

# Ski & Snowboard Camp

## Being in Touch with Your Child

---

2011

### INCOMING TELEPHONE CALLS ~

If you wish to contact your child during camp, we ask that you phone during meal times when the children are in the dining hall. Dial **603-367-8896**, followed by either **extension "190"** or **"240"** to reach the Ski Camp Lodge. It may take a few attempts to get through, and we appreciate your patience if you receive a busy signal.

**Breakfast ~ 8:00 to 8:30am ☺ Lunch ~ 12:00 to 12:30pm ☺ Dinner ~ 5:15 to 6:00pm**

In an emergency situation, dialing **extension "0"** will connect you with the Purity Spring Resort Main Office. The Main Office will then contact a Ski Camp staff who will get a message to your child. Please reserve this means of contact specifically for emergencies. If your child is on the ski mountain at the time of your emergency call, we will locate them as quickly as possible. 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.

### OUTGOING TELEPHONE CALLS ~

There is no pay phone available at Ski Camp ~ out-going calls may be made **"Collect"**, or with a **Phone Card**. We suggest you review with your child how to place calls via these methods.

### CELL PHONE USE ~

Cell service is extremely limited in East Madison, NH. This is one reason we advise against sending cell phones to ski camp ~ it is simply not an effective way to communicate with your child, especially in and around the dormitories. Unfortunately (*as I see it*)... more dependable cell reception can be found higher up on the slopes of King Pine. Many of our campers are definitely aware of this, as no doubt, are some of their parents. Being a camp traditionalist, I don't see this as a benefit to the camp experience.

While I appreciate the sense of comfort that having a cell phone within arms reach can provide, I also see it as a modern convenience that... in perhaps subtle, yet important 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.

It makes it very 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. And to those parents who simply want to be part of this experience with their kids, I think that's great, really. At the same time, parents do not need to be involved on a moment by moment basis at camp. When used in such a manner, a cell phone not only prevents staff from being able to do their job, it also doesn't allow the kids to realize the full potential benefit of the camp experience.

Some parents may not understand why I am taking up so much space with this topic; cells phone are, after all, a part of everyday life for many of these kids. Camp, however, is a chance for kids to get a break from everyday life and enjoy a truly unique and special 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 daily contact... for this short period of time they are away from home with us at camp.

If you feel it is of the utmost importance for your child to have a cell phone in East Madison, NH, then I would prefer to secure that phone in our office safe where it will be accessible to them on the extreme rare occasion they actually have a legitimate need to use it. Any cell phone that becomes a nuisance will be removed by staff and secured in the safe pending the conclusion of 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 philosophy regarding cell phones at camp.

### VISITATION ~

We really do understand that you will miss your kids while they are away at camp. Many of you live far enough distant that visiting camp would not be an easy option. Some of you, however, may be skiing / vacationing in the area during the same time period, and so may 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 drop in for a visit, we ask that you make every effort to do so during meal times when the kids are in the dining hall. It would also be best if you called us first to announce your visit, not only so that we may expect you, but also to ensure that your timing works effectively with our program schedule.