

Why Send Your Child to Camp?

At camp, children:

1. **Spend their day being physically active:** As children spend so much time these days inside and mostly sitting down, camp provides a wonderful opportunity to move. Running, swimming, jumping, hiking, climbing! Camp is action!
2. **Experience success and become more confident:** Camp helps children build self-confidence and self-esteem by removing the kind of academic, athletic and social competition that shapes their lives at school. With its non-competitive activities and diverse opportunities to succeed, camp life is a real boost for young people. There's accomplishment every day. Camp teaches kids that they can!
3. **Gain resiliency:** The kind of encouragement and nurture kids receive at camp makes it a great environment to endure setbacks, try new (and thereby maybe a little frightening) things, and see that improvement comes when you give something another try. Camp helps conquer fears.
4. **Unplug from technology:** When kids take a break from TV, cell phones, and the Internet, they rediscover their creative powers and engage the real world - real people, real activities, and real emotions. They realize, there's always plenty to do. Camp is real!
5. **Develop life-long skills:** Camps provide the right instruction, equipment and facilities for kids to enhance their artistic talents, their adventure skills, and much more. The sheer variety of activities offered at camp makes it easy for kids to discover and develop what they like to do. Camp expands every child's abilities.
6. **Grow more independent:** Camp is the perfect place for kids to practice making decisions for themselves without parents and teachers guiding every move. Managing their daily choices in the safe, caring environment of camp, children welcome this as a freedom to blossom in new directions. Camp helps kids develop who they are.
7. **Have free time for unstructured play:** Free from the overly-structured, overly-scheduled routines of home and school, life at camp gives children much needed free time to just play. Camp is a slice of carefree living where kids can relax, laugh, and be silly all day long. At camp, we play!
8. **Learn social skills:** Coming to camp means joining a close-knit community where everyone must agree to cooperate and respect each other. When they live in a cabin with others, kids share chores, resolve disagreements, and see firsthand the importance of sincere communication. Camp builds teamwork.
9. **Reconnect with nature:** Camp is a wonderful antidote to "nature deficit disorder", to the narrow experience of modern indoor life. Outdoor experience enriches kid's perception of the world and supports healthy child development. Camp gets kids back outside.
10. **Make life-long friends!**



Camp Is..

Camp is an independent experience that shapes one's character and life - a controlled, safe environment where children and youth are able to make their own decisions about simple things (what activity they want to do, how many s'mores they want to make, or what clothes they are going to wear) and about important things (who they will hang out with...who will be their friends).

Camp is a place where kids interact with people face-to-face and, at the same time, learn about themselves and others around a camp fire, under the stars, or sitting around a dining hall table. Camp allows the idea of boarding the train to Hogwarts to go from fantasy to reality - children find a world filled with possibilities unavailable to them in everyday life.

Camps give kids a chance to practice being the best they can be. They experience a place designed to create happy memories and encourage self-expression. They have the opportunity to climb towers, ride horses, shoot an arrow, and even experience the success of winning the big game! It stays with them forever. Kids will learn from a full range of emotions and human experiences including homesickness, friendship, disagreements, team work, frustrations, jubilant success, and more.

As parents, our hopes and jobs are to ready our kids to be productive, independent, and capable people - to prepare them to thrive without us. Camp offers a way for kids to start developing those skills in the best possible environment. It makes me a bit sad every time my son runs off to join his cabin group without even a look back...and at the same time, I burst with pride watching him growing into a happy, independent, tolerant, open, confident, and capable person. I know that we will have plenty to talk about when he gets home from camp. I also know he will remember the trust and gift of his time at camp, and it will add to him for the rest of his life.

Camp is a gift we can give our children that they will benefit from and remember forever. There is so much competition for our children's time in the summer - sports practices, summer school, well-deserved vacations. But let's not forget the value of a camp experience. If ever there was a time when the world needed a generation of future leaders who understood the intricacies of living in a community, having tolerance, and being open - that time is now.

