

# Kennolyn Camps



## 2019 Santa Cruz Mountains Overnight Parent Packet

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# INTRODUCTION

## Welcome to Kennolyn!

Max and Marion Caldwell (Uncle Max and Aunt Marion) created Kennolyn in 1946 with a vision for a children's camp. They saw that vision flourish, and for over 70 years Kennolyn has been one of the most acclaimed children's camps in the world. Kennolyn has grown to include Santa Cruz Mountains Overnight, Day and Family camps, has expanded to 300 privately owned acres, and each summer makes a difference in over 2,000 children's lives.

Max and Marion's granddaughters, Pam Caldwell Nootbaar (General Manager), and Lindsey Caldwell Johnson (Camper Experience Coordinator) work year-round at Kennolyn, and daughter Carolyn, son Ken, and grandson Steve are on the Family Board. The Caldwell Family also relies greatly upon the Camps Director, Andrew Townsend, who has been with Kennolyn for thirty four summers and his family who are all working at Kennolyn.

## Our Staff

Each summer, we hire more than 100 staff members from all over the world, offering campers the unique and inspiring opportunity to interact with staff from more than a dozen countries, as well as from across the US. Many of our counselors are former campers themselves, and they return year after year. All of our staff members undergo personal interviews, extensive reference checks, and background checks before starting work.

## Leadership Team

Following in the footsteps of our founders, Kennolyn's team of lead staff members ensure a wonderful summer camp experience. Contact information for our key staff who oversee various aspects of camp can be found opposite the index above.

## Camp Community

Kennolyn Camps is a place for children to learn and grow. We believe that a positive camp community is one that acknowledges and embraces diverse identities. We do not discriminate on the basis of age, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, nationality, religion, physical ability, or socioeconomic status. By practicing intentional kindness, our camp culture seeks to appreciate the value that each camper and staff member brings to Kennolyn.

## Program Goals

Kennolyn Camp is dedicated to making a difference in campers' lives. We at Kennolyn feel that one way we can make a difference is by offering a wide variety of activities for the campers to participate in. Through these activities Kennolyn aims to help campers:

- Learn about yourself
- Learn to love (or at least tolerate) nature and being outdoors
- Learn how to make the most of your free time without using technology
- Kennolyn is a safe place to be curious and explore new things
- Be healthy, stay active
- Notice, respect, and enjoy the differences among people. Practice intentional kindness
- Activities and counselors will help you feel like you can do something well
- Learn how to make new friends and get along with others
- Be independent

# OPENING & CLOSING DAYS –1 & 2 wk sessions

We strongly recommend that you wear appropriate footwear (no sandals, flip flops or open toed shoes). The terrain can be uneven in places, and proper shoes important to maintain safety.

## OPENING DAY (Mondays for 2 wk sessions, Sundays for 1 wk sessions)

Check-in is held from 11am-12:30pm. We look forward to welcoming you! Please do not arrive prior to 11am, as we will be busy preparing for Opening Day, and will not be fully ready to greet campers. Staff members will greet you in the parking lot to help with luggage and direct you into camp, where you can meet your camper's counselor and have a quick tour. For campers arriving by bus or arriving / departing by plane, please see page 6.

## CLOSING DAY – (Saturdays from 9:30am-12:15pm)

This is a very important day for our campers. They really look forward to showing you around, introducing you to counselors and friends, and demonstrating new skills they have learned. The program begins promptly at 9:30am. Please arrive by 9am to allow up to 30 minutes to park, load luggage, and walk into camp (wear comfortable shoes!) **PLEASE NOTE:** Families of campers entering 8th and 9th grades, and their younger siblings, will park in our Hacienda parking lot. A shuttle bus will bring you to the Closing Day events.

### Closing Day Schedule

8:45am Parking Lots open

9:30am Cabin group and counselor introductions.

10:00am Flag Raising

10:10am-11:30am A selection of activities are open. Your camper will have plenty of their favorites to show you, but we will not have our full schedule available.

11:30am Hamburger/Veggie Burger Lunch

12:00pm-12:20pm Staff "sing goodbye" to campers.

Please call us if you are running very late so your camper will not feel anxious or forgotten. Many families find it convenient to stay overnight in a local hotel. Campers flying home will be escorted to the airport after breakfast on Closing Day.

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## CLOSING DAY PARKING

Parking is limited, so please leave your keys just in case we have to move your car. We will circulate an email the day before Closing Day, and will let you know if there are any special parking instructions. Usually, there are three parking lots organized by camper's age and last name, and for those parked in our upper lot we will provide shuttle service. **Please allow up to 30 minutes to park, load luggage and walk down to camp.**

# OPENING & CLOSING DAYS – Intro & Mini Camp

**Intro Camp 1** – Drop off: 2pm on June 17/ Pick up: 10:30am on June 19

**Intro Camp 2** – Drop off: 2pm on June 19/ Pick up: 10:30am on June 21

## Opening Day

Please arrive promptly. We will do check in and nurse's inspection before showing you and your camper to the cabin. Luggage you can't carry will be transported to the cabin later by our staff. You'll have a chance for a quick visit with the counselor. Enrollment is limited to about 36 campers so the whole drop off process is quick and smooth.

## CLOSING DAY

You will have a chance to meet the counselors and join in with some camp songs. Everyone will park in one lot, no need to be here early. We will not serve lunch so please plan accordingly.

## SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING PETS

On any visit to Kennolyn, please leave your pets at home. While we love animals, we just can't accommodate pets with all the excitement going on at camp. If you have a service animal that is trained to work or perform tasks for you, please let us know ahead of time. We will be glad to accommodate these trained service animals.

## DIRECTIONS TO KENNOLYN

### From the Bay Area

- Take the 101, 280 or 880 to Highway 17 South through the Santa Cruz Mountains
- After Scotts Valley, take Highway 1 South towards Watsonville / Monterey
- Continue 4 miles and exit at Bay Street / Porter Avenue
- Turn left under the freeway towards the hills
- Take an immediate right at the stoplight onto Main Street
- Main Street curves around and becomes Glen Haven Road
- Continue approximately 4 miles
- Pass the first Kennolyn sign to the Hilltop Hacienda (on your left)
- Turn right at the second Kennolyn sign into Stone Creek Village (Santa Cruz Mountains Overnight Camp)



**Alternate route to avoid weekend beach traffic** (route might be closed - please check before):

- From Highway 17 south, take the off ramp at Summit Road (just beyond Redwood Estates).
- Turn off right and continue back over the highway on the overpass
- Turn Left at the stop sign. You are now on Summit Road
- Go approximately 4 miles (and approx 1 mile past Loma Prieta School)
- Take an Abrupt Right onto Old San Jose Road for 11 miles
- Turn Left on Soquel Drive
- Go one block then turn Left onto Main Street, which becomes Glen Haven Road
- Continue as above

## OTHER TRAVEL OPTIONS

### Traveling by Plane

Kennolyn is an easy 45-minute drive from San Jose International Airport, and we are happy to provide complimentary ground transportation. Escorts wearing Kennolyn Green will meet campers as they deplane, and accompany them until arrival at camp.



### Please note the following absolute time frames, requirements and procedures:

- You must provide us with your airport transportation reservation request and flight information (through your online account under “Transportation” – or call us directly if you are unsure how this works) at least two weeks prior to the start of your session. **A \$50 fee is charged for airport transport booked less than 2 weeks prior to your session.**
- Schedule flight arrivals between **9am and 11am** on Opening Day  
Schedule flight departures between **9am and 11am** on Closing Day
- Make sure all “unaccompanied minor” fees and paperwork are properly processed with the airline and provide us with necessary details, copies of itineraries etc. Policies are different for each airline, so please confirm all arrangements, payment, signatures etc. well in advance.
- Campers must have Kennolyn’s address and phone number so that they (and all airline personnel) are aware of their inbound destination.
- Campers should carry a picture ID from school, a copy of a passport or a handmade ID with name, photo and contact details.
- Arriving campers must wear Kennolyn green t-shirts and/or sweatshirts (with nothing else on top) so they can be easily identified. Please order early via our online store.
- Luggage should be labeled with Kennolyn’s address and phone number. To simplify the traveling process, you may elect to ship your camper’s trunk to Kennolyn via UPS. If you choose this option, please include a return postage sticker for shipment home.

We will provide you with the name of the staff member(s) who will meet your camper at the gate (**please contact Pat Veatch a few days prior to camper departure for this important information**), as well as confirm the name of the parent or guardian who will meet your camper’s return flight, and verify any additional information as necessary. We will also provide check-in phone calls on arrival and departure days.

By special arrangement, we can also coordinate transportation to and from San Francisco International Airport. This is very difficult logistically, however, and we ask that you schedule flights to and from this airport only if absolutely necessary (eg for certain international flights). Arrival and departure times in and out of SFO for Opening and Closing Days should be within the same time window as those to and from San Jose Airport. International campers or anyone crossing three or more time zones can contact us to see if we can accommodate arrival one day early.

### Traveling by Bus

We offer a complimentary bus from the Bay Area on Opening Day Mondays for 2 week sessions. If you’re interested, please sign up under ‘Forms & Documents/ Santa Cruz Mountains Overnight Camp Transportation’. Space is limited, so sign up early.

# PACKING GUIDELINES - Keepin it 'K' Rated

What is K-Rated? It is easy to understand once you're here! We embrace campers from 1<sup>st</sup> through 12th grades, from all different backgrounds. To ensure everyone is at ease, we have developed a set community standards to help guide the behavior and appearance of campers and staff.

Kennolyn is a wonderful place for children to discover, embrace and express themselves, but not through dramatic fads and fashion!! We lead an athletic lifestyle here at Kennolyn and we ask that you pack clothing that supports outdoor play and exploration. Thus we ask everyone to follow a simple dress code so that clothing is not a focus. It is important for families to support this dress code, so please do not bring campers wearing or having packed clothing not reflective of these community standards. If a camper does arrive with inappropriate attire, we will work with the camper and family to make sure they get replacement clothes suitable for camp.

Please make sure to include your camper in discussions about what they will pack for camp, and feel free to ask questions at any time. Our standards evolve and develop all the time, and we have ongoing discussions with our campers and their families.

## 'K' rated DRESS CODE FOR ALL CAMPERS

- No spaghetti straps, halter tops or low necklines. Tank top straps must be at least 2" wide
- No exposed midriffs (shirts should reach the top of pants)
- No excessively low-rise pants or tight clothing
- Clothing must cover camper's undergarments. Shorts must cover camper's bottom completely at all times (including while seated and while climbing in a harness).
- Logos / images on clothes must not show or advocate drugs, alcohol or tobacco, or be sexual or political in nature
- No gang, goth, grunge or style of dress representing a particular group, affiliation or identifiable sub-culture
- Keep jewelry to an absolute minimum and leave expensive jewelry at home. Kennolyn cannot be held responsible for jewelry that is lost or stolen
- Nothing may be worn in any pierced body part except for ears (1 earring per ear, no dangling jewelry - too dangerous!)
- Long hair must be kept tied back from breakfast through dinner for safety/hygiene reasons
- Hats and visors are encouraged, but should not be worn in the Caldwell Lodge
- No hanging chains on the outside of clothing for safety reasons
- Proper footwear required at all times with socks - sneakers or athletic shoes for most activities (except riding, for which boots and helmets are supplied)
- Sandals and flip-flops can be worn ONLY to and from the pool beach or lake. Our terrain is hilly, stubbed toes and falls are avoidable hazards!
- Leave expensive or formal clothes at home. We get dirty!
- BOYS: regular swim shorts only. No Speedo-type swim briefs
- GIRLS: one-piece bathing suits only. No bikinis, tankinis or revealing swimsuits
- GIRLS: Camp is a natural place, so make-up should be kept to a minimum

## PLEASE LABEL EVERYTHING!

Keeping track of clothing for hundreds of campers is a tremendous challenge, so **please label absolutely everything** (even toothbrushes!) with first and last names using a permanent pen or custom iron-on nametags available through our online store (allow 3-4 weeks for delivery).



## REQUIRED KENNOLYN SWEATSHIRTS AND T-SHIRTS

Two Kennolyn t-shirts and one Kennolyn sweatshirt are required for 2 week sessions, and one of each are required for 1 week sessions. They are used on Closing Day, Special Days, for any excursions away from Kennolyn and for campers who arrive at camp by bus or air. They **MUST be purchased through our online store prior to camp**, as they are not available for purchase on Opening Day.



**Important note about outgrown Kennolyn shirts:** You are welcome to bring or send them to camp rather than donating them to Goodwill, etc. so that we may recycle and reuse them here.

## PACKING SUGGESTIONS

Bring lots of long pants, T-shirts, and long shorts, and please remember that this is camp. Send well used clothing and towels, and nothing that requires ironing. Please wash any new clothing so it doesn't color bleed in the camp laundry!

**SPECIAL NOTES TO PARENTS:** Help your camper avoid poor choices and potential embarrassment. Please review our dress code and guidelines and supervise your camper's packing!

On Opening Day, each camper's belongings will be unpacked with his or her counselor and checked against the Packing List, both to ensure accuracy and for the safety of all campers. Anything not conducive to our camp community will be withheld until Closing Day. Counselors must be aware of everything his or her campers have brought with them, and we reserve the right to see all items brought to camp (your camper may request privacy during this process if uncomfortable unpacking in front of others). We also reserve the right to search a camper's belongings at any time if our staff has reason to believe the health and welfare of any member of our camp community is threatened by items believed to be in his or her possession.

**PACKING LIST:** Please refer to our list of everything that is mandatory or suggested to bring to camp. Please don't forget to send along the completed Packing List in your camper's luggage.

**LAUNDRY:** During 2 week sessions, all campers use our laundry service at the mid-point of the session. We do not do camper laundry during 1 week sessions, so please send ample clothing. At the end of the session, dirty outpost clothes will be packed in camper's luggage in a plastic bags. Take care handling these items! Due to the enormous amount of laundry, Kennolyn cannot be held responsible for clothing that needs special handling, or for items lost or damaged. Please label everything! For campers staying more than one session, additional laundry will be provided as needed.

**LUGGAGE:** We recommend your campers use wheeled duffel trunks like the one at the online store. But, as long as the luggage height does not exceed 14" (so that it can be stored underneath the bunk beds), belongings can be packed in any type of luggage that is most convenient.

**TARP:** A light plastic cloth, approximately 6'x8', is used on the ground to keep sleeping bags warm and dry on Outpost and any other outside overnights. Drop cloths or plastic shower curtains are both acceptable.

**SLEEPING BAGS:** Kennolyn cabins have double-decker bunk beds with mattresses, but campers must bring sleeping bags and pillows. Bulky bags are very difficult for campers to roll and carry to Outpost, so a sleeping bag with a stuff sack works best. An extra blanket is good for rest period and on cold nights, and bottom sheets are highly recommended for comfort.

**WHAT TO BRING:**

Everything on our Packing List! Please download the applicable packing list (1 or 2 week session) from our website or your online account.



**WHAT NOT TO BRING:**

- Candy, gum, soda or food of any kind
- Cell phones, smartphones, tablets, laptops, portable game systems. E-readers are OK as long as they're not loaded with games and videos. We recommend bound books!
- Anything that connects to the internet or cell phone network (i.e. Apple watches)
- Mini TVs, Portable DVD Players, Video Cameras, Radios
- Skateboards or Rollerblades
- Cash, expensive clothing, jewelry or anything else too valuable to have at camp
- Clothing dye or hair dye
- Inappropriate clothing (see dress code on previous page)
- Silly string, water balloons, water guns – don't worry, we provide all the fun you need!
- Pets of any kind (prohibited and would need to be collected by parents immediately)



It will be no surprise to anyone that the following items are prohibited and possession or use of items on this list will result in a camper's dismissal from camp:

- Lighters, fireworks or anything that generates smoke or fire!
- Firearms, tomahawks or dangerous weapons of any kind, Illegal drugs, marijuana, tobacco, e-cigarettes, alcohol, solvents/inhalants etc. (possession will result in immediate dismissal from camp). We know e-cigarettes have become prevalent among camp-aged children. We have a zero tolerance policy on smoking of any kind.
- Note about Pocket Knives: a small pocketknife (maximum 3 inches) is okay for Outpost, but it must be checked in with counselor on Opening Day.



## **ABOUT CAMERAS AND IPODS**

**Cameras:** Camp is a wonderful place to make memories, but a difficult place to keep track of expensive items, so please do not send expensive cameras. It's natural for campers to want to take photos, but we also want to respect everyone's sense of privacy. We ask that if you send a camera, it clearly be a camera (not a phone, ipod, etc) so people know when they are being photographed. Like many camps, we actually suggest disposables camera (yes you can still buy them and get the film developed.)

**Ipod/MP3 Player:** We do allow iPods / MP3 Players, but request that you remove all videos. Music and/or audio books only can be played in cabins (and only with earphones), but they may never be played on the grounds, at the pool, beach or on Outpost. We prefer to listen to the sounds of the woods and to each other! We retain absolute right to restrict camper access to any equipment or material they bring with them.

### **A story about (and our policy on) iPods and MP3 players by Andrew Townsend**

*When Sony introduced the Walkman cassette player, we thought it was a great device for camp. With headphones, campers could listen to music quietly while resting or falling asleep. I had one at camp in 1985, my first year on staff. I only had one cassette, "Smokey Robinson's Greatest Hits", so I fell asleep to "Tracks of My Tears" and "I Second That Emotion" every night. Our bedtime is pretty early for some campers, so a device that plays music through headphones seemed like a winner. Fast forward 30 years... and we have the issue of how we regulate music players that also play video, games, and can connect to the internet?*

*We are not technophobes or Luddites, but we continue to believe that kids very much need a period of time unplugged from the electronic world. We also have a duty to regulate what your camper watches and plays with while in our care. Tiny technology devices make this very difficult. Finally, almost every incident of significant lost items we have encountered in the past 5 years involves an iPod or similar device. Sometimes these are worth hundreds of dollars. So, we suggest you make a very small investment in a music only MP3 player and load it with music and/or audiobooks. There are many models on Amazon.com for less than \$20. Devices that have additional functions are subject to use limitations or confiscation at our sole discretion. Content on all devices is also subject to our evaluation for suitability. For our part, we will encourage campers to read at rest time and bed time, and engage in conversations about their exciting day.*

*Camp is the perfect place for children to realize they don't need video games, computers, televisions and other techno gadgets to have a great time!*

## **CAMP COMMUNICATIONS**

### **LETTERS HOME**

Parents can expect a weekly email or postcard from their camper's counselor (for one week sessions, please understand if a postcard arrives after camp). If your camper is entering 1st, 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3rd grade, you can expect an update call from the counselor the first week. At the end of each session, the counselor will write a thoughtful letter to you regarding your camper's experience. This letter will be mailed after the camper has gone home. If you have questions or concerns after receiving communications, please do not hesitate to email or call.

Campers are required to write letters home after each outpost. For younger campers, we suggest sending envelopes or postcards already stamped and addressed. Even older campers appreciate having stamps, stationary, etc., as buying them at camp depletes their spending accounts! Please use your home address as the return address, not Kennolyn's address.

## PHONE CALLS

Unless there is an emergency, please do not call the camp office to speak to your camper or request that he/she call home. We strongly believe that contact with home can be very difficult for campers and should be managed carefully.

Parents may call the office and speak with Pat Veatch or Andrew Townsend with any questions about our policy, or with questions about your camper. We will be happy to check on your camper and provide an honest evaluation.

- **Pat Veatch (Parent Relations):** ext 445
- **Lindsey Caldwell Johnson (Camper Experience Coord):** ext 440
- **Andrew Townsend (Camps Director):** ext 444



## ONE-WAY EMAIL AND ONLINE PHOTOS

**You can view camp photos and send one way emails to your camper directly through your Kennolyn account.**

**Email:** Campers will not have access to their own email accounts while at camp. You can, however, send one way emails to your camper via your Kennolyn Account. We will print these emails daily, and make sure they are delivered in a timely fashion. There is an option to add a reply form. This will allow your camper to handwrite a response which will be scanned and emailed to you. We do the best we can, but it's impossible to guarantee your camper will use the form and respond.

**Photos:** We will do our very best to post photos in the online account portal five days a week. We try to cover all activities, but unfortunately it is impossible to guarantee that all campers will appear in the photos. The service is a window through which you can see the overall camp experience, but we can't promise that your child will be standing in front of the window when you look through it!



## MAIL

Campers truly enjoy receiving letters and postcards. While emails are instant and convenient, keep in mind that campers especially enjoy receiving handwritten letters that arrive by US Mail. We recommend sending some sort of correspondence to your camper at least twice weekly, but do be aware that too much mail can cause as many problems as no mail at all!

We find the first night at camp to be the most difficult for some campers, and others worry if their families made it home safely. We will distribute mail that evening, so please feel free to leave a letter in our Store, or use the email system (before 5pm). Please keep these messages short, with a positive tone like: We made it home safely; You are going to have an amazing time at camp; We are so proud of you, etc. Please do not use this correspondence (or any other!) to share your own concerns about campers being away from home, as that can encourage worry and homesickness.

## PACKAGES (NO CARE PACKAGES PLEASE)

Kennolyn has all the necessary equipment to ensure your camper has a wonderful camp experience, and packages detract from this. The goals of being away from regular routines, meeting new friends, being free to play and explore outdoors are not enhanced by packages that can create trash, take time away from regular camp activities, and cause jealousy in the cabin. What is important to the campers is



that they hear from you. A hand written note or postcard conveys way more than any package. This policy has evolved over the years and we find it best to say NO PACKAGES. We do accept flat envelopes up to 9x12 and up to 1/2 inch thick, containing letters, a book, or a magazine. Anything else will be kept in our Store, unopened, and you can collect it on Closing Day. We have campers with severe allergies so absolutely no food products of any kind are permitted.

**Packages Containing Necessities:** If there is something your camper must have (like a forgotten mouth retainer or eye glasses), please email [camps@kennolyn.com](mailto:camps@kennolyn.com) to let us know and send your package ATTN: PAT VEATCH with a note inside listing your name, camper's name and cabin assignment. Be sure to sign the delivery company's signature waiver form as we may not be available to sign for a package and cannot make a special trip into town.

## **CAMP COMMUNICATIONS OUTSIDE OF CAMP - VERY IMPORTANT!**

### **CAMPER TO STAFF**

One of the beauties of enhanced communication technologies is the ease with which people can stay in touch. However, there are concerns that must be included in any policy regarding contact between campers and staff outside of camp. We do not endorse or encourage staff to build personal relationships with campers (including CILTs, CITs, and JCs) outside of camp. Any effort to build such a relationship should:

- a) be instigated by the camper and not the staff member
- b) be done with the approval and supervision of the camper's parents

We vouch for our staff when they are in the controlled environment we create at camp, but cannot control their behavior outside of their period of employment with us. Please make sure you are aware of any contact or correspondence between your child and any member of our camp staff. If you want to discuss any concerns with us at any time, please contact Andrew Townsend.

### **CAMPER TO CAMPER**

Collecting addresses and promising to stay in touch is one of the time-honored rituals of summer camp. However, with so much instant communication we have to be more careful about how our children use the contact information we collect. We will continue to encourage campers to share their contact information and we also encourage parents to be aware at all times of a child's computer use. We want you to be safe on the Internet. Here is the best advice we have found about how to educate your child to respond to inappropriate communications:

If you receive a threatening message (one that is mocking, uses vulgar or harassing language):

- Do not respond or retaliate, because it might encourage the sender or get you into trouble
- Print out a copy of the message, then close it but do not delete it
- If possible, save the message to your hard drive or a jump drive
- Tell your parents about it and have them decide what to do next. They may notify the police or contact your Internet service provider

Parents: If you suspect that the sender of the messages is someone connected to Kennolyn, please contact us immediately.

# A TYPICAL TWO WEEK SESSION

## REGULAR ACTIVITY DAYS

Our typical day starts with the sound of the bell at 7:15 a.m. After a hot breakfast in the dining hall with the cabin group, it's time to clean the cabin as a group and get ready for the day's activities.

There are six scheduled activity days in each 2-week session. Each camper has six, one-hour activity periods every activity day, and campers stay with their scheduled activities all session (after an opportunity to perfect their schedules on day two).

At lunch, campers meet up with their counselors outside the dining hall for the second hearty meal of the day. After lunch, we retire for our Camp Siesta, when campers and counselors head to the cabin as a group for some quiet time spent reading, writing letters, drawing, playing quiet games, or napping. This is a perfect way to recharge prior to afternoon activities.

Following afternoon activities, cabin groups gather for Family Hour, a block of time to be spent doing a special activity chosen by the group such as crafts, basketball or volleyball with another cabin, checking out board games from the store, or going for a swim. After Family Hour, cabin groups enjoy dinner together before embarking on the special evening activity.

## SPECIAL DAYS, TRIPS & TRADITIONS

To offset busy Activity Days, we have off-site trips and Special Activity days.

## OUTPOST & OVERNIGHT RIDES

Outpost is a beloved and important Kennolyn tradition that began in 1946, our very first summer. Camping overnight under the redwoods is a rare experience in today's fast-paced society, and memories of Outpost, cooking their own foil stew and being at one with nature are among the most cherished reminiscences campers take home with them.

In late afternoon, campers head to their campsites (a few hundred yards to a mile away depending on age group) carrying their sleeping bags, backpacks with essentials, mess kits, food and water for the next 24 hours. Under close supervision of counselors, they learn to gather wood, build fires and cook their own meals, sleep on the forest floor under the stars, explore the creek and hike through miles of beautiful terrain.

Outpost is held weekly, except for Specialty Equestrian campers, who enjoy a similar experience on overnight horseback rides instead. After regular activities, they saddle up their horses and ride our breathtaking redwood trails to the overnight campsite and corral along Soquel Creek. In a 2 week session, all campers with riding experience entering 6th grade go on 1 overnight ride instead of outpost. Campers do not have to ride if they are uncomfortable.

**FREE CHOICE:** One morning each week is Free Choice, when campers can try activities they don't normally take, or go back for more of their favorites! On these days, afternoons are filled with other activities, such as the Boardwalk or Thursday Thrill Day (for 2 week sessions only).

**BEACH DAY:** On Sundays during two-week sessions, we dress in Kennolyn Green and have a leisurely breakfast followed by reflective conversations on meaningful topics like friendship, community and the environment. Then we put on our red or yellow swimsuits and head to the

beach to roast hot dogs, swim in the surf, build sand castles and relax in the sand. We use the buddy system and the day is overseen by our lifeguards. Beach Day is also Nurse's Inspection Day and camp area cleanup day. In fact, a letter or postcard home is admission to Sunday dinner.

**EVENINGS:** Special activities are planned for the entire camp to round out a full day of fun and excitement. Some favorites include Scavenger Hunt, Gold Rush, Counselor Dress-Up, Trivia Night and Dance & Movie Night. Twice each week we gather in our outdoor amphitheater for a spirited sing-along around the campfire, and all cabins take center-stage at least once each session to perform their own skits. Campfire is a longstanding tradition that spawns enduring and poignant memories for everyone.

Bedtime is signaled by bugle calls. The first bugle plays at 8:30pm to notify cabins it is time to head back to the cabins. The 8:45pm bugle means that it's time to start getting into bed, and 9pm is "Lights Out" for most campers. During 2-week sessions, Senior Campers (8-9th graders) have a special evening activity from 8:30-9pm, and start heading to bed when their activity is over.

## **ADDITIONAL SPECIAL DAYS IN ALL 2 WEEK SESSIONS**

- **3 Day Backpacking Trip**  
For campers entering 4th grade and older. Sign ups taken at camp. This trip replaces one of the scheduled outpost trips for campers who choose it. Campers hike through the mighty Redwoods of Big Basin State Park. We camp two nights and make our way from the Park HQ to the Pacific Ocean at Waddell Creek.
- **Overnight Ride**  
For campers entering 6th grade, the chance to take part in an extended trail ride to our remote campsite along the shores of Soquel Creek.

**Our one-week sessions are a taste of camp life and are a modified version of the above schedule. One week sessions include three activity days, one Outpost Day, and Thursday Thrill Day. There are no offsite trips or activities in one-week sessions.**

## **ACTIVITY INFORMATION**

### **ACTIVITY SELECTION – 1 & 2 Week Sessions**

Before arriving at Kennolyn, each camper may choose up to 4 activities online (we encourage taking a waterfront activity). They can choose remaining activities on the first day of camp, with the help of their counselors. This gives everyone a chance to pre-select things they know they want to take, and add other activities that seem like fun on the spot. This system also helps us to pinpoint activities that will be most popular each session, so we can schedule appropriately. Our Program Staff works hard to make sure ALL campers receive their most highly ranked choices, but we do limit enrollment in certain activities in order to maintain our high standards and proper counselor to camper ratios.

**Intro Camp** - A sample of activities is offered, no sign up is required

## ACTIVITY CHANGE POLICY

While we hope all campers will be satisfied with their activity schedules, we understand they sometimes enthusiastically select activities that simply prove not to be the right fit. We require that all campers adhere to their originally assigned activities on the first Activity Day. If, after a good try, a camper feels unhappy or uncomfortable with an activity, we allow the option to change. At this juncture, any camper may go to the Program Office and select an alternate, age appropriate activity. Our philosophy is that campers of all ages should be entrusted with the opportunity and responsibility to gauge their own interests and comfort levels. If there is a particular activity on your camper's preference list that you do not want them to have the option of changing, please list it in an email to [program@kennolyn.com](mailto:program@kennolyn.com). Be sure to include the camper's full name and the session in your email.

## ACTIVITY EQUIPMENT

Kennolyn provides most of the necessary equipment for the activities we offer (please refer to the Equestrian and Waterfront activity description for equipment required for those activities). Campers electing to bring their own sports equipment must label everything with their names, and understand we cannot be held responsible for it.

**Of special note: Archery and Fencing** equipment is provided by Kennolyn. If a camper wants to bring his or her own equipment for these activities, prior approval must be obtained from the Camps Director, and the items must be kept in the Store and checked out for use during approved activity periods only. **NO outside Riflery** equipment is allowed at camp.

## NEW CAMPERS

Narrowing down the choice of activities can be difficult for new campers. Please take a look at the Activity descriptions of the following page to help guide your selections or look online at the pictures and video. Feel free to contact us with any questions.

## ACTIVITY DESCRIPTIONS

The following are descriptions of our most asked about activities, but it is not a complete list of everything we offer (complete list shown upon registration).

**Activities available to campers of all ages, unless otherwise noted:**

### Ropes and Climbing

These are among our most popular courses, so it is important to sign up early.

\*It is important to note that our specially trained staff closely supervise all Ropes Course and Climbing activities under the direction of our Ropes Course Coordinator. Equipment is inspected daily and replaced regularly. Safety is our primary concern.

### **CLIMBING (2nd grade and up for Santa Cruz Mountains Overnight Camp / 3rd grade and up for Day Camp)\***

This activity is designed to develop strength and agility. Taught on our state-of-the-art climbing wall, this activity is very popular. Campers move through traversing activities designed to stimulate movement, develop balance and increase kinesthetic awareness. Included in the instruction are basic climbing protocol and procedures, as well as belay techniques.



### **JUNIOR ROPES COURSE (1st-4th grades)\***

Campers who choose this activity will use Kennolyn's Junior Ropes Course, which incorporates elements such as a Log Crossing, Vine Traverse, and the Plank Walk, all built with younger campers in mind. This is a perfect stepping stone to our adventure programs, introducing campers to the equipment and challenges of ropes courses. In addition to work on the course, campers will play new games and will challenge themselves on low course elements like the Double Trouble, Mohawk Walk, and the infamous Ants on a Log.

### **ROPES COURSE I (5th-10th grades) one period on activity days – 2 week sessions only**

This activity begins on our low ropes course, where campers learn new games, challenges and low ropes elements to help develop the skills, confidence and group support needed for the high ropes course. Once on the high ropes course, campers head for the tree tops to try challenges like the High Y, Flying Squirrel, Team Beam, Burma Bridge, Balance Log, Pamper Pole, Vine Traverse, and a camper favorite: the Zip Line.

### **ROPES COURSE II (5th-10th grades) All ropes in one week sessions are 2 periods**

This is for campers interested in spending more time on the ropes course. With an extra hour, campers will be able to take full advantage of this exciting activity. They will also receive more instruction in belaying and rope handling skills. Although this activity will take 2 periods of the activity day, it counts as only one choice on the preference form when registering for activities.

### **HILLTOP ROPES COURSE (8th-10th grades)\***

The Hilltop Ropes Course is located at the Hilltop Hacienda site and is the largest of Kennolyn's three high ropes courses. This activity takes 2 activity periods. As with all our ropes course activities, the campers begin on the ground engaged in games, initiatives and low ropes elements then move on to the high elements. With the extra time, campers learn about most aspects of the ropes course, including setting up, belaying, managing transfers and element take down.

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### **ANCIENT TARGET SPORT – new! (3rd grade and up)**

Axe throwing is a growing sport. Campers will learn to safely throw an axe to hit a target. As they develop skills, competitions and tournaments will keep the interest level high. But it's not just Axes we're throwing! Using an Atlatl to launch a dart or short spear is just as exciting. An atlatl is essentially a stick with a handle on one end and a hook or socket that holds a light spear or "dart." The flipping motion of the atlatl propels a light spear much faster and farther than it could be thrown by hand alone. Finally, we are using sling shots (also known as catapults or "wrist rockets") to develop coordination and accuracy. Activities will be modified as necessary for younger and/or smaller campers at the instructors discretion.

### **ANIMAL CARE**

Here at Kennolyn, we have many farm animals, including chickens, goats, donkeys, potbelly pigs, horses and a cow. Campers enrolled in animal care learn how to handle the animals and gain an understanding of responsible pet care.

### **ARCHERY**

Archery has been popular since the very early days at Kennolyn. Campers learn all the basics and are able to practice regularly. Building skills means building scores, and awards have been reintroduced into our program to provide fun and incentive.

### **BMX (3rd grade and up)**

Campers get on their bikes day one to receive basic instruction from the starting gate to the finish line, including gate starts, passing, jumps and more, all on our own BMX track!

### **CARPENTRY**

This activity teaches campers to safely use basic hand and small power wood working tools. They work on various projects to take home at the end of camp.

### **CHESS**

This ancient game of strategy is making a comeback, and is once again very popular with children. Learn the basics or advance your understanding of strategy and game winning moves. This activity includes friendly tournament play.

### **COOKING (Indoor or Outdoor or Culinary Specialty)**

Indoor Cooking campers learn all the tools they need to create some yummy recipes! In Outdoor Cooking, campers receive important lessons in outdoor cooking safety, learn to gather wood, build a campfire, and prepare and cook delicious meals in the great outdoors.

### **CRAFTS**

Get Creative! Hone your artistic skills and create wonderful keepsakes of your camp experience to take home. We have an extensive art center and instruction in multiple mediums and projects.

### **DRAMA**

Campers will find their inner thespian in an accepting environment. They will work on their improv skills and get a chance to perform a play in front of the whole camp!

### **FENCING (3rd grade and up)**

Using our extensive network of fencing coaches, we have developed a training program suited for any camper ready to learn more than the basics.

### **FOREST EXPLORERS (1st - 4th graders)**

Staff guide campers through Kennolyn's trails and create days of excitement, exploration and discovery. Campers can look, listen, and feel the world around them to become more familiar with their environment.

### **DANCE**

This class is offered for different levels of dance. Beginners have little to no experience with dance, but should enjoy popular music and have a basic sense of rhythm.

### **LEGO BUILDERS (1st - 5th graders)**

Campers can build and create to their hearts desire! Staff will help them design masterpieces, from the entire camp or a dinosaur kingdom, this is the place for their imaginations to run wild!

### **LEGO ROBOTICS (5th - 10th graders)**

What's cooler than LEGOs? LEGOs that move! Campers will build EV3 LEGO robots and learn how to program the motors and sensors to help their robots complete challenges posed by our staff. They'll be zippin' around the media lab on their own two wheels, pushing this, pulling that, following a path, listening for voice commands, and poppin' a robot wheelie whenever their programmers so desire.



## **OUTDOOR ADVENTURE**

Kennolyn's 300 acres of redwood forest provide a wonderful place for campers to learn. In this age of environmental awareness, what better place to discover an understanding of Earth's beauty! Campers are led by enthusiastic and knowledgeable instructors through the forest, learning as they go. Following animal tracks, creating nature art, learning to identify the native plants and animals, shelter building; all of these are part of the wonderful world of Outdoor Adventure.

## **CERAMICS (Handbuilt)**

Hand built pottery projects are fun, creative and provide campers with a great sense of achievement! Participants will learn to work with clay using real potter's tools and techniques.

## **CERAMICS (Wheel - 3rd grade and up)**

Campers learn to prepare clay for throwing, center a pot on the wheel, throw a small pot or vessel with consistency, recognize common flaws, finish and glaze their pieces.

## **RIFLERY**

Riflery is another Olympic sport taught at Kennolyn. We use Daisy brand BB Guns and Air Rifles to teach the sport of Target Shooting. Our program is operated under the guidance of the Civilian Marksmanship Program and emphasizes safety over all else.

## **SCRAPBOOK JOURNALING**

Create a wonderful keepsake of your camp experience with this fun class. Each camper will get a chance to create a scrapbook bullet journal with photos and embellishments. You will also have instruction in expressive writing and will be encouraged to keep a camp journal.

## **SILK PAINTING (5th grade and up)**

In this activity, each camper concentrates on one silk painting project, such as a scarf or wall hanging. Emphasis is placed on technique and range of color. Campers will be introduced to different kinds of applications, such as colored resist, shading techniques using rubbing alcohol, and background preparation. This class is fun for campers who have already tried silk painting, as well as campers new to silk painting who have an interest in focusing on one art project.

## **STAINED GLASS (5th grade and up) – 2 week sessions only**

Create your own glass mosaics! Campers will cut, grind and arrange pieces of glass into their own designs. Next they will attach the pieces through the magical chemical reactions of solder, flux and copper foil!

## **VIDEOGRAPHY (5th - 10th graders)**

Campers will utilize GoPro cameras to create short films based on all the exciting things happening at camp! Staff will guide campers through storyboarding, filming and editing. All films will premiere on closing day when we roll out the red carpet for the directors!

## BALL SPORTS

### **BADMINTON (3rd - 10th graders)**

Campers learn all the basics and play this popular racket game, which originated in British India in the 1800's and is now an Olympic sport enjoyed around the world.

### **BASKETBALL**

Learn all the basics, from dribbling to shooting to being a great team player!

### **BATTING CAGES**

Practice America's greatest pastime! Campers improve their swinging skills in our own batting cage.



### **GOLF**

Learn the fundamentals of this popular sport, experiment with different clubs, hone your techniques on our own putting green and perfect your drive in our golf cage.

### **RUGBY (4th - 10th graders)**

This popular style of football developed in England is taught by our international staff.

### **TENNIS**

Tennis anyone? Grab your racquet and get ready to play! Whether you're a beginning, intermediate or advanced player, we'll help you improve your game and get more enjoyment from this exciting sport. Learn proper grips, footwork, strokes, volleys, serves, and tennis rules and etiquette in a fun environment.

### **VOLLEYBALL**

Learn all of the basic individual and team skills, including passing, setting, hitting, digging, blocking and serving, then put them into practice on our friendly beach volleyball court.

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## EQUESTRIAN ACTIVITIES

### **(1st grade and up for Santa Cruz Mountains Overnight Camp | 2nd grade and up for Day Camp)**

Riding is an integral part of the Kennolyn tradition. The high standards of equestrian instruction available tempt nearly all our campers to enjoy a riding activity. For the large majority of our campers we have classes that combine English and Western riding styles. Campers alternate between English riding in the ring and Western riding on the trails, as we feel it is important for campers to experience both styles. However, for campers who are experienced English riders with advanced skills, we offer ring only classes that include jumping.

**EQUIPMENT** - Kennolyn has riding boots and hard hats to fit campers ages 6-14.

**Boots:** Required for all riding activities for safety. If you bring your own, we suggest a flat slip-on boot (no crepe soles please) that can also be used for walking and hiking. Rubber riding boots are a great and inexpensive compromise. Local Pony Clubs and stables often have used boots for sale. (If your camper has outgrown their boots, please consider donating to our "Bootery").

**Hard Hats:** Required for riding for safety. If you already own one or want to buy one for camp, please make sure the hat has the current approved safety tag (SEI) inside the crown.

**Clothing:** Campers must wear long pants in all riding activities. Jeans or riding breeches are appropriate attire. *Please use the following riding levels as a guide when registering for Riding.*

*Use your best judgment, our Riding Staff will make any necessary adjustments once your camper is at camp:*

### **INTRODUCTION TO RIDING (horse on a lunge line) - 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> grade only**

If your camper: has little or no experience on or around horses or may be a bit nervous and would feel more comfortable being led by instructor. This class has 1 instructor and 1 horse. Campers take turns riding and learning by watching others.

### **BEGINNER RIDING**

If your camper would feel comfortable riding a horse in a group setting without an instructor leading the horse.

### **INTERMEDIATE RIDING**

If your camper: can post and sit the trot comfortably, without the help of an instructor, and is ready to learn how to canter

### **ADVANCED RIDING**

If your camper: has taken English riding lessons regularly for at least one year, has full control of the horse at walk, trot and canter, and has some jumping experience.

### **HORSE CARE**

This activity is ideal for our most enthusiastic horse lovers, who want to spend time with these magnificent animals. Campers will enjoy walking, bathing, grooming and playing with several of Kennolyn's 25+ horses. This class can be taken in addition to a riding class.

### **VAULTING**

If your campers is unsure or nervous about riding, or is experienced and looking for a new challenge, we have the perfect solution! Vaulting, or gymnastics on horseback, is growing very popular in the US. Specially trained horses are lunged in a circle while campers learn to mount and perform gymnastic movements. It is a great confidence booster and a safe, exciting way to overcome a fear of horses. Of course, experienced riders also enjoy the challenge of vaulting and can put together routines for Parent's Day. This class can be taken in addition to a riding class.



## **WATERFRONT ACTIVITIES**

**EQUIPMENT:** It is recommended campers bring at least 2 swimsuits. **For two week sessions, a red or yellow one-piece or red rash guard is required for Beach Day**, so our campers are easily identifiable to our beach lifeguards. All swimsuits should be athletic in style so movement and participation are not restricted. Females must wear one-piece bathing suits.

### **BASIC WATER RESCUE (5th - 10th graders)**

Campers learn ways to prevent drowning and diving accidents, to increase leadership and communication skills for lifeguarding, and the basics of emergency response techniques. Fitness and swimming skills are incorporated to help perform lifesaving techniques.

### **BOARD DIVING (3rd - 10th graders)**

Campers learn how to approach and safely dismount the diving board, practice new dives and hone their techniques.

### **SNORKELING**

This activity teaches basic skills necessary for skin diving, including proper breathing technique, how to clear masks, etc. Classes are conducted in the pool. We provide all necessary equipment.

### **SYNCHRONIZED SWIMMING (5th - 10th graders)**

Campers comfortable in the deep end of the pool can learn this hybrid form of swimming, dance and gymnastics, and perform routines of elaborate moves in the water, accompanied by music.

### **WATER POLO (5th - 10th graders) & Inner tube water polo (1st - 5th graders)**

Traditional water polo is available for those entering 5th grade and above. For younger campers, we offer inner tube water polo, situated closer to the shallow end of the pool with players floating in inflatable inner tubes.

### **SWIM LESSONS**

Please use the following swimming levels as a guide when registering for swim lessons. Our Waterfront Coordinator will make any necessary adjustments once your camper is at camp:

**BEGINNER** - Sign up for beginners if your camper:

- is just getting comfortable in the water
- is not able to swim 10 yards of both the front and back crawl unsupported

**INTERMEDIATE** - Sign up for intermediate if your camper:

- can swim 10 yards of both the front and back crawl unsupported
- can float or glide unsupported for 5 seconds on front and back
- is comfortable exploring deep water using bobs or other underwater swimming
- can turn over from front to back and from back to front
- can swim the length of the pool

**ADVANCED** - Sign up for advanced if your camper:

- can complete all skills from Intermediate successfully
- is familiar with rotary (side to side) breathing
- can perform front glide and back glide with push-off for 10 feet
- can reverse direction while swimming on front
- can do an elementary backstroke kick for 10 yards

## Specialty Activities

These specialized programs are offered at an additional cost and are only offered during certain sessions (please see our website). These programs are designed to offer a more intense focus on a specific activity with professional instruction. To check availability, get more information or add any of these specialty options, please call us at 831-479-6714 x440.

### **EQUESTRIAN      \$750– Sessions #2/3/5 – Full Day (5th grade and up) \$250 - Sessions #4/6 – 2 Periods (5th grade and up)**

Equestrian Camp is for those who want their Kennolyn experience to be riding intensive. We have a long history and tradition in our Equestrian Program. We focus mostly on English riding, with Western trail rides. The first day, campers are placed into the appropriate skill level, and then spend the session riding twice a day, as well as taking horsemanship and vaulting classes. For 2 week sessions, a highlight is the Overnight Ride where campers pack up the horses to ride out to our special Soquel Creek Outpost site.

### **ADVENTURE (6th grade and up) \$750 – Session #2 (3 activity periods)**

Campers participate in an exciting blend of adventures, both on-site and off-site. Activities include climbing on our huge climbing wall, challenging ropes course work, mountain biking, hiking in Nicene Marks Park, learning survival skills and orienteering. Campers go off-site each week for a 2-night adventure outing, and have the chance to try surfing or rafting.

### **MARINE EXPLORATION (4th grade and up) \$650– Session #3 (3 activity periods)**

Campers will get to know the marine world through activities about the water, on the water, and in the water. Each activity day morning, campers will adventure out to explore. They will have a chance to visit and learn about the tidepools at Natural Bridges State Beach, discover what's around them at the Seymour Marine Discovery Center, kayak or stand up paddle board from the Santa Cruz Harbor, and snorkel at Point Lobos State Reserve, among other things.

### **SURFING (7th grade and up) \$650 – Sessions #2/3/5 (3 activity periods)**

Campers learn to surf with local professional instructors. All equipment is provided, including boards and wetsuits. Campers are educated on surfing technique and etiquette in one of the world's foremost surfing communities. This activity takes three daily activity periods and, in order to take advantage of optimum surf conditions, campers will head to the beach before regular activity times. Surf spots include Cowells, Rio del Mar and Manresa.

### **TRAPEZE - \$275 (\$150 for one-week sessions) - all sessions (1 activity period)**

A real flying trapeze is set up on our play field. Trained instruction will emphasize safety, fun and rapid skill development. Campers wear safety harnesses and there is a net below the trapeze. Campers will learn to flip and hang by their knees, swing to catch the instructor's hands, and eventually learn to flip back onto their swing! This activity takes 1 activity period per activity day.

### **CULINARY ARTS (4th grade and up) \$250 – Sessions #2/3/5, \$125 for Sessions #1/4/6 (3 activity periods)**

Our newest specialty will combine 2 hours of hands on kitchen time each activity day along with an additional hour of outside the kitchen learning (a trip to our local Farmer's Market, a tour of an organic farm, even a tour of our own camp kitchen). They will use ingredients gathered on the various field trips or from right here in the Kennolyn garden. Each camper will leave camp with a collection of recipes which they can take home to use for years to come!

## **SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

Educating children (and we believe that camp is a vital part of a child's education!) takes the cooperation of us all. In our promotional materials and through this booklet, we explain our philosophies and policies, which have been developed over many years. If you have concerns, questions or comments about your camper's upcoming experience at Kennolyn, please feel free to contact us. You may also send a separate letter to our Director, Andrew Townsend, if you choose. The more we know, the better equipped we are to ensure a successful camp experience.

## **FIRST TIME CAMPERS & HOMESICKNESS**

Some of you are sending us your children for their first time away from home, and we recognize special concerns that you may have. All of us were first-timers at Kennolyn once! We know how it feels to go to camp and to be away from home for the very first time. We understand this is a big transition and that campers (and parents alike!) may experience some initial separation anxiety, so we pay extra attention to making all of our campers feel at home and at ease.

If you do receive a homesick letter from your first time camper early on, please don't be alarmed. This is not uncommon! More often than not, these are the very same campers who grow in the biggest leaps and bounds by the ends of their sessions...and are sometimes among the first to sign up for the following summer! When responding to homesick letters, we encourage you to do so with a reassuring, upbeat focus on the positive. Ask about fun camp experiences so far, with thought-provoking questions about favorite activities, discoveries on outpost and beach day, new friends etc. to promote a healthier dialog. This will help your camper adjust, while a focus on the negative ("I'm so sad without you here" or "the dog misses you terribly") can have the opposite effect. Please do NOT promise your camper "you can come home if you don't like camp." Although this may feel like a safety blanket, you are creating a no-win situation if he or she decides to take you up on it!

Please do feel free to call us to discuss any situation or apprehensions. Pat Veatch (Parent-Camper Relations) has been an integral part of Kennolyn for more than 50 years. She will be happy to talk to you about how your camper is doing and address any specific concerns. Andrew Townsend (Camps Director) also welcomes your calls and questions.

We recognize that learning to overcome fears and seemingly difficult situations holds tremendous significance to children. Kennolyn is proud to offer a safe haven where campers can learn to be away from home and increase their sense of independence and self-reliance. We want your camper to have a happy, successful time at camp and ask you to rely on our best judgment and years of experience in assessing your concerns. In the unlikely event we honestly feel time that camp life is not the immediate answer for your camper, we will discuss this with you openly.

## **KENNOLYN PEN PALS**

One of the biggest concerns we hear from campers and parents is "My camper doesn't know anyone at Kennolyn and none of his/her friends can go to the same session. I am afraid he/she will not make friends." We have many answers to this (*Most of our campers arrive without having a particular friend or cabin mate; Kennolyn is a great place to meet new people and our counselors are trained in techniques to build friendships; and As soon as you meet your cabin mates, you'll have new friends!*).

We recognize, however, that these answers all require campers to leap into the unknown and trust there will be kids at camp like them, of similar age and with similar interests. So, we have a program to help campers connect, and in true camp style it is a low tech, personal way to reach out and make friends. Here's how it works!

In the Spring, we will send your camper some stationery and letter writing instructions. If your camper decides to write a letter and sends it to us, we will make sure he/she receives at least one letter from another camper attending the same session. So, if your camper is a boy entering 4th grade and he sends us a letter introducing himself to his fellow campers, we will make a copy of the letter and keep it on file. In return, we will send your son a letter from someone attending the same session. It might be from an older camper, but he will receive at least one letter. This is a great comfort to many children, especially first-time campers. Even if your child is attending with friends or siblings, or is a returning camper, writing a letter is fun, will help other campers, and could potentially create another lasting camp friendship. Letters will not contain direct contact information for the senders, but if you want to try and make personal contact, you will be able to do so through our office.

## **CABIN PLACEMENT**

Adjusting to cabin group living is an important part of camp life. Camp is for making new friends and taking a step toward independence, so attending camp with a particular friend is not necessary, and not always a good idea. We do recognize, however, that some campers want to be placed in a cabin group with a friend from home. Here are a few reminders about cabin requests:

Please note a few important reminders about cabin mate requests:

- The majority of campers do not make special cabin requests. There is no need to worry if your camper is coming alone, as camp is the best and easiest place to make new friends.
- Cabin mates should be entering the same grade. If they are in different grades, the older camper will be placed with the younger grade.
- Cabin mate requests must be mutual, that is both (or all) families must request the same cabin assignment. In other words, if Jimmy wants to be placed in a cabin with Johnny, both families must make the same request.
- Due to the sheer volume of campers, it is almost impossible for us to follow up with every cabin request so we can only go by what is in the system. If a cabin request is made by one camper and not the other, we assume it is not the choice of both families.
- We prefer to place only two friends together, but will accommodate a maximum of three (so as not to leave anyone out.) We cannot place more than three friends together, however, as a group of four or more friends in a cabin that holds 6-8 makes for a less cohesive group.
- In the unlikely event we are unable to grant a request that meets all of these requirements, we will let you know personally to discuss options.

All requests for special cabin placement must be made through your online account, on the Cabin Mate Request form, which can be found under "Forms and Downloads." We must receive your request by JUNE 1st!

We welcome all children to Kennolyn and work closely with families to make sure that all campers can have a successful experience regardless of their background. Campers are assigned to cabins based on the gender they have declared in our registration system. When a camper identifies with a gender other than the one they were assigned at birth, we will work with the camper's family to ensure a smooth and successful experience. We reserve the right to share limited information regarding cabin placements with other families but we do not automatically do so. Everything is decided on a case by case basis with the camper's family. Anyone who has any concerns about cabin placements should contact us for a more in depth conversation.

## **CAMPER BEHAVIOR GUIDELINES**

This is summer camp. We want it to be a relaxed and pleasant place for kids to explore and learn. For that reason, we try not to have a ton of rules posted everywhere and we take a “we can work this out” approach when we address behavior that is not acceptable. Campers in each cabin group actually work with the counselor to make a cabin agreement that helps define standards of behavior that are in everyone’s best interest.

Having said that, we have to have some basic guidelines for behavior that we all agree to. The kids know this as being K-rated. Here are the behavior expectations for all campers.

- Nobody has the right to spoil another person’s fun at camp.
- We do not use bad language
- We treat everyone with kindness first
- We follow the directions of counselors and staff
- Disputes do arise, but they should be reported to a counselor. Do not get into fights and arguments. Instead ask your counselor for help in solving problems.
- Share your opinions when a cabin agreement is made so that things that are important to you are included
- Basic politeness like please and thank you still mean a lot and are encouraged
- If you mention self-harm, we will believe you and help you even if you later tell us didn’t really mean it. Do not joke about this stuff, ever.
- If you are violent in words, actions, or attitude toward another person there will be consequences up to the possibility of dismissal from camp.
- Don’t sneak stuff. If you have a phone, hand it in.

## **BIRTHDAYS**

Birthdays at Kennolyn are very special! We present a cake and a special shirt to the birthday camper, and the entire camp joins in the celebration. Parents of birthday campers often request a Popsicle Treat for everyone at camp, and the birthday boy or girl hands out popsicles in the afternoon. Kennolyn is happy to arrange this order if you like (a \$30 charge will be added to your account). To plan a Popsicle Treat, please contact the office.

## **VISITING DAYS**

Opening and Closing Days are our ONLY visiting days. Please do not plan to visit or take your camper offsite during the session (unless pre-arranged and under very special or unavoidable circumstances), as this would be disruptive to the camp experience for the entire cabin.

## **JUNIOR CAMPERS (Entering 1st–3rd Grades)**

Campers entering the first, second and third grades are Junior Campers. In order to meet their special needs we provide the following as part of the Jr. Camper program:

- A maximum of seven campers per cabin
- Counselors make a call to parents in first few days
- Extra help is offered when moving from activity to activity



## SENIOR CAMPERS (Entering 8th & 9th Grades)

The Senior Camper Program is very popular, and operates during our 2 week sessions (senior campers have limited options and perks during 1 week sessions, due to lower enrollment numbers then). Like all Kennolyn Campers, Senior Campers are part of a cabin family with a counselor, and take part in regularly scheduled camp activities. In addition, they enjoy increased interaction with their peers in other cabins, and have the opportunity to take part in special activities planned exclusively for them. They need some time alone with other teenagers, however, so we give them that time, Kennolyn style! The Senior Camper program offers:

- Senior Camper Only activities
- Nightly evening activities enjoyed for half an hour after the other campers have gone to bed
- A special Senior Camper barbecue up at our Hilltop Hacienda
- An additional day at the beach for Senior Campers only
- The opportunity to learn about Kennolyn's Camper in Leadership Training (CILT) Program, a three-year course for campers entering 10th – 12th grades who are interested in eventually becoming counselors.

This program has become so popular and spawned so many lasting friendships, that most Senior Campers return for our three-year Training Program.

## ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES

### Deposit & Refund Policy

Kennolyn has limited enrollment and can only accept a certain number of campers in each age group. Every application must be accompanied by the appropriate deposit: Santa Cruz Mountains Overnight Camp (including Leadership Program) deposit is \$500 per camper, per session. **Please send full payment with all applications submitted after May 1st.**

### CHANGING SESSIONS AND CANCELLATION POLICY

- You can change sessions as often as you like with no fee, as long as space is available
- Before February 1, you can cancel for any reason and receive a 100% refund
- If you cancel anytime between February 1 and May 1 (Santa Cruz Mountains Overnight Camp) & May 31 (Day Camp), anything you have paid will be held in your account until the final day of camp the following year. You can have peace of mind knowing that 100% of your money will be available to use at Kennolyn in the future. There are no fees or charges.
- For cancellations received after May 1 (Santa Cruz Mountains Overnight Camp) & May 31 (Day Camp), there are no refunds or credits. All tuition paid is forfeit.
- If you need more financial flexibility or cancellation options, we strongly encourage you to purchase Program Protection Insurance through Travmark offered within our application.
- **IMPORTANT NOTE:** Specialty Camp fees are pass through fees that we pay to the activity providers before camp starts, and therefore we are unable to credit these fees towards the following summer.

In every program offered by Kennolyn, refunds will not be provided if:

- Your camper is dismissed from camp. We reserve the right to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all campers and to dismiss a camper, without refund, for misconduct or unsociable behavior, as determined by the Directors.
- You choose to withdraw a camper for any reason before he / she has completed the entire session in which he / she was enrolled.
- You do not submit a complete state required health form by the required due date.

## TUITION REFUND INSURANCE

Kennolyn offers tuition refund insurance through Travmark offered within our application.

## STORE ACCOUNT

We add money for the store in your camper's account during registration (\$65 for two week sessions and \$15 for one week sessions), and we'll contact you should your camper try to spend over the limit. We do not sell candy or snacks, however we do stock small items like postcards, stamps, toothpaste, playing cards etc. For two-week campers, this account also covers the entrance fee and a small amount of spending money on Boardwalk Day.

You can request a refund of any remaining store account balance (until September). Many families choose to donate balances to the Max and Marion Caldwell Foundation, which provides scholarships to children otherwise unable to share in the summer camp experience. In fact, this option has become so popular that it is now our default way of handling unclaimed store funds. However, please let us know if you would prefer a refund and we will gladly take care of this.

## HEALTH PROCEDURES

### HEALTH CARE & MEDICATION

For the continued safety of each camper, new and up-to-date Health History and Physicians Examination Forms are required every year. We know that this can be an inconvenience, however your camper will be under our care for an extended amount of time and we want everyone to be happy and healthy! From your online account, you can fill out the Health History Form in its entirety. Next, download the Physician's Examination Form, have your doctor complete and sign it, then fax it back to the number on the form or upload it directly into your Kennolyn account.

We are legally required to have a complete Health History Form and Physician's Examination Form for each Santa Cruz Mountains Overnight Camper. We must receive this completed form TWO WEEKS PRIOR to Opening Day.

Two nurses are on duty 24/7 during camp. Our nursing procedures are well established and are updated and maintained by our Health Coordinator. A local doctor, who approves our policies, is on-call all summer. Our nurses are on hand Opening Day to meet parents and campers.

Prescription medication should be dropped off with the nurses and must be accompanied by written directions from a licensed physician. These may be directions on the **original prescription label**, a note on the Health Form or a doctor's letter. Please do not send medication of any kind in a camper's bags or footlocker unless boxed and clearly labeled "CAMP NURSE".

Our modern, well-equipped Health Center offers a bright and cheerful retreat, where our nurses can take care of the most common camp ailments, including minor cuts and bruises, fatigue, coughs and colds, etc. Sometimes, the only necessary medicine is a place to sit quietly for a few minutes or a hug from a caring nurse. In such cases, we will not automatically contact you, unless we feel there is a specific need to do so.

To treat more severe problems, we have arrangements with numerous local health providers in all major specialties, as well as the local hospital. Our nurses will contact you if your camper requires an outside medical professional, in most cases to seek your approval and input before an outside visit takes place. In cases of a real emergency, we will attempt to contact you first, but will use our best judgment with regard to seeking treatment.

We will continue efforts to contact you regarding all steps taken to treat your camper. Beyond this circumstance, our nurses will use their professional judgment in communicating with parents. Our safety record is excellent, and we have had very few injuries requiring this kind of care.

**HEALTH & ACCIDENT INSURANCE:** A supplemental accident insurance policy is included in the cost of tuition, but does not take the place of your major medical coverage. We still need your complete health insurance information on the Health Form.

## **SPECIAL NOTES ABOUT COMMON HEALTH CONCERNS**

**ALLERGIES:** We are aware of an increasing number of serious allergies that children face today, and are particularly familiar with nut and dairy allergies. We have successfully handled severely allergic campers in the past, and are happy to work out a plan with you to minimize the risks for your camper. Please note, however, that this is a community experience and there are some limitations on what we can do to minimize exposure. Please feel free to contact us and we will be honest with you about our ability to accommodate your needs.

**POISON OAK:** There is Poison Oak in these beautiful Santa Cruz Mountains. We make an effort to keep the main hiking trails clear of Poison Oak, and we also make sure that campers shower and change their clothing after hiking in the woods. With proper precautions and immediate attention, we have had very little trouble. Please do inform us if your camper is unusually susceptible, and please be sure to send the long-sleeved, lightweight, light-colored cotton t-shirt listed on the packing list, which is especially important for Outpost Day.

**LICE:** All campers are checked for lice by our staff on arrival. It's no big deal, we have done it for years and nobody should feel uncomfortable. If we do find evidence of lice on a camper, you will be asked to do 2 things before you can enter camp and get settled. 1) Contact a local lice removal company (Nitless Noggins) and arrange to have your camper treated immediately and 2) Take everything your camper had packed for camp and run it through 20 minutes of high heat in a commercial drying machine. This is the absolute quickest way to get your camper back to camp and in his/her cabin. You can choose to go home and treat your camper yourself but in that scenario it is likely to take longer (at least until the next day) before our nurses could recheck and approve your entry to camp.

Regrettably, head lice have become a widespread problem at schools, day care centers, public facilities, and camps around the country. We take every precaution at Kennolyn, especially where helmets are in use, to minimize the risk of exposure, but it does happen. It has NOTHING to do with general cleanliness or living conditions. It has everything to do with sharing helmets, hats, brushes, pillows, etc. Sharing is an important part of the camp experience, so we educate campers about what to share (time together, laughter, experiences, chores, etc.) and what not to share (hats, brushes, pillows, etc.). Activity equipment like masks and helmets must be shared, so we are careful to spray and clean these important safety items as often as is practical. Since there are no lice here when the first children arrive each summer, lice can only be carried in by unsuspecting campers. The best way to prevent lice at camp, therefore, is to ask you to check every camper before heading to Kennolyn, and to stay home if you see evidence of lice. We also check campers for lice during their stays with us, and if we do find a case, we will work diligently to prevent it from spreading. Our nurses will make the decision, in consultation with a camper's parents, as to whether treatment will take place here or at home. We recommend the Centers for Disease Control as a source for further information. <http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/lice/head/>

**WEST NILE VIRUS:** West Nile has been detected in dead birds in Santa Cruz County. We monitor county, state, and federal resources on West Nile and follow strict guidelines to "fight the bite". We educate our staff and

campers to reduce exposure to mosquito bites, and our Nurses monitor our campers' health throughout the session. \*

**LYME DISEASE:** Lyme disease is carried by Western Black Legged Ticks, which have been found in Santa Cruz County. Again, our first approach is prevention. You will notice, for example, that the recommended long sleeved outpost shirt on our packing list is Ash Grey instead of Kennolyn Green. This is so we can see any dark ticks (and other insects) against the light grey of the shirt. We do our best to make sure campers wear long pants and long sleeves when we are out on the trails and around the trees. We also stay on the trails to avoid unnecessary exposure to long grasses known to harbor ticks. Counselors are trained and campers advised to look for ticks on the body, and the nurses are immediately notified if a tick is found. \*

\*Please pack Bug Repellent with a DEET content of 10-30% in line with recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control.

**MEASLES (and other communicable diseases):** This has been in the news and on every parent's mind recently, so it's worth stating our policy here. If there is an outbreak of a communicable disease for which there is a widely accepted vaccine, your child will need to leave camp IF WE CANNOT VERIFY THAT THEY HAVE THE REQUIRED IMMUNIZATION. In other words, if you do not or cannot have your child vaccinated or if you have not sent us your child's immunization records, we will call you if we have any outbreak and you will need to pick up your camper immediately from camp. These are basic public health and safety procedures. Make sure you take time to enter your camper's immunization history in the Health History located in your Kennolyn Account.

So that's it. All the information we think you'll need to get ready for Kennolyn. You can always call us, email, or check out our website if there is a question where you can't find the answer.

**Here's the most important message:**

**We are here to help you and to make your child's camp experience as positive as possible. Everything we do is geared toward this goal. So please, don't hesitate, let us know what we can do to help. See you soon!**



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