



## **Five Tips To Tour Maine Summer Camps Now While They're in Session Enter to Win a Stay at the Luxurious Inn By the Sea Oceanfront Resort**

(July 10, 2018 – Portland, ME) – Touring can be an integral and very beneficial element to choosing the right overnight camp for your children. With most camps in session just seven short weeks, now is the time to plan and take those tours in 2018 for 2019 enrollment.

Maine Camp Experience has partnered with Inn By the Sea so families who tour camps can [enter to win](#) a two-night stay at the luxurious oceanfront resort.

“Nothing beats seeing the camps firsthand while they’re in action,” said Laurie Kaiden, Director and Campcierge™ of Maine Camp Experience, the community of more than 30 premier overnight summer camps in Maine. “Touring makes it easier to choose, and it gets children comfortable and excited to become a future camper.”

Camp is the place where kids will unplug from technology, connect with nature, have fun, make lifelong friendships, learn new skills, and gain confidence and independence. At camp in Maine, kids enjoy daily waterfront activity, strong traditions and values, and top-notch activities, instruction, facilities, traditions, and out-of-camp trips. Ideally the camp a family chooses will become the campers’ summer “home away from home” for several years, as friendships and experiences deepen.

Here are five important tour tips to decide how and which camps to tour:

1. Develop your “short list” of camps based on criteria such as length of desired session, coed or single gender, and camp activities and culture. Don’t necessarily assume you should send your child to the camp where a friend or neighbor attends; each child is different and it’s important to match to the right camp.
2. Choose two-to-four camps to visit in total. Use resources like [www.maine-campexperience.com](http://www.maine-campexperience.com) with tools including Select-A-Camp and the Campcierge™ for free, expert guidance.
3. Plan to tour no more than two camps per day (one in the morning and one in the afternoon). Many camps host visits in the morning and afternoon (after lunch and rest period) while camp is in full swing. This gives prospective camp families time at each camp without being rushed, time to get to each camp, and time in between to process each camp. It may also give families a little down time to enjoy the environs.
4. Ideally, take an individual not group tour so you can focus on your family’s interests and needs. Observe and interact with directors, staff, and campers.

5. Be comfortable. Tour in sneakers and comfortable clothing, and bring water and sunscreen. Try to leave young siblings at home if you think they will be bored, cranky, or distracting.

Kaiden adds, "Even if your child seems young now, a year from now is a lot of time for growth and development. If s/he is getting home from day camp now and asking, 'What's next?!' now is the right time to research and tour overnight camps for next year."

Maine has the greatest number of the oldest, most established camps in the country. Each summer more than 20,000 kids from every US state and more than 30 countries abroad spend time at summer camps in Maine. Maine Camp Experience is a community of premier camps and a comprehensive camp-planning resource. Maine Camp Experience camps are for children ages 7-17 with sessions from 1-8 weeks in length. Camps typically run from end of June through mid-August. Some Maine camps offer family camp or camp rentals after the traditional camper season.

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