

# Ski & Snowboard Camp

## Being in Touch with Your Child

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### TELEPHONE CALLS & TEXT MESSAGES...

Cell service is limited in East Madison, NH. Some people who visit here 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. The best cell reception will typically be found higher up on the slopes of King Pine. Returning campers are probably aware of this. Wireless service is certainly more reliable, although even that can be temperamental at times.

While I appreciate the sense of comfort having this technology always within reach can provide, I also see it as a modern convenience that, in some ways, conflicts with the traditional ‘sense’ of camp. Camp is designed to be an “away from home” experience at which kids gain valuable practice navigating through daily life situations without mom and dad right there to hold their hand. That may sound scary, but remember...they are not on their own. We have camp counselors whose role it is, in part, to help guide them along the way.

In fact, it becomes difficult for us to do our jobs as counselors when parents are on the scene... via phone... sometimes before we even have a chance to respond to a situation. I love that parents want to share in this experience with their kids – I really do. **And we welcome parents to call their kids at camp during certain designated times.** Parents do not, however, need to be involved on a moment-by-moment basis at camp. When used in such a manner, this technology has a tendency to interfere with the camp program.

It also, in my opinion, actually inhibits the ability of a child to realize the full benefit of this experience. Camp is a chance for kids to get a break from their everyday routine and enjoy a truly unique childhood time that... we hope... they will carry with them for all of their lives. What I am really asking is that you allow them to have that experience and 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.

All that said – it is conceivable that you may receive a communication from your child regarding some sort of situation at camp. Along with whatever guidance you choose to give, I ask that you also encourage them to speak directly with their counselors for assistance. We are here – on-site – and committed to creating the best possible experience for every single one of our campers. 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.

### 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.

**Breakfast: 8:00 to 8:30am**

**Lunch: 12:30 to 1:00pm**

**Dinner: 6:00 to 6:45pm**

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](mailto: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 frequently 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. If you feel you must visit, please do so during meal times when the kids are in the dining hall. We would also appreciate a pre-visit call so that we may be prepared to greet you.