

## WELCOME TO NORTHWEST NEW YEAR'S CAMP/THE BASH ON VASHON!

Sunday Dec. 29, 2024, to Wednesday Jan. 1, 2025

[www.bashonvashon.org](http://www.bashonvashon.org)

Whether you have come to Northwest New Year's Camp (aka, The Bash on Vashon) for a year or two, or a couple of decades, or are new this year, we look forward to welcoming you! Please review the information in this letter.

*NOTE: If any links don't work for you, try Ctrl+Click; or hover; or copy and paste the link into your browser.*

### NEW THIS YEAR

**Camp Sealth requires that each participant completes a waiver before the start of camp.**

<https://form.fillout.com/t/d7NomR6sSvus>

All people who will be on-site during the dates listed on your agreement for use must complete the waiver. It only requires a name and signature (as well as a birth date and parent/guardian's name for the youth waiver) so it should only take 1-2 minutes to complete.

### ROSTERS

We are welcoming more campers this year, so there will be limited parking; please carpool! The current roster is attached as a pair of PDF files. One is sorted by first name, and another by zip code. Please don't use our rosters for nefarious or commercial purposes. Camp starts Sunday at 3:30 pm and ends Wednesday at noon, with set-up and clean-up volunteers to be assigned before and after camp.

### ARRIVING AT CAMP

In order to minimize chaos and to give our set-up people room to work, we limit early arrival to those who have been assigned set-up duties. For everyone else, we ask politely but firmly, **DO NOT DRIVE INTO CAMP BEFORE 3:30pm**. We need most of the day to prepare, clean, and set up before the cabins will be available for you to move in. If you arrive early, visit the town, have a coffee, or do some sightseeing. For those with early-arrival duties, please do not put any belongings into cabins before 3:30. The cabins need to be empty for our pre-camp walk-through with Camp Sealth staff.

Parking is limited, especially near Rounds Hall. Our Parking Helpers may direct you to unload your gear and then drive to an overflow lot. We will operate a shuttle to and from the overflow lot on the first evening and the last day of camp.

When you arrive you'll be guided to register, show your negative Covid test, sign up for one or more camper jobs, find your cabin assignment, and create a name tag that includes your personal pronouns.

## **NEW CAMPER ORIENTATION**

Are you new to Camp? Please arrive right at 3:30pm and get settled before the orientation begins at 4:30pm. We'll give you a tour of the workshop spaces and go over what to expect.

## **FIRST DAY SCHEDULE, SUNDAY 12/29**

3:30pm	Arrival at camp; Registration begins
4:30pm	Newcomer camp orientation
6:30pm	Dinner
7:45pm	Introductory dance workshop
8:00pm	Dance begins

## **DANCING:**

A note about gender-free calling terms: We are a do-it-ourselves camp; we don't hire callers or musicians. You might be an experienced caller, or someone who calls their very first dance at camp. The Seattle area dance community has settled on the role terms Larks (on the left) and Robins (on the right). We ask that everyone who wishes to call dances use the terms Larks and Robins, call dances that don't require the use of role terms (a list can be provided), or call using positional calling.

## **MUSICIANS:**

While many of us have moved to electronic devices for our music, consider bringing hard copies of the standard tune books to lend to musicians who might not already have their own. Make sure your books are clearly marked on the outside cover with your name. Key books to consider are The Portland Collections 1-2-3, New England Fiddler's Repertoire, The Waltz Books, and the Barnes English books. There might also be some use of Rise Up Singing. Bring (an) instrument(s), whether you are just learning, or perform regularly, or are somewhere in between. Please label your stands, cases, and electronic devices with your name, phone and email.

## **KEEPING US HEALTHY – INFECTION CONTROL**

Our health protocols are the same as in the October 2024 Camper Letter, which can be found at the top of our home page: [www.bashonvashon.org](http://www.bashonvashon.org) "October Camper Letter..."

**If you experience potentially contagious illness of any kind during camp, let us know right away.** If you are ill, please stay home. If you are already at camp, we will ask that you isolate or leave camp. In either case, we will work out the most generous refund possible, up to 100%.

- Testing: We will require a negative at-home rapid test for Covid, taken within 6 hours before arriving at camp (or anytime on Sunday if you are arriving from outside the Seattle area). Bring a time-stamped photo of your test result or take your test when you arrive. The Driveway Dragons will verify your negative test result before you proceed down the driveway to camp. We will not provide tests. You must have a total of three tests per person for Sunday, Monday, and if needed, also Tuesday.

Tests are available retail for about \$10 each. You may also be eligible to order free Covid through [COVIDtests.gov](https://www.covidtests.gov) Verify extended expiration dates before discarding any unused tests! Nearly all tests are valid longer than the expiration on the box.

- Vaccination (Covid): We recommend the complete vaccination series plus all boosters for which you are eligible. We will not verify vaccinations.

- Masks (KN95 or equivalent) are recommended but not required at camp. Consider the activity: Dancing puts us in close proximity with one another while engaging in aerobic activity. Wear your mask on a lanyard and you'll be able to make a quick change from a quiet puzzle table to the dance floor!

### **CLEAN HANDS**

Meals will be served buffet style. Please wash your hands before entering the buffet line. If a serving utensil falls into a serving dish, please remove it immediately and request a clean serving utensil from Camp Staff.

New this year: Each table will have a container with hypochlorous wipes. Research shows these are effective on a wider variety of pathogens than alcohol-based hand sanitizer. When you take your food to your table, use one wipe to cleanse your hands again prior to eating. We will all benefit when we avoid transmission of food-borne/hand-borne illness.

### **HOUSING**

All housing will be pre-assigned based on preferences indicated in the registration process. If you have needs or preferences related to your housing assignment that you did not previously communicate, please contact [registrar@bashonvashon.org](mailto:registrar@bashonvashon.org). An effort will be made to house people either with their own family, or with other people with whom they are comfortable rooming. We are welcoming more campers this year than in the past two years, so expect to find, fewer empty bunks in your cabin than last year.

### **SNACKS**

Evening snacks will not be provided. If you would like to have food other than breakfast, lunch, and dinner, please bring your own. If you will be storing snacks in your cabin, they must be stored in air-tight, hard plastic or metal containers to prevent access by gnawing critters. Refrigerators will be available for camper use in Rounds Hall and Priscilla White Lodge. If you bring snacks to share, please bring individually packaged items.

### **DANCE FLOOR, DANCE SHOES**

We have limited options for treating the dance floor this year. Our plan might mean that the floor could be more or less slippery than in the past. Consider bringing an old pair of socks to put over your shoes; and it is even possible you may want a spare pair of street shoes to provide just the right amount of grip vs. slip.

## **DO-IT-OURSELVES CAMP**

Did you indicate on your registration that you might be able to arrive early? Our pre-camp volunteer coordinator may contact you to discuss roles and timing. We are very much a Do It Ourselves camp, and everyone will pitch in to make camp run smoothly.

### **Air Purifiers:**

If you have an easily portable air purifier, you might bring it for your cabin, or place it in one of our public spaces. We plan to set up Corsi-Rosenthal filters again in Rounds Hall:

<https://www.seattletimes.com/nation-world/how-to-build-corsi-rosenthal-box-to-protect-against-covid-for-under>

[100/?utm\\_term=Autofeed&utm\\_campaign=owned\\_echobox\\_tw\\_m&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=Twitter#Echobox=1662125704](https://www.seattletimes.com/nation-world/how-to-build-corsi-rosenthal-box-to-protect-against-covid-for-under-100/?utm_term=Autofeed&utm_campaign=owned_echobox_tw_m&utm_medium=social&utm_source=Twitter#Echobox=1662125704)

**AT CAMP:** <http://www.bashonvashon.org/atcamp.php>

Here's where you'll find information about Workshops, Evening Dances, Bath Houses, Meals, Camper Jobs, Family and Kid Activities, and About Camp Sealth.

**WHAT TO BRING:** <http://www.bashonvashon.org/list.php>

Here you'll find Tips for Newcomers, What to Bring, and important information about Fragrance Free needs at camp. Fragrance Free is so important, in fact, that you can find it on the website, and right here:

## **FRAGRANCE-FREE CAMP**

Several campers have chemical sensitivities and become ill when exposed to scented products. In order for everyone to participate, we ask that you use the fragrance-free shampoos, hand lotion and soap provided in the public bathrooms, or bring your own **fragrance free** items. Be aware that products labeled "unscented" or "natural" may contain ingredients that cause illness or discomfort in chemically-sensitive campers. Please refrain from using perfume, essential oils, cologne, after-shave, scented deodorant, and scented hand lotion. Avoid scented laundry detergent, fabric softeners, and dryer sheets for camp clothes. Air out any dry-cleaned clothing. Thank you!

## **FOR EMERGENCIES**

Emergency contact telephone number for camp is (206) 612-5179.

## **CANCELLATIONS**

If something comes up and you can't make it to Camp, please let us know right away. Send an email to [registrar@bashonvashon.org](mailto:registrar@bashonvashon.org) as soon as you know. If, however, you become ill right before camp, whether Covid or otherwise, please do not come. We will fully refund your registration fee if you stay home because of transmissible illness.

We look forward to seeing you and hope we'll all have a great time at Camp!

Warmly,

Melissa Coffey, Elsa Haun, David Kreiss-Tomkins, Mark Pigman, Katie Riemer, Craig Wolfe  
NW New Year's Camp Organizing Committee

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## **DIRECTIONS TO CAMP**

<https://bashonvashon.org/directions.php>

14500 SW Camp Sealth Rd, Vashon, WA

Camp Sealth is located at the south-west corner of Vashon Island.

Vashon Island is, in fact, an island. There is no bridge. Enjoy the ferry ride from Fauntleroy or Southworth to the north end of Vashon, or from Point Defiance to the south end of Vashon. [www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/) or the NW Ferry app on your phone will provide schedules and may even provide approximate wait-times. Arriving on an early ferry? Enjoy coffee shops, restaurants, and wandering about in the little towns of Vashon or Burton. It will be more enjoyable than sitting in your car at Camp Sealth Road waiting until 3:30 when you can enter camp. Driving and ferry directions are on the website, and below.

Camp Sealth Road is long, narrow, and steep. For everyone's safety, please keep a speed limit of 10 mph, stay to the right side of the road, and watch carefully for walkers.

### **From Seattle:**

From I-5, take exit 163, West Seattle Bridge (163A if southbound, and 163B if northbound). Follow signs for West Seattle Ferry and Fauntleroy Way SW. At 35th Ave. SW, the road becomes Fauntleroy. Several lights further, Fauntleroy veers to the left. Follow it about 3 miles to the Vashon Ferry terminal.

Once you arrive on Vashon Island (at the ferry dock on the north side of the island), take the main highway through the towns of Vashon and Burton. The road will veer to the right just past Burton and will parallel the water to your left for a while. About 3 miles beyond Burton after a fair uphill stretch, take a sharp right turn onto Wax Orchard Road. Go about 1/2 mile and turn left onto Camp Sealth Road SW. The road will wind down into camp, and you'll see the Rounds Hall building in front of you.

Ferry crossing from Seattle is about 20 minutes, and drive time from the ferry to Camp Sealth is about 30 minutes.

### **From the Kitsap County/Bremerton area:**

Take the Southworth ferry to the north end of Vashon Island and follow the directions above from the ferry dock.

Ferry crossing from Southworth is about 10 minutes, and drive time from the ferry to Camp Sealth is about 30 minutes.

**From Tacoma or further south:**

Take exit 132 from northbound I-5, which is Highway 16. Follow signs to Vashon ferry. (Be sure to use the Pt. Defiance to Tahlequah ferry schedule)

From the ferry landing on the south end of the island (Tahlequah), take a left onto the main road and continue up the hill about 2 miles. Angle left onto Wax Orchard Road. Go about 1/2 mile and turn left onto Camp Sealth Road SW. The road will wind down into the camp, and you'll see the Rounds Hall building in front of you.

Ferry crossing from Pt. Defiance is about 15 minutes, and drive time from the ferry to Camp Sealth is about 10 minutes.

[www.bashonvashon.org](http://www.bashonvashon.org)

List-Unsubscribe: [here](#)