

Ski & Snowboard Camp

Being in Touch with Your Child

TELEPHONE, TEXT & TECHNOLOGY...

PLEASE BE AWARE: cell phones... and other forms of technology that may be Wi-Fi enabled... are NOT welcome at Ski & Snowboard Camp. Please keep all such devices at home.

If you are accustomed to being able to talk to... or text with... your children at any given moment, I understand that this may sound a bit scary. Reality is that cell service is limited in East Madison, NH. Some people view this as part of our small-town "in the woods" charm. For others, it is noticeably disconcerting. Whatever your viewpoint, a cell phone is simply not an effective way to communicate with your child, especially in and around the dormitories. While Wi-Fi is getable in public areas around King Pine, it is unavailable around the dormitories at camp.

From camp's point of view, this is a positive aspect of the experience. While I appreciate the sense of comfort having a cell phone or texting device within reach can provide, I also view it as a modern convenience that very much detracts from the traditional 'sense' of camp. This is, after all, designed to be an away from home experience... an opportunity for kids to get a break from their everyday routine, to unplug, and to enjoy a truly unique childhood time.

Our experience with technology at camp is that it becomes a huge distraction from the program. Campers that spend their "free" time, whether it is on the ski mountain or in the dormitories, talking, texting, or playing on personal devices are missing the point of being here. And please remember...when your kids are with us at camp, they are not on their own. We have dedicated staff whose role it is to help campers manage and maneuver daily life at camp. Together we are going to create an incredible winter camp experience.

I love that parents want to share in this experience with their kids – I really do. What I am asking is that you allow your kids (our campers) the opportunity to immerse themselves in it and embrace it. Trust that both you and your kids are going to be fine... without constant contact... for this short period of time they are away from home with us at camp. My appreciation goes out to all of you who take the time to read this... discuss it with your kids... and thoughtfully consider our camp philosophy.

If you would like to check in on your kids occasionally during the week, we welcome parents to call during certain designated times...

WHEN TO CALL...

If you do wish to place a phone call to your child during camp, we ask that you do so during meal times when we are all conveniently located in the dining hall. We will set up a staff rotation in the camp office during meals to answer calls and retrieve campers. Dial **603-367-8896**, followed by either extension **'190'** for the Camp Office... or **'240'** for the Dining Room. It may take a few attempts. We appreciate your patience if you receive a busy signal. Meal times fluctuate a bit during the week, but in general...

Breakfast: 8:00 to 8:30am

Lunch: 12:30 to 1:00pm

Dinner: 6:30 to 7:15pm

In an emergency situation, you may also contact the Main Office at Purity Spring Resort by dialing extension **'0'**. The Main Office will then be able to connect with Ski Camp staff via radio. Please reserve this means of contact specifically for emergencies. If you have any concerns regarding your child's experience during camp, please contact me directly by phone or email at any time: **603-367-4010** or skicamp@kingpine.com. If I do not answer the phone at the time of your call, please leave me a message as I check them periodically throughout each day.

VISITING YOUR CHILD AT CAMP:

We understand that you miss your kids while they are away at camp. Some of you may even be tempted to drop by and check in. If this temptation strikes you, please keep in mind that our program is quite structured and very active. There are many times where it will not be possible for you to visit your child without disrupting the program and ultimately affecting their experience. I discourage visitation, but If you feel you must, please call in advance so that we may strategize an appropriate time. Although COVID is not making news as it once was, we are still very cautious about having people coming and going once camp is underway.