Getting set for summer camp

Even before winter ends, parents typically have to plan to find good summer child care options. Summer camp can be a great option for children, no matter their age or interests.

Benefits of summer camp
Camps can provide your child with numerous benefits:
› Finding role models
› Undertaking new challenges and creatively express himself or herself
› Making new friends in a safe place
› Improving his or her physical, interpersonal and decision-making skills

Types of camps
Camps fall within two main categories: daytime-only and overnight. There are two types of camps within these categories: private and public.
› Private. Examples include: vacation Bible school, Boy Scout or Girl Scout summer camps, nature camps and special-interest camps (e.g., science camps, art camps, sports camps).
› Public. These can be less expensive. Examples include: day camps sponsored by community park districts or public schools, and YMCA swim or sports camps.

What should you ask?
Visit the facility with your child, or at least talk on the phone with the camp supervisor before registering. Some questions you should consider asking include:
› What are the fees?
› What activities will my child be participating in?
› Where will my child be traveling and visiting?
› What is each staffer’s background?

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