

CHECK

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Summer Camp in the USA

FACT FILE

Summer Camp in the USA

During the school summer holidays, over 10 million young people aged 5–18 spend some of their time at a summer camp. They stay away from home, they try new activities and they learn new skills.

The traditional accommodation at camp is a shared cabin.

Most camps are outdoor adventure camps, but others are camps for students with special interests such as languages, computers, performing arts or film-making.

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 Natalie Aidan
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- 4 rules about accommodation
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Natalie's blog



I'm spending my summer vacation at a camp in Colorado. I've been here for two weeks now. We're near the Rocky Mountains, so the views are awesome. We've been going out on trips away from the central camp, sometimes for days at a time, so we've been sleeping in tents too. The last trip involved lots of climbing and kayaking. It was great!

The group leaders are called 'camp counselors'. They are American, but some are from the UK or Australia. They're really cool – young, physically fit, really hard-working and enthusiastic. They make us work as part of a team, but they also let us make a lot of the decisions too.

When we're back in camp, the atmosphere is pretty laid-back. We're allowed to stay in touch with our folks and use the Internet in the evenings. I've got a new best buddy called Justine. I've only known her for two weeks, but we're already friends for life! So everything's cool.



Aidan's blog



There are 120 kids here, writing, making movies, composing music and acting. It's a blast! On the first day, the camp counselors made us write down two things we wanted to do at the camp. I wrote: 'make a music video' and 'write a novel'! I haven't done any creative writing since elementary school, so I'm starting from zero!

The camp is co-ed. There are cabins for the boys and cabins for the girls. The counselors aren't really strict, but a few things aren't allowed. They don't let us bring friends back to our cabins, have parties or play loud music. But generally we're allowed to do whatever we want.

Our day is really busy. We get up at 8 o'clock. After breakfast the counselors make us do a 'cabin activity' – that means straightening up! Then there's movie-making in the morning, then lunch, then creative writing in the afternoon. Yesterday, they let us use a genuine movie camera for the first time – that was cool. They don't let us chill for a second. We go to bed early, but that's OK because by 10 p.m. we're all beat anyway!