

# Kennolyn Camps

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## FIRST TIME FAMILY

OVERNIGHT CAMP, SANTA CRUZ MOUNTAINS

## GUIDEBOOK



# OUR STORY

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 75 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 450 privately owned acres, and each summer makes a difference in over 2,000 children's lives.

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## Our Mission

Overnight camp provides a much-needed respite for children this summer in a hectic world. Spending the days outside with positive, caring, adult role models and other excited kids will provide the opportunity for our campers to enjoy the summer and feel like kids again!

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## Program Goals

- 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

# FAQS



## What are the cabins like?

Our cabins are simple, yet modern. Each cabin houses 2 staff and 6-8 campers. Some cabins have bathrooms and some cabins use a communal bathroom near by. All cabins have proper windows and electricity!

## What is Outpost?

Every camper, every session, every week goes on an overnight trip in the Kennolyn redwoods. Outpost is a highlight for most campers. Click [here](#) to learn more.

## Can you accomodate special diets?

With advance notice, our chef is happy to accommodate vegetarian and gluten free/low gluten diets. Please contact us to discuss your family's food needs.

## Can you accommodate friend requests?

We can usually accomodate as long as campers are in the same grade. Each family must have each camper in their 'group request form'. This form is editable up until May 1. We prefer to place only two friends together but will accommodate a maximum of three (so as not to leave anyone out.)

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.

## Store & Packing

We make sure all campers have money in their store account during registration (\$125 for 2-week sessions which includes the Boardwalk ticket and \$30 for 1-week sessions). You can request the balance on Closing Day. We do not sell candy or snacks, however we do stock small items like postcards, stamps, toothpaste, playing cards etc.

Click here for [what to pack](#) (& how to order required camp t-shirts/sweatshirts in the Spring). Make sure campers back WITH you. They'll feel more comfortable when they can find things.

## Do you have airport pick up/drop off?

Yes, for flights at the San Jose Int'l Airport (only if the flight info is in your transportation form at least 2 weeks prior to the start of your session). [Click here](#) for more details.

# A TYPICAL DAY AT CAMP

While no day at Kennolyn is 'normal', we can tell you what a Typical Day is like! Campers take comfort in knowing that each day starts and ends the same each day.

7:15am Wake Up Bell

8:00am Breakfast

8:45am Flag Raising

9:00am -12:50pm Morning Activities

1:00pm Lunch

1:45pm Rest Hour

2:30pm – 4:50pm Afternoon Activities

5:00pm Mail Call and Family Hour

6:00pm Retreat

6:15pm Dinner

7:15pm Evening Activity

8:30pm Call to Quarters

8:45pm Tattoo

9:00pm Taps

If you'd like to read a more in-depth version of this schedule you can do so [here](#).

## CAMPER COMMUNICATION

**MAIL:** We recommend sending some sort of correspondence to your camper at least twice weekly, but please know that sometimes too much mail can be as hard as no mail at all! You can address it:

Camper Name, Cabin Name, 8400 Glen Haven Rd, Soquel, CA 95073

No packages are allowed, but we do accept flat envelopes up to 9x12 and up to 1/2 inch thick, containing letters, a book, or a magazine.

We have campers with severe allergies so absolutely no food products of any kind are permitted.

**EMAIL:** You can send one way emails to your camper via your Kennolyn Account. (There is an option to add a handwritten reply form which takes a Camp Stamp to view - IF they fill it out, many times they are too busy)!

You can set up family with 'guest accounts' if they want to email also.

**PHOTOS:** We will post photos on the Kennolyn App daily (download from the Apple or Google Play store).

Campers won't have access to cell phones. For more details, [click here](#).

# OUR ACTIVITIES

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## Our Philosophy

One of the biggest parts of camp is building independence. Our activity process allows campers to have autonomy over their schedule. This gives them the power to make choices on their own and learn from that experience. Don't be surprised if your camper comes home with a completely different set of activities than the ones you chose at home. Of course we wouldn't pull campers from a paid specialty without talking to you first.

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## Activity Selection Process



### ONLINE SELECTION FORM

This form will open in April. You will be able to preference activities that your camper would like to have in their activity schedule. Make sure to prioritize ropes or equestrian activities if they are interested.



### FIRST DAY OF CAMP

Campers will receive a 'first-draft' of their activity schedule. This will include the activities you selected online and any paid specialties.



### ACTIVITY FAIR

Campers are able to fill out the rest of their schedule, drop and add anything else they may want and schedule activities with new friends or counselors.



### 1ST ACTIVITY DAY

Campers will attend the activities on the first day that they chose during the activity fair. At the end of that activity day (and before 5pm) campers can go to the Program Office to change these activities. After that they stick with their chosen schedule for their session.

# OUR ACTIVITIES

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## Options

We have over 30 activities to choose from so there is something for everyone!

ANIMAL CARE  
ARCHERY  
AXE THROWING  
BADMINTON  
BASKETBALL  
BATTING CAGES  
BMX BIKING  
BOARD DIVING  
CERAMICS  
CHESS  
CLIMBING  
CRAFTS  
DANCE  
DRAMA  
EQUESTRIAN

FENCING  
FOREST EXPLORERS  
FUN SCIENCE  
GAMES  
GARDENING  
GLEE  
GOLF  
GUITAR  
HOCKEY  
HORSE CARE  
INDOOR COOKING  
LEGO BUILDERS  
MAKER SPACE  
OUTDOOR ADVENTURE  
OUTDOOR COOKING

PING PONG  
PICKLEBALL  
RIFLERY  
ROPES COURSES  
RUGBY  
SELF DEFENSE  
SEWING  
SILK PAINTING  
SOCCER  
STAINED GLASS(2WKS)  
SWIMMING  
TENNIS  
HORSEBACK VAULTING  
VOLLEYBALL  
YOGA

## JUNIOR CAMPERS

Campers in grades 1-3 start their day with Forest Explorers and age appropriate pool time. This helps them with the transition times and helps them get the day started in the right way.



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## SENIOR CAMPERS

In our 2-week sessions only, we offer special activities for kids in grades 8-10. These include: Sr. Volleyball, Sr. Pool Hangout, Sr. Climbing, Sr. Wheel Pottery, Hilltop Ropes, Sr. Free Time.

# HOW WE HANDLE HOMESICKNESS



## OUR PHILOSOPHY

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! It is natural to experience some discomfort when going to a new place. Part of life sometimes is being uncomfortable and figuring it out as you go. We work to support campers and families to work through those feelings because the reward is huge and the feeling of accomplishment is life-changing.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP YOUR CAMPER

- Make sure they have sleepovers without family so they know they can get through the night without you.
- Make a plan if they have these feelings (write home, use a fidget, talk to a friend or counselor, look at photos you've packed). Remind them that they won't have a phone at camp.
- Don't mention the option of coming home early. If they know they're staying for the whole session, they'll develop their own coping mechanisms and feel so accomplished and proud! We will never keep you from getting your camper, but we strongly urge you never to mention this.
- Write campers encouraging messages while they are at camp that focus on their experience, not how much you miss them.
- Click to see this one page [very helpful pdf](#) for first time parents!

## OUR PROCESS

It can be pretty normal for campers to be homesick in the first couple of nights at camp. We will not automatically contact you if this happens. Our cabin counselors are their first point of support. If a counselor needs extra support, they will have campers speak with one of our leadership staff. The most important tool is helping campers dive in to the parts of camp they are enjoying.

If a camper is struggling, we encourage them to reach out to you by a written note that we email. Most of our campers move on from homesickness after the first few days. If they do not, we will contact you to make a support plan.

[Click here](#) for a more detailed pdf if you are concerned about homesickness.

# WHAT HAPPENS NEXT



## ONLINE FORMS

There are some online forms already available to you online. Get familiar with our online system so you are ready to use it when forms are due. You can find your billing info and other key forms as well. Login anytime [here.](#)



## PEN PALS

In the winter your camper will receive a blank Pen Pal letter that they can send back to us, and we will send it to a camper in the same session with a similar age. Then your camper will get a return letter!



## HEALTH INFO

In the spring, you will be required to update your campers' Health History. You will also need to get a Physician's Exam form completed by a doctor's office. A pdf can be downloaded from your online account.



## ACTIVITY SELECTION

The activity selection form will open in April. This is when campers will select their top activity preferences. We will email you when the form is available.



# HEALTH & SAFETY

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## Medical Info

We have a modern health center staffed with two medical professionals, 24 hours a day. A local doctor is on-call all summer, and Dominican Hospital is just six miles away.

In the new year, we will have IMPORTANT information on how to document and bring medication. Please look for updated information.

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## Staffing

A majority of our staff are graduates of the 3-year Kennolyn Training Program. Other staff come from the US and we even hire internationally. In 2022 we hosted staff from 14 different countries. We are very proud of the high hiring standards at Kennolyn. All staff are interviewed by one of our directors and are required to provide multiple references. We background check all of our international and domestic staff.

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## Standards

ACA is the [American Camp Association](#), and it offers the only nationally recognized accreditation program for camps. About 25% of the camps in the USA decide to pursue this standard. Kennolyn is proud to be an ACA accredited camp. [WAIC](#) is the Western Association of Independent Camps, a professional network of the very best camps in the western states.



# YEAR-ROUND CAMPS TEAM



Back row, L to R:

Daniel Barnett, Associate Director, Santa Cruz Mountains

Mike Higginbotham - Director, Huntington Lake

Pam Caldwell Nootbaar - President

Carolyn Caldwell Folmar - Associate Director

Lindsey Caldwell Johnson - Director, Communication & Parent Relations

Dan Johnson - Director, Day Camp

Front row, L to R

Brenda Townsend - Family Camp Co-Director

Andrew Townsend - General Manager

Miles Bundy - Operations Coordinator

Samantha Townsend Bundy - Director, Overnight Camp, Santa Cruz Mountains

Judy Fede - Office

[www.kennolyncamps.com/contact](http://www.kennolyncamps.com/contact)

# WHAT OUR CAMP COMMUNITY IS LIKE

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 work to ensure that everyone regardless of age, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, nationality, religion, physical ability, or socioeconomic status has the opportunity to reach their fullest potential.

By practicing intentional kindness, our camp culture seeks to appreciate the value that each camper and staff member brings to Kennolyn. Campers and staff can look forward to interacting and living within this diverse and supportive environment.

Any questions? Call us at 831-479-6714 or email at [camps@kennolyn.com](mailto:camps@kennolyn.com)

8400 Glen Haven Road, Soquel, CA 95073

