



Top 20 Questions to Ask a Summer Camp Director

Answers Help Parents Make the Best Camp Match For Their Kids

(March 6, 2014 – Portland, Maine) – Here’s a Top 20 you don’t wanna miss! Summer camp can be one of the most beneficial, enriching and life changing experiences, so choosing the right one is key. Whether parents are at the beginning of their summer camp search or narrowing down the final choices, speaking with the camp director is one of the most important steps. These [Top 20 Questions to Ask A Camp Director](#), compiled by [Maine Camp Experience](#), the resource for all things summer camp and Maine, comprised of 33 traditional sleepaway camps, will help parents make the best camp match for their kids.

1. What are the **session lengths**? Is it one seven-week session or multiple, shorter sessions? If multiple – what are the choices for session length? Can my child attend multiple sessions? Can they extend their stay if they would like to? Is the shorter session option always available or just in the first year? How does the session length relate to the bunking of the campers?
2. What are the **accommodations** like? (e.g., tents, cabins, are there bathrooms and showers inside the cabin, electricity, etc.) How many campers and counselors live in each cabin/tent? How are **cabin groups** assigned?
3. What are the **transportation options** to/from camp? Car, camp bus, plane? What is the most popular method?
4. How do you help new campers **integrate into the camp community** – including the first day? Does your camp assign a “big brother” or “big sister” to help ease the transition?
5. How do you handle **homesickness**?
6. Do **campers travel to activities** with their bunks or are they mixed with other campers?
7. What is the **daily schedule**? How much **activity choice** will my child have?
8. Is there a particular activity or discipline that your **camp specializes or excels in**?
9. How does the **camp interact with other camps**? Are there inter-camp games, socials, brother/sister camp events?
10. How will my child experience **outdoor adventures**? How often and where do they go on trips? Are there overnight experiences as well?

11. How do you think your **camp is different** than others? How would you describe the **overall culture and vibe of the camp**? Are there any **special traditions** like Color War or Olympics?

12. What are the **meals** like at camp? Are they family-style, buffet, both? Do campers eat with their cabin group or switch around?

13. Who are your **medical** personnel (e.g., rotating doctor, 24 hour nurses, consistent doctor on call)? What are the onsite health care facilities like? How close is the local doctor's office, hospital, dentist, etc.? How does the camp handle medicine dispensing?

14. What are the **camp's visiting and communications policies**? How often can I see, speak and/or email my child? Are packages allowed?

15. What is the **ratio of counselors to campers**? How are counselors selected and trained?

16. How does your camp accommodate **special needs**? Including food allergies, medical, behavioral, and others?

17. What is **your background and experience**? How do you recruit, evaluate and train your staff?

18. How involved are you in the **daily aspects of camp life**? Who would be the most senior staffer responsible for my child, whom I should contact if there is an issue?

19. How much is **tuition**? Are there **additional costs** (for special elective activities, trips, canteen, baggage shipping, transportation pick up/drop off, etc.)?

20. Can you put me in touch with a few current camp families in my area as **references**?

20 Q's for Summer Camp Directors located at: <http://www.mainecampexperience.com/blog/>

For more support and guidance to select the right Maine summer camp, families can email or call Laurie, the Maine Camp Guide - Laurie@MaineCampExperience.com or call 877-92-MAINE.

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