

How to Choose a Youth Camp

Parents should ask questions of any prospective youth camp to be comfortable that their child will be safe and have a positive, fun experience. The Youth Camp Safety Advisory Council created the following list of question for parents to use.

Consider visiting the site, if possible, and meeting with the staff to ask the questions below that address your concerns:

- Is the youth camp licensed by Maryland Department of Health? If so, what is the youth camp's license number? If not, does the camp plan to become licensed?
- What are the youth camp director's and counselor's qualifications, education, years of experience? How are staff screened and trained, including for specialty areas?
- What is the counselor to camper ratio?
- By what criteria are the campers grouped?
- Are camp trips supervised by counselors who have the maturity and experience to make decisions that could affect the safety of campers?
- What are the youth camp's health and safety policies?
- How does the youth camp gather information about my child's needs?
- Does the youth camp require medical records for campers?
- How does the youth camp accommodate my child's particular needs; dietary restrictions, developmental disability, physical limitations, homesickness, etc.
- What are the youth camp's procedures for emergency management and communications?
- How will I be notified if my child becomes ill or injured? Is a doctor or nurse in residence or on call for campers at all times? Are they able to administer medications or other treatments that may be needed by my child?
- Are good health practices observed in the camp kitchens, dining areas and food services?
- What are the youth camp's philosophy and goals?
- What percentage of campers return each year?
- Are there additional costs for optional activities?
- Is there a refund policy?