

Kennolyn's Day Camp

2024 Info Packet

To Do List

Complete Required Health form in your Kennolyn Account – [login here](#)

Visit “Enrolled Families” on [our website](#) for links to camp apparel and more. T-shirts are included and will be passed out Tuesday each session.

Download the Kennolyn App – we post photos Monday, Wednesday, and Friday and use the app for mass communication in case of emergency. The app is available to the public to download ([iOS](#) or [GooglePlay](#)), but we must first grant access for it to be usable. We do this the week before your session and will send out an email with instructions at that time. If you want to get ahead, you can download the app now and then be able to login at that time.



Follow us on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#)

Riding? Review [tentative bus schedule](#). The schedule will change slightly (+/- 15 minutes) each session and be announced a week in advance in an email with other reminders.

Driving? Plan a carpool - drop off 9-9:15am, pick up 4pm Mon-Thu, 3pm Fri (end early).

Address – Hilltop Hacienda – 8205 Hacienda Lane, Soquel, CA 95073

Contacts

Day Camp Office	daycamp@kennolyn.com	831-479-6714 ext 450
Day Camp Bus Text line		831-308-8344
Main Camp Office	camps@kennolyn.com	Ext 440
Dan Johnson, Day Camp Director	dan@kennolyn.com	Ext 447
Day Camp Nurse		Ext 449
Andrew Townsend, General Manager	andrew@kennolyn.com	Ext 444

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WELCOME TO KENNOLYN!

Our History

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. Max and Marion's granddaughters, Pam Caldwell Nootbaar (Company President), and Lindsey Caldwell Johnson (Camper Experience Coordinator) work year-round at Kennolyn. Their daughter Carolyn, son Ken, and grandson Steve are on the Family Board. The Caldwell Family also relies greatly upon General Manager, Andrew Townsend, who has been with Kennolyn for thirty-five summers. After growing up at Kennolyn, his daughter Samantha is now our Overnight Camp Director. [Click here](#) to read more about our experienced leadership team.

Day Camp Director

Dan Johnson is the Day Camp Director. He first came to Kennolyn in 1993, married Lindsey in 1998, and raised his family at camp. [Click here](#) for a message from Dan.

Our Staff

Each summer, we hire 50 staff members from the local area and all over the world. We carefully select all staff to ensure they are positive role models and carry out our vision of creating a healthy emotional and physical space for your children. The cultural exchange is a special bonus providing an opportunity for connection for those a little different than ourselves. All of our staff members undergo personal interviews, extensive reference checks, background checks, and fingerprinting before starting work.

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 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.

Deep and meaningful relationships are built at camp and this can lead to questions about home life, identity, school, and interests outside of camp. Our counselors curate conversations with the intent that no one topic or issue dominates the sharing that takes place. If your camper has not been a part of discussions on diversity and inclusion at school or at home, they may pick up on words or themes that are new to them. We encourage families to have a conversation before camp about how important it is to be welcoming to everyone.

Program Goals

Kennolyn Camp is dedicated to making a difference in campers' lives. We help campers:

- Learn about themselves
- Learn to love (or at least tolerate) nature and being outdoors
- Learn how to make the most of their free time without using technology
- Enjoy Kennolyn as 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.
- Learn how to make new friends and get along with others
- Be independent

Family Groups

Campers are placed in co-ed groups, according to their rising school grade. Each group has 2 counselors and 1 CIT/LIT. Additional counselors lead specialized activities like high ropes, pool time, and crafts. The CITs (Counselors in Training)/LITs (Leaders in Training) are rising 11th graders in the second year of our Leadership Training Program.

Grade	Group Name	Staff to camper ratio	Group size	Highlights
3 to 7	Equestrian Specialty	1 to 6	12	Campers spend the session together as one group where two days per week are at the barn and three days a week with typical camp activities.
K to 1	Country Bagels	1 to 6	12	This group stays together at all times and enjoys trips to the pond, animal care, and lots of other camp fun.
2	Burly Big Feet	1 to 8	16	Campers enjoy Friday "Free Choice" and lunch "Free Play" to choose their own activities independent of the group.
3 to 4	Lemon Heads	1 to 8	16	The "candy groups" go full speed as they try out BMX and fencing among other new activities for this age group.
5 to 7	Superstars	1 to 10	20	Campers build self-reliance and responsibility. They navigate social dynamics and have increased decision-making and creative opportunities.
8 to 9	Senior Campers	1 to 10	20	Take adventure to new heights by learning outdoor survival skills and how to belay on the Senior Ropes course.
10	LIT 1s	1 to 6	12	Developing leadership skills while still having time to participate as a camper in some activities.
11	CITs / LIT 2s	1 to 6	12	Counselor apprentices who help camper groups and begin to lead limited activities with counselor supervision.

Group Requests

Camp is a place to make new friends and many campers come without knowing anyone. To be placed in a group with a friend, both friends must request each other. Requests are submitted on the [Group Request Form](#) online. If the request cannot be fulfilled, we will reach out to you ahead of time to avoid any surprises on opening day. We announce groups a few days to one week in advance to also avoid any surprises when campers arrive to start their session.

Daily Schedule

Start	End	Monday - Thursday
9:00	9:15	Buses Arrive / Family Drop Off
9:25	9:45	Opening Circle
9:50	10:35	Period 1
10:40	11:25	Period 2
11:30	12:15	Period 3
12:25	12:50	Lunch / Early Pick Up
12:50	1:40	Free Play
1:50	2:35	Period 4
2:40	3:25	Period 5
3:35	4:00	Closing Circle
4:00		Buses Depart / Family Pick Up

Start	End	Friday
9:00	9:15	Buses Arrive / Family Drop Off
9:25	9:45	Opening Circle
9:50	10:20	Free Choice 1
10:20	10:50	Free Choice 2
10:50	11:20	Free Choice 3
11:30	11:55	Lunch / Early Pick Up
11:55	12:45	Free Play
12:50	2:20	Event
2:30	3:00	Closing Circle
3:00		Buses Depart / Family Pick Up

***** 3PM PICK UP ON FRIDAYS *****

Weekly Schedule

Monday Founders Day

We start the day in the redwood grove amphitheater to learn about our Founders Uncle Max and Aunt Marion and their unique story from 1946. New campers receive the coveted Kennolyn Green bracelet and all campers receive a bracelet specially made each summer (campers love to collect them all). After our opening ceremonies, groups play lots of get-to-know-you games and other fun ice-breakers. We return to the grove at the end of the day for Closing Ceremonies where returning campers with 5 or more summers receive special loyalty gifts. It's a rich community building experience recognizing how together we ALL make camp a special place.

Tuesday Picture Day

Campers receive camp T-shirts (included in tuition) and smile for a group photo (contact us or [login to your account](#) to purchase your camper's group photo). If your camper is a returner and you do not want or need another camp shirt, have them wear one from a previous summer. If your camper comes home with a shirt that does not fit well, please let us know. And remember to mark their names in their shirts.

Wacky Wednesday

Everyone is encouraged to be a little wacky on Wednesday by wearing silly socks, matching outfits with a friend, or completely mismatching (stripes and plaid? Plaid on plaid? Yes please!). During lunch Free Play campers may choose to participate in a series of weird and wonderful contests. Who knows you could break a Wacky World record?! It's challenging and fun and a great way to break things up mid-week!

Friday Funday

Each Friday we have a change of pace to make things EXTRA FUN. Throughout the week we feature skits, songs, sudden performances and activities to build excitement around that week's theme. In the morning, campers grades 2+ enjoy "Free Choice" to choose from a list of available activities. Something fun is planned for our K-1 group so we ensure they have the supervision they need. In the afternoon, we kick off our theme event with all sort of fun and unexpected games to wrap up an amazing week.

Plan out your costumes for each sessions' themes!

Session 1 (June 10-14) – Harry Potter

Session 2 (June 17-21) – Decades

Session 3 (June 24-July 5) – Heroes 1st Fri + Holidays 2nd Fri

Session 4 (July 8-12) – Fairy Tales

Session 5 (July 15-19) – Color Carnival

Session 6 (July 22-Aug 2) – Olympics 1st Fri + Talent Show 2nd Fri

Session 7 (Aug 5-9) – Under the Sea

Two Week Sessions

Once campers get settled in their groups in their first week, campers grades 2+ have 1st period "Free Choice" every day during the second week. Campers love having this extra freedom to follow their interests or hang out with a chosen friend or two.

Campers stay with the same group and counselors for the session which allows them to build real relationships and feel a true sense of belonging. Two-week sessions are not just twice the amount of time, they're a fun and growth multiplier!

Four Week Campers - Pizza Lunch + Ice Cream Social

We want Kennolyn to be your child's second home. We want them to have that feeling of being truly known so they can be the best version of themselves in this special place. The more time at camp, the more this happens. Relationships truly grow between campers and with our young adult role models. To help us get to know your camper, those who attend 4 or more weeks of either our Day or Overnight Camps, enjoy a pizza lunch and ice cream social with the Director and other campers each session. It's a fun way for this special group to connect.

What to Bring each Day

Wear athletic closed toe shoes and comfortable play clothes. We recommend layering clothes with sweatshirts to start the day and t-shirts and hats to finish the day. Each camper needs a backpack at camp each day with:

Lunch and snacks
Water bottle

Sunscreen
Hat

Swimsuit (one piece please)
UV shirts highly recommended for all
Towel

No Cell Phones Policy

Please leave camper cell phones at home. They are not allowed at camp nor on the bus and if seen will be taken until the end of the day. If your child needs something for longer rides we encourage paperback books. Tablets like the Kindle are ok so long as they do not have cellular capability. Camp (including the bus) represents a short time to help young people develop communication skills and be an active part of a rich community. We encourage families to visit our [Family Resources page](#) and [consider the data](#) on how smart phones do not contribute to the life skills we seek to grow. Discuss the idea of camp being tech-free with your camper. While it's common for campers to complain about leaving their phone at home, it's also common for campers to report a sense of relief from unplugging each day. Besides, we're going to be busy. We understand the need to communicate with campers around transportation issues. We're here to take your calls and texts and will communicate if any issues arise. We do make exceptions to the "no cell phone" policy for medical or other family reasons. Thanks in advance for your support.

Lost & Found

Camp is a fun outdoor adventure where campers get dirty, and things get lost. Please **mark all clothes and belongings** with your camper's full name. Please do not send things that are valuable or sentimental. We post lost and found on the Camp App each Friday and can send items back on the bus for you to pick up.

Lunch, Snacks, & Free Play

Kennolyn does not provide lunch or snacks. All campers must bring lunch and snacks from home. Our nurse, leadership, and group counselors review allergy information each session so they are aware of camper food allergies, epi pens, etc. We are not a nut-free camp. If your camper has a life threatening allergy that can be triggered by airborne allergens, please contact our office to discuss. Our standard practice due to allergies and dietary restrictions is for campers not to share food. If needed, we may ask campers in a particular group and/or all groups to not pack certain foods for that session. We do not have refrigeration, nor can campers heat up their food. Please pack lunches appropriately. It's also a good idea to pack two simple snacks as well: one for the morning and the other right before the bus ride home. Campers spend 25 minutes at their group lunch spot eating and hanging out. Then grade groups 2+ have "Free Play" where they choose from several supervised areas with lots of games – ball sports, Playstation, and the Grove. Grades K-1 remain together with their counselors in the Playground which also has an area with quiet games like blocks and Lego. Once Lunch and Free Play is over, groups reunite, counselors take roll, and head off to the next group activity.

Birthdays

Having a birthday at camp is extra fun. We offer up the traditional birthday song serenade and pass out a frozen treat to the birthday group at lunch. After years of trying different treats, we have settled on 100% fruit juice, colorless Otter Pops. Visit this [link](#) for ingredients. We cannot provide alternative treats but can ensure your camper does not receive a treat if we are notified.

Bus Information

Riding the bus is an awesome part of camp and an incredible growth opportunity for kids. Waving goodbye in the morning and returning safely in the late afternoon builds independence. That is a key character trait we seek to develop and the bus has been an incredible tool for that. The bus is also lots of fun. It's a part of each camper's identity at camp and a source of pride as campers create daily cheers to see who is released first. Riding the bus and arriving together helps get the morning jitters out and starts campers off with a big boost of energy.

To help set the tone for a fun bus ride, we ask for campers to leave cell phones at home. We recognize that families are used to being in touch with their campers and ask you to frame the trip as a part of the experience and growth opportunity.

Schedule & Changes: the times on the website are tentative and will be confirmed at least one week before each session via email. Please review our [website](#) for approximate times. If you do not plan to ride the bus on a particular day, please notify the office in advance. We cannot alter your drop-off or pick-up location during the session.

To avoid a stressful first morning on the first day, please drive to your bus stop so you know exactly where it is and how long it takes to get there!

COVID update: we recommend but do not require masking when riding the bus. While we appreciate you following our recommendation, everyone's choice will be supported and accepted. Some windows will be opened for ventilation. Please make sure your child is dressed warmly for the bus trip. As usual, high touch surfaces are cleaned regularly.

About the buses:

- We hire Michael's Transportation and their professional drivers. Seatbelts are worn.
- We give the buses color names and attach colored bracelets to camper bags to help campers know where to go. So even though your campers might be on the Red, Blue, or Green bus, the bus itself is actually yellow with a Kennolyn Camps magnet on the side.
- Two or more staff members wearing a Kennolyn shirt check campers in and make the ride to camp fun. At the end of the day, the same counselor will check your camper out to you when they arrive at the bus stop.

Bus Procedures

Communication

- If the bus is running very late or we have any changes to the route, we will text you.
- If you are running late, text us and we will contact the bus driver or onboard counselors. The counselors are often busy managing campers and taking a phone call can be one thing too many.

Morning Drop Off

- Camper cell phones should be left at home. Tablets for reading without cell service are ok.
- Stay with your camper until they board the bus. Stay at the stop until the bus departs
- Staff will be at some stops in advance to allow families to check in. They are identifiable by their camp shirt.
- Once the bus has stopped and the counselor has disembarked, walk with camper to check in with the counselor. DO NOT allow camper to run toward the bus. Please line up in an orderly manner.
- Counselors will hand out “pick up slip” which may be used by any family member or friend without showing their ID to pick up camper in afternoon.
- Anyone without a “pick up slip” is required to show ID.
- If someone other than the adults listed on the application will be picking your camper up, please [access your online account](#) and complete the Authorized Adult form or contact the office.
- We wait 5 minutes before heading to the next stop. We do not call or text if your camper is not there.
- Every Camper must wear a bus seat belt.
- Passengers in wheel chairs who cannot transfer to a bus seat must be seat-belted into wheelchairs that are in locked positions and secured.

Bus Safety Orientation – read to campers after last morning stop on Opening Day

1. Be kind to all campers and staff.
2. Masks are recommended for campers and staff but not required.
3. Sit facing forward with the seat belt fastened properly.
4. Remain seated until the bus is completely stopped. Do not change seats unless instructed to do so by the bus driver or the bus counselor.
5. Do not throw anything or put anything out of the bus windows.
6. No eating on the bus – please eat at home or at Closing Circle
7. Keep aisles clear –bags and backpacks are tripping hazards and can block the way in an emergency.
8. Keep your hands to yourself.
9. Use an inside voice when talking to friends on the bus. No yelling or screaming.
10. Use the handrail when entering or exiting the bus.
11. Review emergency & safety procedures:
 - a. Where, when and how to use emergency exits on the bus.
 - b. Where the emergency equipment is and how to use it.
 - c. What to do in case of an emergency or evacuation.

Afternoon Pick Up

- Only cross the street at a traffic signal or under the protection of the red signal lights from the bus.
- Only cross in front of the bus after the driver has signaled that it is safe to do so.
- Campers are never left alone on the bus or at a stop
- If camper is not picked up, the family will receive a call or text and camper stays on bus.
- If camper is picked up late at the last stop a \$20 fee will be charged.
- If camper is not picked up at the last stop, they will be driven back to camp. A \$200 fee applies.

- Unloading – this process is slow but the best way we’ve found to keep track of your precious kids
 - Campers stand in line while on the bus.
 - Counselor stands at door, calls out camper name, and checks out each camper
 - Family gathers outside and step to the door when their camper is next. Family shows “pick up slip” (given first day) or ID to check out child.

Driving Campers - Drop Off & Pick Up

There is a drop off window in the morning to help prevent waiting from 9:00-9:15am drop off Mon-Fri. Afternoon pick up is at 4pm Mon-Thu and 3pm on Fri.

Camp is located at **8205 Hacienda Ln, Soquel**. It is approximately 15 minutes from Highway 1 to camp. The speed limit on Glen Haven Road is 25mph. Please respect our neighbors and the wildlife and do not speed. Note: cell service isn’t available all the way up the hill.

The gate opens shortly before arrival times. Staff help direct traffic. Cars pull into the unloading area in a single file line and then loop back around. Please stay in line, unless directed by a staff member. Campers should have backpacks with them (rather than in the trunk) to keep the line moving. Our staff then indicate the correct place for campers to unload. In this way, we can keep the line moving without parking.

Sometimes campers may have a day when they are unwilling to leave the car. If this happens, you may be directed to a parking spot on the hill above the parking lot. We do this because parking spaces are limited and the buses need space to turn around. From this point, you can walk your child to the gate.

For those driving their campers, on the first morning of each session, each family will receive two Placards with the name of your child. Please place the placard in your window to help with afternoon pick up. Camp Staff will radio the appropriate counselors and the camper will be sent to the pick-up area. Anyone with that Placard may pick up your camper. If someone who is not on the authorized pick-up list is sent to pick-up, please notify us in advance and make sure the person picking up has appropriate ID. To help limit exposure parents may not leave the car while on camp property.

Late Drop Off & Early Pick Up

On a large property where groups travel far and wide, it is difficult to accommodate late drop off or early pick-up from camp. So we ask you do this at lunch time (**12:25-12:50 Monday-Thursday and 11:30-11:55 on Fridays**). Please inform us of your intention as soon as you are aware of the change. During the day, the gate is closed. Simply follow the directions on the gate call box. This will alert us that you are here so we can retrieve your camper and walk them to the pick up area.

Camper Behavior Guidelines

Moment by moment, we try to “catch campers doing good”. Then we try to give specific praise to reinforce positive behaviors. This all starts with the “word of the day” like responsibility and gratitude each morning to frame good things we can all look for in each other. To help set campers up for success, groups play get to know you games and create group agreements to set positive expectations during the first period of opening day. If frustrations or misbehaviors arise, we take a “we can work this out” approach. Counselors are trained with a variety of techniques and may eventually resort to following the steps of giving warnings, time outs, conversations with the Camp Mom, and a visit and call home from the Director. We recognize that misbehavior can be a reaction to something else so we encourage you to communicate with us if you hear something at home that does not sound right. We want to be part of the “village” that kids need to grow. While our goal is for Kennolyn to be a fit for all campers, we also reserve the right to suspend or dismiss campers who disregard our efforts or refuse to follow our guidelines. Here are some of our promises as we seek to create a positive and memorable experience for all campers:

- We treat everyone with kindness and respect.
- We follow the directions of counselors and staff.
- We are honest in all situations, especially when we make a mistake.
- We follow all safety and cleanliness protocols.
- We do not use bad language.
- If disputes arise, we talk it out, walk away or ask for help from a counselor. Using physical means to solve a problem is never OK.
- We are not violent in words, actions, or attitude towards others. Threats of harm to yourself or others will be dealt with seriously.
- We show respect by saying please, thank you and you’re welcome.

Appearance Guidelines – Keepin’ it K-Rated

What is K-Rated? It is easy to understand once you’re here! We embrace campers from 1st through 11th grades, from all different backgrounds. To ensure everyone is at ease, we have developed a set of community standards to help guide the behavior and appearance of campers and staff. 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 these Appearance Guidelines so clothing is not a focus. 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.

‘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 see-through 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 violent in nature
- Clothing should not be unsafe. Clothing must not include chains, spikes, safety pins, etc. or anything that can be a snagging risk.
- 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 nose studs (stud, NOT hoop, for safety reasons) and for ears (2 earrings per ear, no dangling jewelry - too dangerous!).
- Long hair must be kept tied back for safety/hygiene reasons.
- Hats and visors are encouraged, but should not be worn in the Caldwell Lodge
- Proper footwear required at all times with socks - sneakers or athletic shoes for most activities (except riding, for which boots and helmets are supplied). Many campers like to wear crocs. These are acceptable as long as a foot strap is worn. Crocs cannot be worn while on our ropes course or climbing wall.
- Sandals or flip flops to and from the pool only. Our terrain is hilly, stubbed toes and falls are avoidable hazards!
- Leave expensive or formal clothes at home. We get dirty!
- Athletic style one piece bathing suits or swim shorts are required. UV swim shirts are optional but highly recommended. No bikinis, tankinis, speedos or cut out swimsuits.

Camp Activities

Day Camp offers a wide range of exciting, well-organized outdoor activities designed to take advantage of our beautiful 240-acre private forest property. Activity planning focuses on camper safety, skill development, group cooperation, and fun! Groups have an opportunity to participate in each activity based off of grade eligibility, a rotating Mon-Wed and Tues-Thurs schedule. The matrix below shows activities scheduled per group from Monday to Thursday. During “Friday Free Choice”, groups choose from eligible activities at their grade level or below. This way if there is something an older camper is interested in and didn’t have it a part of their schedule, they can do that on Friday. For example, an 8th grader may choose Climbing while a 2nd grader may not. Using this system, there is something new to look forward to every summer.

Scheduled Activities (if below grade then can do on Friday)

	<u>K & 1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3 & 4</u>	<u>5 to 7</u>	<u>8 & 9</u>	<u>10</u>
Crafts	x	x	x	x	x	
Court & Field Sports	x	x	x	x	x	x
Pool	x	x	x	x	x	x
Water World	x	x	x	x	x	
Fort Building	x	x	x	x	x	
Archery	x	x	x	x	x	x
Riflery			x	x	x	x
Horse Vaulting	x	x				
Animal Care	x	x				

Playground	x	x				
Playstation	x	x	x	x	x	x
Low Ropes		x				
Climbing			x			
High Ropes				x		
Senior High Ropes					x	x
Fencing			x	x		
BMX			x	x		
Survival					x	
Leadership						x

Animal Care

A small group of animals (goats, chickens etc.) live at camp during the summer. Campers will visit them during this activity and learn how to interact with the animals in a respectful and caring way. Feeding, clean-up, grooming and general knowledge of each animal will be taught.

Archery and Riflery

Safety and knowledge are of the utmost importance in this program. Counselors are trained to safely lead both archery and riflery. Our program starts with safety and moves through various stages of marksmanship. Campers of all ages learn to fine-tune their motor skills and increase their powers of concentration in these activities. Riflery can be controversial with our staff and families. While we are alarmed by gun violence in our country, we believe in teaching campers' proper safety and etiquette. It also reinforces the concept of sports and marksmanship-think Olympic biathlon. Additionally, it is an excellent way to practice breathing and concentration. Most campers lack impulse control, and these sports provide a fun way to build those skills!

BMX

Campers start with learning BMX basics on our dirt pump track. As they grow in their confidence, campers take on the jumps.

Crafts

A variety of arts and crafts projects are offered each session for campers to get creative and take home wonderful keepsakes of their camp experience. Friendship bracelets and lanyards are a camp favorite and always available.

Court Sports

Counselors organize court sports ranging from basketball, soccer, hockey, Ga-Ga (a camp dodge ball game), 9-square and Kennolyn's own happy shiny fun ball!

Low Ropes, Climbing, High Ropes, and Senior High Ropes

One of the highlights of camp are the four different challenge courses that give campers something new to look forward to each year - Low Ropes (grades K+), Climbing (3+), High Ropes (5+) and Senior High Ropes (8+). These activities are led by trained specialists where campers learn team work, trust, and "challenge by choice". Campers choose how much to

push their comfort zones and are applauded no matter how far they go. They set their goals and we help them reach them.

The progression begins with Low ropes with a focus on team building on elements low to the ground. Campers learn to “spot” each other and take turns as they balance their way across wires. Those spotting skills transfer well to climbing both at Kennolyn and on real rock. Next up, our Climbing wall has four routes and is similar to an indoor climbing gym. Our trained staff belay while other campers are a part of the “belay chain” as they start to learn the many steps of safe climbing. High Ropes is run on a continuous belay system where campers are tethered to wires up in the trees. The week ends with the Giant Swing – for thrill seekers only. Finally, Senior Ropes provides campers even greater mental and physical challenges. Campers also learn to belay each other under the guidance of our staff.

Fencing (grades 3+)

This exciting activity will be led by specialists. Group counselors are involved in supporting the specialists and helping campers as needed during the activity.

Fort Building at Adventure Town, Candy Land, and Wishing Tree

Each age group has their own special place out in the woods to explore, build forts, connect with nature and be creative. Counselors guide campers based on their developmental stage with older groups learning to build debris huts and other survival skills.

Outdoor Adventure

Our redwood forest offers a wonderful environment for campers to learn more about nature. Outdoor Adventure takes place in various areas of camp and includes activities like hiking, animal tracking, frog counting, bug collection and more! Counselors will hike some of our favorite trails during training and learn the stories and folklore that matches each place. Big Tree, Wishing Tree, and Kennachauns are all part of the experience!

Outdoor Cooking

Cooking on an open campfire is a time honored camp tradition. This activity is always offered Friday during the Free Choice morning. Sometimes groups may work this into their schedule as well. We’ve put together recipes that take dietary restrictions and allergies into account which include baked apples (with cinnamon and sugar), banana boats (with mallows and chocolate), and s’mores. We just pop a few ingredients in a foil pack and you’re good to go! We always have vegan and gluten free options to make the same treat.

Playstation

There aren’t any video games at camp but we still have Playstation. This is a collection of fun physical games on the Quad used during Free Play at lunch. Games include Ga-Ga (type of dodgeball in a hexagon), Nine Square in the Air (like four square but uh...in the air), ping pong, box hockey, and other fun games.

Songs and Skits

We sing all the time at camp and it is important for counselors to be enthusiastic and involved when we sing. Don’t just walk to an activity, sing a song along the way! Groups also perform skits on stage and counselors should be ready and able to help facilitate the fun! YouTube and TikTok are great inspiration (if it’s K-rated).

Survival Skills

Senior campers learn some of the basics of outdoor living like fire starting, advanced cooking over a fire, shelter building, knot tying, water collection and filtration.

Swimming & Pool Time

The pool is a camp favorite – games, toys, floating foam animals, and innertubes make for a fun break in the day. The pool is heated with the shallowest area being 3'. Certified lifeguards are on duty to ensure campers are safe. Each session starts with a safety swim so the lifeguards can assess where campers can safely swim in the pool. Campers are given the option to skip the safety swim and wear a lifejacket in the shallow end. These campers are also given bracelets to wear for the session to identify their needs. Please help us by keeping these bracelets on. If your camper is not water safe and you would like them to wear a lifejacket regardless of how they do on the safety swim, please contact our office in writing and/or state this on the camper Health Form. Our goal at camp is for every camper, regardless of age to swim. Parents who wish to give their camper the option NOT to swim for any other reason should contact the office. This is especially important with the older campers. We ask families of teens to set an expectation for campers to swim. If campers must absolutely not swim, we provide cards and games to be played pool side in the shade.

Water World

We set up a big inflatable along with several squirt guns in an area next to the pool. Campers love to play, bounce, and if it's hot, bring the hose out and turn the inflatable into "Water World". This gives everyone a chance to cool off, especially those less comfortable in the pool.

Changing for Pool and Water World

We aim to make all campers feel comfortable at camp. As such, we have a dress code around the pool and Water World. **Athletic style one piece bathing suits or swim trunks are required. UV swim shirts are optional but highly recommended. No bikinis, tankinis, speedos or cut out swimsuits. Swim suits and towels should be brought to camp each day** as two days a week campers are in the pool, two days they may be on Water World, and on Friday campers may choose either "wet" activity during Free Choice. So it's a good idea to get in a daily routine. When it's time to change, campers change in individual changing rooms and tents, located near the pool and Water World area.

Equestrian Specialty

We send an email a week in advance with the schedule and needed reminders. Campers who have paid the additional fee for Equestrian Specialty will be in the same group for the session both at the barn and around camp. The group is made up of 12 campers grades 3-4 or 5-7. Like our other groups, two counselors supervise in addition to the several riding instructors. Each week the group has two "Barn Days". The exception is Session 3 where there two the first week and one the second week. During Barn Days, the group is split in half based on age and ability to take their riding, vaulting, and horse care lessons. On these days, campers should come dressed in long pants. We provide boots and helmets, but campers may bring their own. The other days are "Camp Days" where the group will do typical activities together

including cooling off at the pool. This includes Friday Funday where campers choose their own activities for the first half of the day. This allows grades 3-4 to try Climbing and grades 5-7 to try High Ropes or other activities they may have missed out on during the week. Then the day wraps up with our all camp event based on the week's theme.

Activity Supplies and Equipment

We will provide all the necessary equipment for Camp activities. No personal sports or activity equipment will be allowed at Camp. The one exception to this is the Equestrian Specialty where campers may bring their own boots and helmets if they choose.

HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICIES

Day Camp has one Nurse or EMT on duty daily in addition to two other nurses on site at the Overnight Camp. Our camp doctor is also on call. Our Health Center offers a bright and cheerful retreat, where our nurses can take care of the most common camp ailments. Sometimes, the only necessary medicine is a place to sit quietly for a few minutes or a chat with a caring nurse. In such cases, we will not automatically contact you, unless we feel there is a specific need to do so. **All of our nurses are returning this summer but if you are a nurse or know a nurse who would like to be a part of our work trade program, please email dan@kennolyn.com.**

Health Care Communication

Our staff will reach out about any significant injuries or issues that happen at camp. They will call using all contacts you have provided until we establish communication. This does not include a visit for a skinned knee, minor first aid, or a short visit for a rest or imagined illness. Our staff will contact families when injuries should be reviewed at home, additional treatment may be needed, or some sort of allergic reaction has happened. Staff err on the side of over-communication. Staff may also reach out to receive consent, discuss camper mental well-being, or should questions arise from information you've provided on the Health History form or about expired medications sent. Per our many American Camp Association accreditation health and safety guidelines, any treatment and communication is logged in our computer system.

Covid Policy

Please read our [updated policy online](#). The summary of the policy is:

- Vaccines are not required for campers but are for staff.
- Masks are recommended but not required on the buses.
- Stay home if you test positive or have COVID-19 symptoms, until you have not had a fever for 24 hours without using fever reducing medication AND other COVID-19 symptoms are mild and improving.

All campers are subject to the [cancellation terms](#) as detailed in our online registration. COVID is a known risk, and refunds will not be granted for camp attendance lost due to COVID

infection, exposure, policy changes, or future government agency vaccination mandates. We recommend purchasing the standard plan [tuition refund insurance](#) and following CDC vaccination guidelines.

Health Forms

For the continued safety of each camper, new and up-to-date Health History forms are required every year and are due 4 weeks before the session. [Click here to access your online account and complete the Health Form.](#) Due to our American Camp Association accreditation standards, campers may not participate in our program without a health form. The form does not require a doctor's visit but does give us the authorization to treat your child in case of an emergency.

Please be sure to include if your camper is a non-swimmer and required to wear a life jacket in addition to psychological, behavioral, information as well.

Immunization dates are recommended but not required at Day Camp. This includes COVID-19. We do ask that the date of the latest tetanus booster is recorded. Otherwise, you will be asked to either 1) attest that immunizations are up to date per public school requirements or 2) provide a reason why your child has not had an immunizations.

Medications

We expect any medications that your child may need will be given by you at home. If you have an exception to this, please contact us to discuss. These medications must be current. Expired medications are not allowed. All medications are held and distributed by our Nurse. Emergency meds like epi pens and inhalers are given to the bus counselors who turn into the Nurse for review and then carried by the counselors. All meds remain at camp for the session and are returned on the last day. If you are concerned about the bus ride, please send extra. If requested, we can send meds back and forth daily to protect the ride if needed. To ensure medications are distributed correctly, please send them as follows:

1. Pack in a zip lock bag with the camper's name and group and each item labeled with camper name.
2. Hand this bag to the bus counselor
3. Prescription drugs sent in original container with camper name, dosage, and written allergy/medical plan.
4. Non-prescription drugs sent with instructions and dosage and signed by parent or custodian.
5. Please include a note if meds need to be sent home each day. If that is the case, we will complete this process daily.

Common Illness

Thank you in advance for helping other stay healthy by keeping sick campers at home. While we have a nurse or EMT on-site we do not have the space to keep an ill child for an entire day, nor is it safe to other campers and staff. If an illness is recognized at camp, we may call for you to pick them up early. If your camper has one of the following illnesses, please keep them home and follow these guidelines for re-entry to camp:

- Whooping Cough: may return 5 days from start of appropriate antimicrobial treatment.
- Pink Eye: may return 24 hours after initiation of antibiotic treatment.
- Strep Throat: may return 24 hours after initiation of antibiotic treatment and no fever for 24 hours without fever reducing medicines.
- Lice: may return once treated with a pediculicidal agent. We also ask that a health care provider or camp nurse re-examine for infestation seven days after treatment.
- Chicken Pox: may return six days from the outbreak of the last crop of blisters with all pox marks dried.
- Unexplained rashes: consult with camp nurse to determine re-entry. If rash is accompanied with other symptoms like cough, runny nose, sore throat, and/or fever, may not return until symptoms gone for 24 hours without the use of medication.
- Impetigo, scabies or ringworm: may return when judged non-infectious by a physician or 24 hours after initiation of treatment.

Minor Ouches at Camp

Counselors may care for campers who need band-aids and rest. Health care staff will always be available to advise counselors and will provide care for anything other than a very minor issue. All medical actions will be reported to and logged by health staff.

Emergencies

We rehearse our emergency plan with our staff during training and each opening day with our campers. This includes procedures for natural disasters, missing campers, and intruders. We keep it simple and non-threatening so anxiety levels stay low. Our staff carry radios and we are prepared to evacuate and maintain communication with our families through a texting service and the Kennolyn app. Additionally we will post to social media as needed as well. The office at our overnight camp is a mile away and their team will provide support as needed. In the event of emergency that causes us to leave the Hilltop Hacienda property Michael's Transportation is on call or we will relocate using staff vehicles or on foot to one or more of the following locations:

- Overnight Camp at Kennolyn's Stone Creek Village - 8400 Glen Haven Rd, Soquel
- Mountain Elementary School - 3042 Old San Jose Rd, Soquel
- Main Street Elementary School - 3400 N Main St, Soquel

Participation Guidelines

Campers and staff who are immunosuppressed (as defined by their medical professional) or live in a home with an immunosuppressed person should not consider participation in camp during these extraordinary times. Participation in a camp program during this pandemic has too high a risk factor. If you have any concerns about this policy, please contact us to set up a time to talk with our medical team. We also ask that all parents consider the following question when deciding to enroll their child: "Can my child reliably follow verbal directions from staff given in English." We can attempt to accommodate as needs arise but if you have a special request we ask that you contact our office 45-60 days in advance of the camp session.

ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES

Camp Attendance

If you know that your campers will miss a day of camp, please email the Day Camp Office at daycamp@kennolyn.com. Attendance is taken in the morning by group counselors. We collect group attendance and contact the home when campers are absent. We do not give credit for days missed nor transfer them to other sessions.

Cancellation Policy

This information is repeated from the website.

All tuition is fully refundable until 2/1/2024. If you used rollover funds to pay for camp in 2024, upon cancellation it will be returned to your account as a credit for your future use.

Cancellations received from 2/1/2024 to 5/1/2024 will be eligible for a full rollover of fees to the following summer (less application and transaction fees.) Cancellations received after May 1st will not be considered for any refund or rollover, regardless of circumstances.

You may change sessions as often as you like without fee or penalty as long as there is space available.

If you have a rollover from a previous summer, it can be transferred or extended but cannot be converted into a refund.

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 the child has completed the entire session in which enrolled.
- You do not submit a complete state required health form by the required due date.

Camper-to-Staff & Camper-to-Camper Communication

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 outside of camp. Any effort to build such a relationship should be instigated by the camper and not the staff member and be done with the approval and supervision of the camper's parents. We vouch for our staff when they are in the controlled environment that we create at camp. We cannot control their behavior outside of their period of employment with us. Please make sure that 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 one of our directors.

Campers collecting each other's phone numbers/social media usernames/addresses and promising to stay in touch is one of the time-honored rituals of summer camp. However, with so much instant communication we must be more careful about how our children use the contact information they collect. We encourage parents to be aware always of a child's computer and smart phone use. We want our campers 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 e-mail, IM or message—one that is mocking, uses vulgar or harassing language—here is what we tell campers they should do:

- Tell your parents or a trusted adult!
- Do not respond to the message or retaliate.
- If possible, save the message to your hard drive or an external drive.
- Print out a copy of the message, then close it but do not delete it.
- Tell your parents about it and have them decide what to do next. They may notify the local authorities.
- Parents-If you suspect that the sender of the messages is someone connected to Kennolyn, please contact us immediately.

Tax Deduction

Although the program cannot be compared to a simple day care program, camp tuition can be claimed as a day care tax deduction. Ask your tax preparer. For your use our Tax ID is 82-3028192.

LAST THOUGHTS

Fun Stuff

Our staff are excited and ready to lead your campers on a wonderful adventure. Your camper can get ready for camp while at home by learning to play camp songs on the guitar or ukulele. Or just listen to songs online. Or maybe make foil stew at home. Visit [Fun Stuff online](#) and have a little camp at home!

Value of Camp

We encourage you to check out the many videos, articles, and [resources online](#). We believe there is tremendous value in the summer camp experience and find these resources do a good job of explaining that. We hope you agree and can help us spread the word.

Get ready for a GREAT Summer!

We believe camp is a vital part of a child's education & growth to become a thriving adult.

We want to be your partners in parenting.

We encourage you to reach out to us about your camper's experience.

Here's to making positive memories to last a lifetime.

