TEEN•RANCH

1 O REASONS YOU SHOULD SEND YOUR KIDS TO CAMP!

Camp isn't just for the summer, it's for life."

Our Kids / Canada's Camp and Program Guide

1. EXPOSURE TO DIVERSITY

They learn the world is a big place with lots of people, who might do things differently than they're used to. That includes other kids from all over the province and beyond – and the camp's leaders, who serve as positive role models who can leave a huge impression. They're not seen as strict "law enforcers" but older, "cool friends" who care about them. Camp staff haven't just accepted the job, they've earned it!



2. SELF-ESTEEM BOOST

When kids are at camp, they don't have mom and dad there to help them approach people and make connections. They have to put themselves out there. Learning how to canoe or develop archery skills also makes a child realize how capable he or she is to learn and grow. 92 percent of kids who attend camp say that the people at camp helped them feel good about themselves.

3. ATTUNE TO NATURE

In a world gone tech crazy, sometimes the great outdoors is just that: great. Camp gets kids outdoors and enjoying nature, filling an important gap in modern kids' lives.

4. DEVELOP INDEPENDENCE

It's a great way to encourage self-development and develop independence. With guidance from camp leaders, kids are empowered to take care of themselves. Bedtimes are set and schedules are packed, but children still have to get themselves up and ready, make their beds, clean their rooms, and get to the dining room for meals.

5. INSTILLS LEADERSHIP SKILLS

Allowing kids to make choices, camps are leadership training places naturally. Kids can learn how to trust themselves to make decisions. Camp kids are less likely to be affected by peer pressure and more likely to set the pace and tone for other kids – and feel empowered in tasks they take on throughout their lives.



6. GIVES WONDERFUL MEMORIES

Camp builds good and lasting memories for the future. Kids have tons of memories of the good times, silly shenanigans, fun activities and wonderful friendships made. It's a time of discovery and self-improvement that stays with a kid long into adulthood.

7. HELPS MAKE FRIENDS

They get to make lifelong friendships with people that don't necessarily live right next door. This offers a unique opportunity for your child to branch out in the buddies he or she has. Navigating and building these friendships teaches children how to be more socially confident – something they can take back to school with them in the fall.



8. GETS THEM ACTIVE

In a technology-filled world, camp helps kids learn how to be kids again and appreciate activity while minimizing distractions. So that kids can truly enjoy nature, people and adventure, cellphones and computers are not invited. This means that those prone to sit on their duffs and text or play video games are forced to get up – and get moving!

9. DEVELOP INTERESTS

Camp is a nurturing environment for a child to discover and explore activities and programs that could turn into lifelong passions. That's why it's the perfect place for your child to tap into an interest that he or she wants to carry on after camp is over. Did your daughter go ga-ga for horseback riding? Perhaps she's a budding equestrian who would enjoy regular lessons.

10. KEEPS YOUR KIDS PRODUCTIVELY BUSY

Many parents have to work and sending their kids to camp is the most practical reason. When school lets out, kids have to go somewhere to spend their time. Camp isn't just a "parking spot" for kids, though: It also offers fun, excitement, and lessons that last.

TEENRANCH.COM