



## The Camp Kinneret Difference

Selecting  
The Right Summer Camp  
For Your Family



# Camp Kinneret

The Adventures Last a Summer,  
The Memories Last a Lifetime...

# WELCOME TO SUMMER 2024!

We welcome your family to join our Camp Kinneret family this summer, to provide your children with an opportunity to rebuild their social-emotional learning skills. To rebuild their friend-making skills. To be outdoors and play while making friends. All with caring college-aged adults, eager to help them take on these new challenges.

Choosing Camp Kinneret means that, as a parent, you know that for four or five weeks of the summer a caring team of child-development professionals will be investing in your child. We'll be taking the time to know them, welcoming your camper by name, and ensuring that they are connecting with the other campers and the staff. All without the distractions of modern technology. No cell phones. No tablets. Unplugged. Old-fashioned fun where children develop social skills, practice critical thinking, share a community mindset, and learn to persevere when things get hard.

The things we do at Camp Kinneret aren't new (we've been doing them since 1954!), but they have new meanings in today's technological world. We believe that children need more time to develop the social and emotional skills that form the core of every happy, healthy adult. That's why we spend so much time and energy finding, interviewing, training, and supporting our staff members each summer. We know the value of a dedicated staff who will invest in your child's growth and well-being. We also select an experienced leadership team to partner with parents and ensure that we are actively working with each and every child to help them to grow into the best version of themselves. We are parental in our approach – looking for untied shoes, prioritizing sunscreen and water, and watching for small cues that may indicate that some extra attention would help.

There are so many options for how you and your child spend the summer. How do you decide which is right? Should you make the decision, or should your child? After all, you want them to enjoy their experience. But what if that experience could be more than just being entertained? What if your child could build self-confidence, learn how to make friends, challenge themselves to overcome their fears, practice resilience, AND have fun?

We hope that you will consider choosing Camp Kinneret for your child not only for this summer but for many summers to come. And we look forward to welcoming you into our camp family!



Ryan Rosen  
Director/Owner



“Camp Kinneret is exactly what summer should be...filled with song, good friends and great memories.”

- **Karen S**, *CK Parent*



## Why Summer Day Camp At Camp Kinneret?

In a world where computers, television, and video games are commonplace, we create the alternative. A world of experiences where children can grow and benefit. A place where creativity and expression are encouraged. Where teamwork and social interaction are the basics. An opportunity for personal growth through accomplishment and respect. Where the courage to try is celebrated and the desire to succeed is supported. An experience that words cannot adequately describe.





## Our Philosophy

Founded in 1954, Camp Kinneret's tradition of excellence continues today and remains built upon our commitment to put campers first. Our focus on providing children with opportunities to learn and grow through a well-developed, fun, structured program is the foundation for everything we do and remains at the heart of the Camp Kinneret philosophy. Our special "child centered" (*rather than the more common "activity centered"*) philosophy is the reason so many campers return year after year and so many of today's campers are the children (and grandchildren) of former Camp Kinneret campers and staff members.





"Kinneret is the only camp around offering consistently strong staff who provide a safe, loving environment in which all kids can experience the true joy of summer."

**- Stephanie W, CK Parent**



## Future Families

It is not a coincidence that so many of today's Camp Kinneret parents were once Camp Kinneret campers themselves. Our camp philosophy has always focused on creating a warm, positive, caring camp environment.

As it has for over 65 years, that environment continues to provide campers with fun-filled summers that are enriched by staff who create opportunities for camper growth and learning.



## Staff: all about the people

At Camp Kinneret, it has always been about the people. When you ask a Camp Kinneret parent what makes their child's Camp Kinneret experience so special, time and again they respond that it is our Camp Kinneret staff and the environment that we create. Fond camp memories come from quality interactions with caring counselors who lead by example while positively influencing children's lives.

All Camp Kinneret senior staff members are college age and older and have the maturity and understanding to care for and guide children through their adventures at camp. Each group of 11-14 campers has one senior counselor as well as a co-counselor (graduating high school senior) or CILT (high school leadership intern). Our Camp Kinneret staff also includes instructional specialists. These specialists are hired not only for their nurturing, fun and caring nature, but also for their ability to teach in their specialty areas.



## What Sets Camp Kinneret Staff Apart From The Rest

**Camp Kinneret staff members are selected and trained specifically to:**

- Help children learn to meet and welcome new friends
- Teach teamwork and cooperative skills
- Teach the importance and fun of sportsmanship
- Grow and build campers' self confidence to try new things and face new challenges
- Encourage campers to participate and help them engage positively in activities that they may not have enjoyed previously in a non-camp setting
- Provide campers with the support and encouragement that allows them to feel safe
- Utilize Camp Kinneret's small groups to give each camper the personal attention they deserve

## Staff Selection

Ask any adult who loved their childhood summers at camp what made their experiences so special and they will talk about three things: the staff, the camp leadership and the camp's philosophy. They may also mention the beautiful mountains, the swimming pool, the petting farm, the high ropes course or memorable activities; but in the end, if you ask them what really made the difference, they'll talk about the people.

### Only The Best Return

To ensure the selection of the highest quality staff each year, all staff members who desire to return to camp are re-interviewed by the director. These carefully chosen leaders are selected for their ability to work with campers and desire to perpetuate the camp staff culture that is at the heart of Camp Kinneret.



"The staff is truly a cut above. I was always confident that my child was safe and well-cared for. He loved all the camp 'lore' and creativity throughout the day. His counselor was such a positive influence."

– Erin M, CK Parent



### Selecting Our New Staff

Staff members who are new to Camp Kinneret go through our multi-step hiring process. We work throughout the year to create the largest possible pool of staff applicants in order to find the select few that will fill approximately 30 vacant positions each year (out of a total of approximately 70 senior staff positions).

Camp Kinneret's Leadership Team meets roughly 270 applicants in small, personal group interviews of generally 6-10 participants. Our camp director, Ryan Rosen, then conducts individual interviews with carefully selected applicants. References are individually phoned to receive quality first-hand input about each applicant. Professional criminal background checks and verification with the California Justice Departments' Child Molester Registry are conducted and all staff are required to participate in our drug testing program. The result of this process is the selection of a group of mature, highly dedicated, caring leaders that are eager to create quality camp experiences for your children.

## Leadership Team

Staff members are supported by an active multi-member Leadership Team comprised of experienced camp professionals and educators. This team is led by our director, Ryan Rosen. The members of the Leadership Team provide daily support and assistance to counselors, instructors and campers. They are also the key link in parent-camp communication. Parents are encouraged to call and speak with a Leadership Team member whenever they have questions about their child's experience. Leadership Team members are out with camper groups throughout the day and can provide first hand insight and discuss situations directly with counselors and other staff members. The specially selected Leadership Team is a key component to the relationships between parents and camp and in each summer's success.



## Year-round Staff

At Camp Kinneret, the year round director and Leadership Team members have only one focus....preparing for your child's summer. By focusing on camp all year, we are able to ensure the best experience for your child. Our staff is here to answer any questions that you may have. We strongly encourage you to call us, so that we can tell you more about the wonderful experience awaiting your child at Camp Kinneret Summer Day Camp this summer. It is a summer that will leave them with cherished memories for years to come.



## Location

Camp Kinneret Summer Day Camp is nestled in the rolling hills of Agoura. Camp Kinneret first moved to this location in 1971 following the closing of Hidden Trails Camp. The 25 yard pool, hiking trails, grass fields, indoor facilities, open spaces and convenient location close to the freeway make it an ideal place for day camp.

The property was purchased by Gateway Church in the mid-80's and camp has continued to lease from the church since. Whether it's hiking to the "lemonade tower", shooting an arrow on the archery range, tumbling in the indoor "gym", petting one of the animals or paddling in one of our camper-propelled boats, campers have plenty of space to enjoy their summers.





# Transportation

At Camp Kinneret, we've always believed that the camp day starts the moment each child gets on the bus and doesn't end until they get off at the end of the day. Camp Kinneret bus rides are a safe, fun, well-supervised part of each day.

Families can choose from more than 25 different conveniently located neighborhood meeting points. Most families are less than 5 minutes from their nearest stop. Bus stops are located in Agoura Hills, Calabasas, Encino, Hidden Hills, Newbury Park, Oak Park, Sherman Oaks, Studio City, Tarzana, Thousand Oaks, West Hills, Westlake Village and Woodland Hills. Our welcoming staff members are assigned to bus stops where they greet campers each morning. On board, they help ensure a safe, fun ride to and from camp each day.

Safety is our number one focus throughout camp and nowhere is this more true than in transporting our campers to and from camp. Camp Kinneret uses professional school bus services. All buses are driven by professional school bus drivers and



are equipped with seatbelts and air conditioning. With our commitment to camper safety, Camp Kinneret was the first local camp to use exclusively professional drivers starting back in 2002.

Our Rider Cup Bus Spirit Challenge keeps everyone engaged and energized on the bus. This friendly inter-bus competition includes singing, bus decorating, and the composition of a unique new bus song for every bus each session. Whether campers ride the Alligator Bus on the east, the Hyena Bus on the west or any of the other buses in between, bus spirit runs high at Camp Kinneret. Nearly 98% of Camp Kinneret campers of all ages ride the bus each day. We hire our staff to ride our buses to and from camp. Each bus' staff team works together under the supervision of the Bus Captain to create the fun, safe, well supervised bus rides that our Camp Kinneret families have come to know and expect.

## **A Day In The Life Of A Camp Kinneret Camper**

Campers arrive each morning at about 9:15, singing songs with counselors aboard camp buses. The camp day begins with all campers and staff joining together for "Good Morning Mountain", participating in spirited camp songs and traditions that start each summer day with energy, enthusiasm, creativity and fun!

After our traditional "Have a Great Day!" cheer, camp groups head off for a day filled with exciting activities. Each group has their own schedule which changes daily. The camp day is divided into 7 activity blocks of approximately 35 - 40 minutes in length. Each day, one of these activities is swimming, consisting of both group swim lessons and supervised "free swim". In addition to swimming, there are 6 other daily activity periods that are filled by more than 25 rotating camp activities. The number of times that a child participates in a particular activity depends on the number of days that they attend camp during the session.

Camp Kinneret has filtered water bottle filling stations throughout the site so children have easy access to refill their water bottles!

At mid-day, between all of these activities, camp groups eat lunch in their very own lunch spot that they choose for the session. Children bring their own lunches which are placed in our refrigerators in the morning so that they are cool and fresh for lunchtime. There is a family atmosphere during the lunch period as campers and counselors eat together while discussing the day's events.

Just before 3:00, groups head down for frozen fruit juice bars. Provided by camp, juice bars are a refreshing end of the day snack which allow groups to gather and chat about their adventures and accomplishments. At about 3:00, our camp community comes together for "Friendship Hill" to sing, cheer, laugh and conclude our day. Buses depart from camp at about 3:45 carrying the sounds of children singing at the end of a great camp day!

“This is the most amazing, loving, nurturing camp out there!”

– **Rachel G**, *CK Parent*

“The quality of the program and staff is the main reason [we return]. Counselors are well trained and able to handle any situation. Their attitude is always positive. The activities are very appropriate and traditional. The office staff is always helpful and reassuring. It is a very safe and happy environment.”

– **Julie R**, *CK Parent*

## “What Parents Are Saying

“My sons both loved everything about their camp experience—their group counselors were fantastic, the activities were fun, the camp spirit was amazing, and the bus counselors were the highlight of the morning!”

– **Lisa S**, *CK Parent*

“Great experience for a first time camper.... she’s still talking about it and still sings some of the songs she learned at camp”

– **Azzie F**, *CK Parent*

“Camp Kinneret is a blast for kids! They love the ever changing activities, camaraderie on the bus, and the staff. Parents know it’s safe. It’s a fun way to spend summer!”

– **Mindi K**, *CK Parent*

“My son would come home every day with stories to tell, songs to sing and new friends to tell us about.”

– **Gabrielle S**, *CK Parent*

## About Camp Kinneret”

“We really like that the buses are decorated and that bus time really is an extension to camp time before and after arriving.”

– **Andy W**, *CK Parent*

“My son always has a summer of growing at Kinneret. My son equates summer with Camp Kinneret. He waits for the school year to be over so he can get on that bus and head back to the place he loves most.”

– **Amanda S**, *CK Parent*

# See Videos of Camp In Action!

[campkinneret.com](http://campkinneret.com)



## Questions?

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