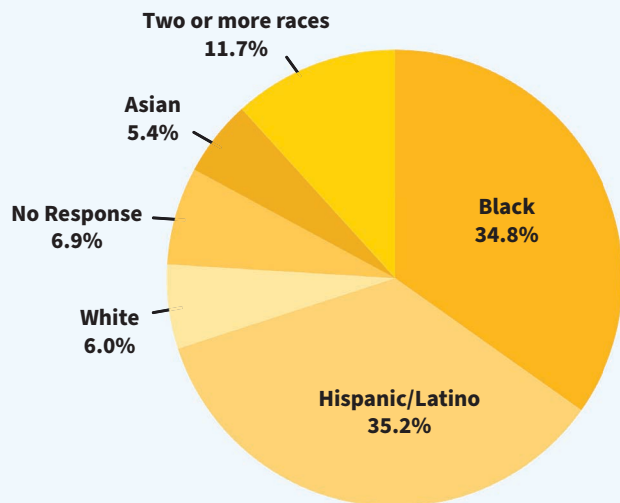


Campers model outfits made from newspapers designed by their cabin



# CAMPER DEMOGRAPHICS

## Camper Race/Ethnicity



## Long "Bubblegum" Thanh, UniCorps Camper



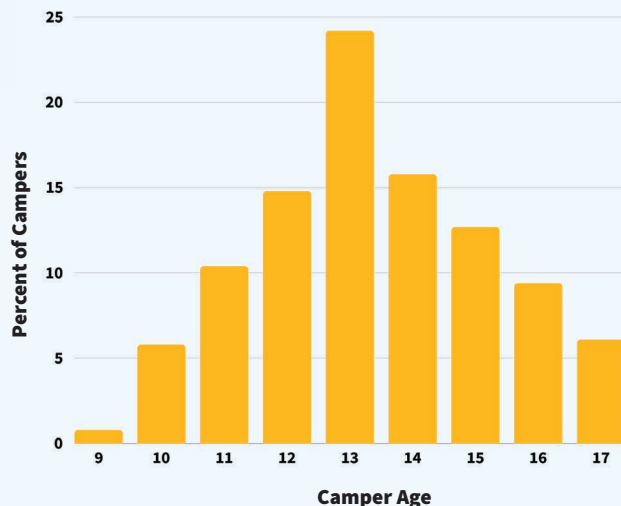
"It's just great being out here... being able to help out... it's been everything for me. I've been able to make so many good friends..."

## Zoe "Ratatouille" Eleopoulos, Classic Camper



"...UniCamp really just helped me socialize and kind of get used to being in a group of a lot of people because I grew up in a very small school... UniCamp really helped me grow."

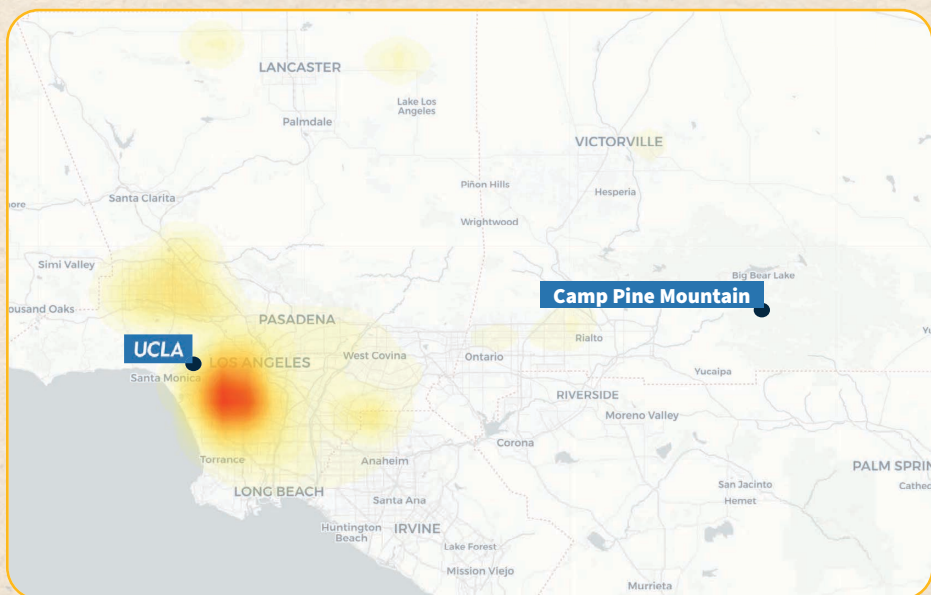
## Camper Age



Camper Ashley "Flare" Garcia performs a folclórico routine at the talent show



Session 1 campers celebrate the end of their week at the camp dance



# CAMPER HEATMAP

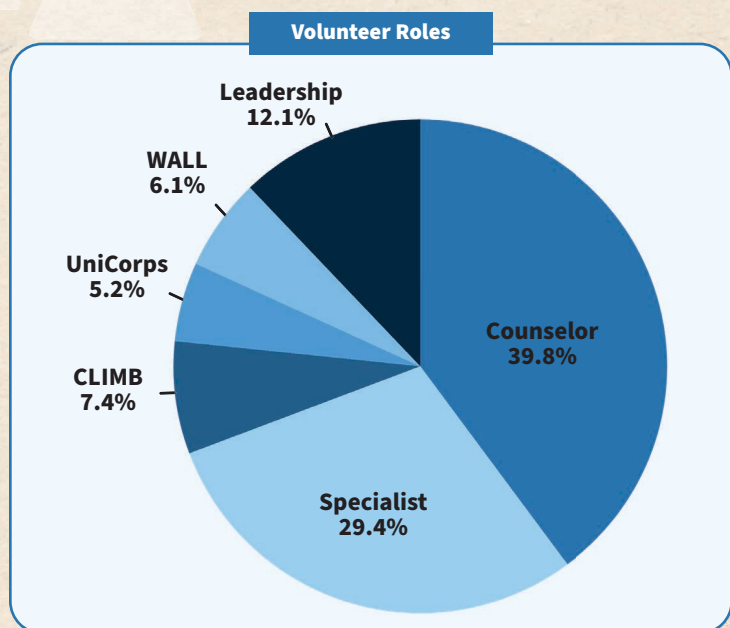
Most of our campers are from South Los Angeles, with a significant number coming from the San Fernando Valley and the neighborhoods near Koreatown.

Smaller groups of campers came from the San Gabriel Valley, La Habra, Lancaster, San Bernardino, and Rialto.



# OUR STUDENT VOLUNTEERS

Median  
volunteer age  
**21**



Ashley "Jeff" Rodriguez, Former Camper, UniCorps Program Director



"I found a really amazing community...that brings me so much happiness, so much joy, so many amazing lifelong friends..."



Camp counselors at morning lineup



Riley "Scooba" Rogers gets dunked on during the carnival



## FUN FACTS ABOUT THE SUMMER

**11 birthdays**  
celebrated

**Star**  
most popular  
camp name

**769 s'mores**  
roasted

**1,490 Woodsey bling**  
gifted



"Fluffy" and "Howl" perform at the talent show



# COMMUNITY PARTNERS

UCLA UniCamp partners with numerous schools, nonprofit organizations, afterschool programs, and government agencies. These partners identify campers who would benefit from an outdoor camp experience, help with the recruitment process, and provide resources to sponsor their time at UniCamp. Our volunteers also work alongside partners to create a custom camping experience through specialized programs, goals, and outcomes.

- Boys and Girls Club of La Habra
- Boys and Girls Club of San Fernando Valley
- LA County Department of Children and Family Services
- Libertas College Preparatory Charter School
- Mann UCLA Community School
- RFK UCLA Community School
- Rialto Unified School District
- The Village Nation
- Volunteers of America with One Voice LA
- Young Eisner Scholars



## PROGRAM EXPENSES

**\$201**

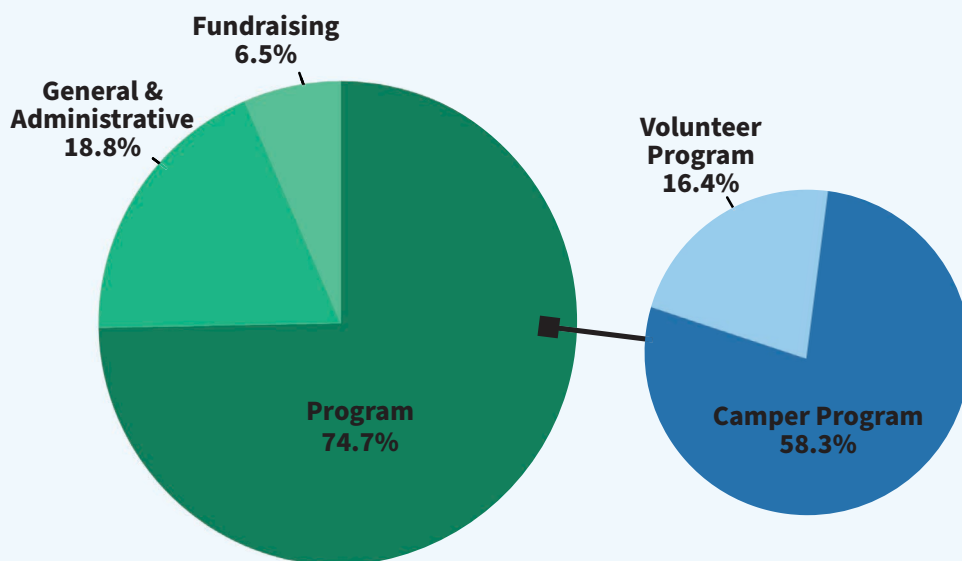
average "fair share"  
camper contribution

**\$673**

cost to train  
a volunteer

**\$1,028**

true cost  
of campers







## CAMPER HIGHLIGHT: EMILY “JELLY BELLY”

Stepping foot onto Camp Pine Mountain, “Jelly Belly” or Emily as she’s known in the city, the eager 15-year old took in a deep breath of familiar mountain air. She had been camping before at a different camp for foster youth in 2019 but was not a big fan saying that “talking about [and] being in the [foster care] system is very hard for people, so I just really did not enjoy it.” When she attended UniCamp for the first time last year, she was terrified of meeting new people and being away from home. Her anxieties quickly turned into excitement and comfort when she realized she was among kids her age who were both in the system and those who were not. She just wanted to be treated like everyone else.

This year, Jelly Belly returned to be part of the CLIMB program. She had been learning the ropes, belaying, and climbing for a few days by the time we spoke with her and felt comfortable enough to belay younger campers. For her, being at camp and focusing on the here and now, the ropes in her hands, or wooden beam above her, or where to place her feet next, was liberating. She can let go of her troubles, school, and the drama she dealt with at home.

She felt challenged to push herself further, doing

things that took her out of her comfort zone by having both campers and counselors entrust themselves to her when they climbed. By the end of the week, she had successfully conquered all four difficulties of the Alpine tower. She felt an immense feeling of joy after standing up on the topmost platform rising above the treeline, the gust of wind, and the sound of cheering from below.

Aside from the Alpine tower, she returned this year because of the people, the counselors and fellow campers who make Woodsey Magic happen. She loved seeing everyone’s hidden talents at the talent show. And despite what some campers might feel as an inconvenience, not having her phone and disconnecting from social media and the outside world added so much more to her experience.

Jelly Belly is eager to come back next week alongside her little cousin. She looks forward to the following years and when she graduates, has high hopes of returning as a counselor. She is excited to share her stories with all her friends when she returns to school. To her, “UniCamp is like a second home...” ■

**UniCamp is like a second home.**

\*Emily’s last name has been omitted to protect her identity.



Your gift to UCLA UniCamp will enable us to train volunteers to serve as camp counselors to the underserved youth of Los Angeles.

[www.unicamp.org/donate](http://www.unicamp.org/donate)

