



Put Summer Camp on the Holiday Gifting List

How and Why to Start Camp Planning Now by Maine Camp Experience

(December 3, 2015 – Portland, Maine) – With the holidays here, camp should be on everyone’s list. There’s no better and longer lasting gift for a child than overnight summer camp. There’s a seasonal cycle to the camp planning process which starts now! First-time camp families will find that it takes time to narrow the choices and select the right camp, so starting research early is important.

“There are one or two things families can do each season to make the process of camp selection manageable,” said Laurie Kaiden, [Maine Camp Experience Campcierge™](#), who helps families find the right camp for their children. “We’ve broken down what to do when to help prospective camp families find the perfect summer camp, including timely tips and additional resource links.”

Winter - Though it’s cold outside, by winter camps are filling up for the coming summer. For the best selection of camps, specific session dates, and age groups, now is a key time to: determine desired camp criteria; create a narrowed-down list of summer camps of interest; and speak with directors to get a better feel for the camps. It gives families the time and opportunity to do their research, decide, and enroll.

Winter is also a good time for parents to book Visiting Day hotels and other travel plans.

Spring - Families should lock-in enrollment if they haven’t already. For those who are still deciding, final conversations with directors, impartial advisors, and reference families can be useful. Spring is a big time for camp preparation, including: consulting the camp’s shopping list, labeling everything, scheduling pre-camp medical and dental visits (to complete those forms), potentially meeting up with some new camp friends, and pre-addressing some envelopes for letters home from their child.

Prospective camp families looking ahead for the following year can set up summer camp tours to see a few camps in session. Some camps also offer rookie/trial days and weekends so children can sample camp before enrolling. Note: there are typically just seven short weeks to get to see the camps and parents should keep in mind ... camp tours may not be available the first and last few days of camp, Visiting Day weekends and on large out-of-camp trip/event days.

Summer - It’s time for children to head to summer camps, which typically run from end of June through mid-August. Campers get to unplug, have fun, make new friends, learn new skills (like waterskiing and sailing on crystal clear lakes in Maine!), connect with nature, enjoy great camp traditions and out-of-camp trips, get a taste of independence and responsibility, and so much more. They’ll create memories that last a lifetime.

Parents and younger siblings can see their campers during Visiting Day, and enjoy the local attractions in places like Maine (“Vacationland”) while the kids are at camp.

Fall - For returning campers and prospective campers who toured, fall is a great time to enroll, especially for full season sessions. Enrolling early ensures best availability within age groups and preferred session dates, and is also a good way for families to arrange their summer – first camp – and then other plans and vacations.



Maine Camp Experience is a community of more than 30 premier, accredited sleepaway camps dedicated to providing children with the highest quality summer camp experiences in the country for generations. Each summer approximately 20,000 kids and their families enjoy what these Maine camps offer – the perfect combination of natural beauty, strong traditions and values, and top-notch activities and instruction. www.mainecampexperience.com is the resource for all things camp and Maine, including the Campcierge™, who offers families personalized, assistance for camp selection and planning visits to Maine. The site also features real Maine Camp memories self-posted by campers, parents, alumni, and staff; and special offers. Summers and Camp Belong in Maine ... And So Do You!SM <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9m04uZntmVY>

Additional resources:

Winter:

- [Six Tips For Camp Selection From The Maine Campcierge™](#)
- [Learn Your Camp ABC's – How and Why To Book Summer Camp Now](#)
- [21 Questions Parents Should Ask Summer Camp Directors NOW](#)

Spring:

[10 Ways You Know Camp Is Coming Soon!](#)

[Time to Plan Those Summer Camp Tours For Next Year!](#)

[Gearing Up for Camp – Maine Camp Experience Info](#)

[The “Secret” Packing List: A Camper’s Take on 9 Must-Haves For Summer Camp](#)

Summer:

[Top 10 Reasons Maine Is The Best Place For Summer Camp](#)

[Maine Camp Activities Make For A Well-Rounded Summer](#)

[Plan Visiting Day Now! The Best Places For Families To Visit In Maine](#)

Fall:

[The Benefits of Summer Camp, for Teachers and Students Alike](#)

[5 Reasons We’re Thankful ... for Summer Camp](#)

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