



Why Should I Choose Walden?

We are often asked, “What sets Walden apart from other camps?” There are some obvious differences—such as the way our campers choose individual activity programs. But, as directors of only ONE camp, we rely on our campers and parents to tell us how Walden differs from their experiences at, and with, other camps. Here is what they tell us...

1. Accessibility to the Directors

Because we are relatively small, between 125 and 250 campers per session, Scott and Liz personally know every Walden camper—not just his or her name, but also who Evan’s friends are, what activities Carly enjoys, Josh’s special health requirements, or the concerns Olivia’s parents have about her being away from home for the first time.

In the winter months, Scott and Liz are the “camp staff” who make the house calls to meet prospective families, and walk parents through the process of determining whether Walden is right for their child. And during the summer, we are completely hands on, participating in activities and programs, visiting cabins at bedtime, leading special bunk meetings, and observing our staff and campers throughout the day. When parents call Walden with questions, they call Liz and Scott, comforted by the fact that we can give them first-hand information about their campers.

2. Accommodation of Special Requests

Many parents have specific wishes for their campers. They want Abby to take at least one waterfront activity; they feel Jake would do better on a bottom bunk; they request that Emily go on an overnight trip. Walden welcomes these requests and communicates them to counselors and administrators, so that everyone—staff, parents and camper—is on the same page!

3. Attention to Detail

Does your camper have a special interest in clothing design? Bird watching? Song writing? Astronomy? Sometimes it’s a niche activity that turns a good summer into an unforgettable experience for a camper. When our staff sees that a particular subject excites a camper, we find ways to capitalize on it—be it a spontaneous group trip, one-on-one coaching, or assistance with a special project.

4. Our Staff Family

Not many camps can boast an administrative staff with the longevity and combined experience of Walden’s. This provides us the great luxury of knowing that our camp programs are in the competent hands of education professionals who know our facilities, our expectations and our campers. They return to Walden each summer with an ever deeper knowledge base and new ideas. You’ll find their bios on our Web site!

And what about the cabin counselors? We believe our hiring practices result in a more mature, creative and fun counseling staff. All Walden counselors have been **away to college for at least one year**. We do not hire high-school students! Scott and Liz are specifically committed to bringing to camp young people who have shown an interest in working with children as teachers, coaches, therapists, etc.

5. Accreditation

Besides being licensed by the State of Michigan, which has some of the highest standards for residential camps in the country, Walden also complies with the rigorous certification standards of the American Camp Association and must be reaccredited every three years. This process forces us to re-evaluate our programs and procedures, making certain that we are operating according to the “best practices” in the camping field.

