

Pacific Songwriting Camp—January 16 to 20, 2025

Camp Ocean Pines

1473 Randall Drive Cambria, CA 93428 Tel: (805) 927-0254

Travel and Arrival Info

Plan to arrive by 3 PM on Thursday, Jan. 16 for sign-in and to receive your cabin assignment. Be ready for orientation at 4:30 PM. Dinner will be at 6 PM, followed by a staff concert. Late-night revelers can participate in song circles after the concert.

We will conclude camp with a final meeting at noon on Monday, Jan. 20. Many participants and teachers choose to join a goodbye walk along the splendid coastline and a delicious lunch at Robin's before heading home.

Directions from the South:

From the LA area of I-5 South or North, merge to Ventura 101 Freeway North towards San Luis Obispo. Take Hwy 101 North through Santa Barbara, past Santa Maria and San Luis Obispo, to Hwy 46 West, toward Cambria.

Take 46 West to Hwy 1 North. Within a few miles, you will enter Cambria. Make a left off Hwy 1 at the light onto Ardath Drive. Stay on Ardath for a couple of miles through the coastal neighborhood. Near the ocean, come to the "T" section at Randall. Turn left up Randall, heading away from the ocean. In about a half mile, look for the Camp Ocean Pines sign at 1473 Randall. Make a right turn up the dirt driveway to camp.

Directions From the North:

Take 101 South to Hwy 46 West. (See directions above.)

Pacific Songwriting Camp Contact Info

Caroline Testard: (510) 709-7141 (preferably via WhatsApp or iMessage)

caroline.testard@gmail.com

Michael McNevin: (510) 789-9714 michael@michaelsmcnevin.com

PLEASE BE AWARE that we may NOT receive your texts or emails after arriving at COP.

If you have questions after Jan. 15, please call Camp Ocean Pines directly at (805) 927-0254

Website: www.songcamps.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/songcamps.org/>

Accommodations

There are ten bunks per cabin—we usually occupy only the lower five bunks of each cabin. Cabins include a shower room and a separate toilet room. Car campers will each be assigned to a cabin for showering. There are numerous general-use bathrooms around campus. The cabins are heated, but you may consider an extra space heater and/or warm comforter if you easily get cold at night. There is electricity in the cabins for CPAP or to charge your phone.

What to Bring

Sleeping bag or sheets and blankets, pillow, towels, toiletry items, hair dryer, personal medications, a good flashlight with extra batteries, your own mug or thermos, ear plugs, and a rain parka and umbrella. We have song circles and coffee houses in the evening, so you may want to include some fun garb. Make sure to label your property with your name. Be prepared for cool weather and rain, though we typically enjoy sunny, mild days with clear, chilly nights. Bring layers—it is coastal California!

Covid

IMPORTANT: Please test yourself on the morning of January 16 before driving to camp. We highly recommend bringing one or two additional Covid tests in case you feel unwell. While we do not require masks, you may choose to bring them as well as hand sanitizer and sterilizing towelettes for additional protection. Some participants may choose to bring a small Hepa air purifier for their cabin. Feel free to bring your personal mic or mic cover for performances. Meals are served buffet-style and you have the option of eating outside rather than in the dining room.

Music

Bring your instruments, extra strings, your song sheets, notebook, pens/pencils, and a personal recording device—and don't forget your tuner with fresh charge or battery. You may want to bring a music stand for personal use, ideally with a clip-on light. If you have an extra instrument to loan to your fellow musicians, bring that too! We are mostly acoustic, but if you want to go electric, that's cool. There will be some guitar amps and bass amps available.

Camp Songs Policy

Please, no critiques of anyone's artistic endeavors unless you are specifically asked by that person to do so. For coffee houses, song circles and jams, originals and covers are both fine. The Sunday night coffee house features only original songs written or completed during the week. Please be a respectful and attentive listener for everyone performing.

Miscellany

There is Wifi, but it may be slow or overtaxed at times. Depending on your cell phone provider, you may not get reception on campus.

Don't park your RV or set up your tent in the meadow. It may be waterlogged from recent storms. If you plan on car camping, ask where to park at check-in.

Bring snacks if you like, but remember that you'll get three great meals a day.

Make sure to be on time for meals. We often have important information to share at the beginning of each meal.

Final Thoughts

You are going to have an incredible time at this song camp! On day one, you may be looking around and saying to yourself, "Hmm, I don't know anyone here. Am I going to have a good time?" Remember, everyone here started as a stranger, then made great friendships at Pacific Songwriting Camp!

We are a community of friends, dedicated to continued growth as artists. Come listen, come write, come enjoy the property, nature, and your fellow musicians. Then go back to your world feeling renewed, inspired, and accomplished.

We are looking forward to lots of good music, jamming and merriment!

Safe travels,

Michael McNevin, Caroline Testard, and the Pacific Songwriting Camp faculty