

How to choose a summer camp!

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Camp experiences can have significant impact on your child's life, so it is important for parents to do the required research and choose an appropriate camp for their child.

Regardless of the age of your child, camp selections should meet the needs, interests, goals and expectations of both you and your child. What do you and your child hope to gain from camp? Does your child have special interests that they would like to explore? Does your child have any physical, intellectual, or social limitations? Take some time to talk to other parents about their camp experiences, so you can benefit from their insight and first hand experience.

Once these more general questions are answered, you will then want to research the following

- Type of camp: What are your child's interests. Cost of camp will vary depending on activities offered and the amount of hours the camp will run. Speciality camps tend to cost more, as instructors require special qualifications.
- Location of camp- is it close to home or work? What does the facility offer?
- Programs and activities: Many facilities offer specialty camps and general camps. Speciality camps will spend a certain amount of the day on a specific activity such as Karate with other activities added such as swimming. General camps will offer general activities such as arts and crafts, gym time, swimming and outdoor activities. Some day camps will also offer fieldtrips.
- Size of camp: What are the maximum ratios in camps for your child's age range.
- What are the qualifications of the staff and what training do they receive.
- Special needs: It is very important to inform camp coordinators if your child has any special needs. This will ensure that the camp is able to accommodate your child's needs and ensure your child has a great camp experience.

Once you have selected your camp, inquire about all of the day to day details such as the camp schedule, total costs, daily snack and lunch programs, before and after care options, staff to camper ratios and refund policies.

Check out our full range of summer camps. Our brochure is now online at www.goflc.org or available for pick up at Guest Services.