

# Choosing the Right Summer Camp for Your Family

## *Helpful Hints on Conducting a Thorough Search*

“There are so many summer camps out there!” states an exasperated parent. The sheer number of summer camps is astounding, with scores of them looking very attractive in glossy catalogues and colorful posters. How do you choose a summer camp for your child that promotes a healthy, fun experience?

The first thing I suggest parents look for in a camp is accreditation through the American Camping Association (ACA). An ACA accredited camp subscribes to the standards and practices mandated by this long-standing, reputable organization dedicated to serving children and families through safe camping experiences. In order to be accredited, camps are visited by a team of camp directors who review the standards and check to see that they are being effectively implemented. This means there are camping professionals checking on this camp to see how they operate!

After finding an accredited camp, you’ll want to find a camp that subscribes to your beliefs in order to find a good “fit” for your family. Parents should be praised for conducting a thorough search on behalf of their children. Here is a list of questions that will be useful no matter which direction your search is headed:

- What are the core values upon which this camp is operated?
- What differentiates you from other camps?
- How long has this camp been operating?
- How long are the sessions?
- How many campers are in each session? Staff?
- What are the demographics of your campers and staff?
- How are children grouped for living arrangements?
- How are children grouped for activities?
- Do children choose their own activities?
- What is the daily schedule?
- How do parents communicate with their children?

Established in 1961 and originally affiliated with the United Nations, Windsor Mountain International (formerly known as Interlocken International Camp) began in New Hampshire as a summer experience designed to build friendship through understanding. Our International Summer Camp is ACA accredited and serves children finishing grades 2 through 8. Our Student Travel Programs include students finishing 7<sup>th</sup> grade and older and they travel all over the world for Cross Cultural Adventure, Language Learning and Community Service programs. Windsor Mountain, now approaching its 50<sup>th</sup> summer, offers a wide range of opportunities for students. Underlying the fun and adventure of a Windsor Mountain program is a strong commitment to experiential learning and to the personal growth and development of each individual student. By carefully designing programs that open students' eyes to new cultures, people, ideas, and situations, Windsor Mountain allows students to safely challenge themselves physically, emotionally, and intellectually.

If you have any questions about the process of finding a summer camp, or you would like to learn more about Windsor Mountain, please contact us at 800-862-7760 or at Sarah@WindsorMountain.org. Also, feel free to check out our website at [www.WindsorMountain.org](http://www.WindsorMountain.org)

Good luck with your search and have a great summer!