



Kingsley Pines

The way camp should be

SUMMER 365'S

GUIDE TO SELECTING A CAMPER-DRIVEN PROGRAM

Choice based programs at sleepaway camp provide campers the opportunity to curate their daily experience. Instead of a schedule with required activities, campers choose their own adventure — building a summer that reflects their passions, curiosity, and pace. These programs are rooted in the belief that ownership over one's own time is one of the most powerful things a child can experience, and a welcome exhale from the packed, pre-planned rhythms of the academic year. The result: deep engagement, genuine confidence, and a sense of ownership that lasts well beyond August.

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KINGSLEY PINES CAMP

KEY FEATURES:

- Schedules built by campers
- Activities span a broad range so every interest is covered
- The program adapts to the camper
- Freedom balanced by community structure and routines

BENEFITS:

- Builds real confidence through autonomous choices
- Develops time management and self-accountability
- Sparks intrinsic motivation – not just compliance
- Campers discover strengths they didn't know they had

WORK BEST FOR:

- Campers who feel constrained by rigid programs
- Kids with a specific passion they want to pursue deeply
- Children ready to practice real independence
- Campers who rise when given trust and responsibility

A TYPICAL DAY MIGHT INCLUDE:

- Waking up and deciding what the day looks like
- Mixing high-energy sports with creative or quiet pursuits
- Deepening a skill across multiple sessions in one week
- Evening all-camp traditions and community time

PARENT QUESTIONS:

- How much of the day does my child truly choose?
- How do staff support without overriding their choices?
- What if they pick the same activity every day?
- Is there any structure to anchor the freedom?



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Kingsley Pines is a place where kids step out of their comfort zone, try new things, and meet new people - all in a safe and supportive setting. Set on a private lake in the Maine mountains, campers spend their days outside: swimming from a sandy beach, eating every meal under a 100-year-old oak tree, and building their own schedule from 30+ activities that reflect what they actually want to do. That freedom of choice is at the heart of everything at Kingsley Pines - campers aren't handed a timetable, they create one. No phones, no rigid periods, no pressure to be anything other than themselves. With an exceptional staff - average counselor age of 21, no junior counselors or CITs - and a Camp Experience Director dedicated to every camper's wellbeing, Kingsley Pines has spent over 40 years turning a few weeks in Maine into something kids carry with them for life.

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LIFE ON THE LAKE:

- Sandy beach on a private lake in the Maine mountains
- Nothing beats being in or on the water on a summer day
- Waterfront activities available as part of the 30+ activity menu
- All meals eaten outside by the lake, under a 100-year-old oak tree

BEYOND THE BUNK:

- Weekly out-of-camp trips for older campers
- More autonomy and freedom in the schedule as campers grow
- Intentional closing activities that leave a lasting impact
- Campers go home excited to come back the following summer

STAFF WHO MAKE THE DIFFERENCE:

- Average counselor age of 21 - no junior counselors or CITs
- Staff trained to get to know each camper on a personal level
- Goal: every camper remembers their counselor's name in 20 years
- Camp Experience Director focused on social-emotional wellbeing

30+ ACTIVITIES, ZERO ASSIGNED PERIODS:

- Campers choose what they do and how they spend their time
- Something for everyone - try something new or grow existing skills
- A safe setting that makes it easy to step outside your comfort zone
- Phone-free environment levels the playing field for making friends

SAFE, SUPPORTIVE, AND FUN:

- Personal call to every new camper family after week one
- Pre-camp meetings to set families up for success
- All campers arrive and depart together - no mid-session turnover
- Never too late to start - new campers at every age level