



hosted by

OUR KIDS
THE TRUSTED SOURCE.

Questions to ask

- Camp's philosophy or vision:** How does this translate into the day-to-day life of the camp?
- Camp leadership and governance:** What is the director's background? How long has he or she been involved with the camp? Is the camp governed by a board or an owner-operator?
- Staff qualifications:** What kind of training do counsellors receive? Do any have certification in specialty areas?
- Camp environment:** What is the "feel" of the camp? Is it a welcoming place? Is it well maintained and secure?
- Facilities and equipment:** Is there a main dining hall, nurse's office, cabins or tents in the case of a residential camp? Are there appropriate activity areas at day camps? Is there a playing field, waterfront or swimming pool? Special equipment—canoes, easels? Special facilities—ball courts, rock climbing wall, performance space, horse stables? What is the overall condition?
- Program:** What activities are available? What is a typical day's schedule? You can search for camps that offer specific activities using the Advanced Search tool.
- Activity time:** How do campers interact with their counsellors and other staff? What is the camper-to-counsellor ratio?
- Age-appropriateness:** Given your child's age and stage of development, what programs would be good choices? Is there a range of ages among campers in each session and how is that handled?
- Health, safety and well-being:** What medical staff is on-site? What is the camp's policy on prescription medications? What emergency policies and procedures are in place? How does the camp deal with homesickness? How are behaviour and discipline issues handled?
- Fee:** What's included and what's extra? Learn more about paying for camp in Money Matters.
- Camp life:** Do campers seem engaged and happy? Can you picture your child in the setting's on your visit, also be sure to:
- Ask for an **outline of the camp's program** and of any special learning opportunities offered campers.
- Ask if they can **refer** you to parents of previous campers.
- Try to **speak with the director and counsellors**.
- Ask if your child can meet other campers. Ask for a camper or counsellor to take your child on a **tour of the camp**.
- Ask to **observe an activity**.
- Ask for any **helpful resources**, for example, packing lists.
- Ask what **bursaries or other financial support** may be available.

notes:
