

Teen Program Evaluator

This simple “scorecard” will help you compare the summer programs you’re considering. Use brochures, websites, videos, conversations with the director and references (both parents and teens) to gather information and take notes. You may want to use a simple scoring system, like a 1 to 5 rating, for the most important factors. This will help you narrow down your choices.

	Program Name	Program Name	Program Name
THE PROGRAM			
Purpose <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Education (See Teen Choices for types) o Community Service o Internships o Travel o Sports o Language o Leadership o Adventure o Arts/Drama/Music o Fitness o Substance versus fun o Special needs o Independence/ confidence-building o Other o Value to college applications 			
Location <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Bus or plane o One place versus travel o Urban or rural o Domestic or overseas 			
Session Length			
Facilities/Amenities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Dorms/hotels o Family (living) stay o Camping o Food o Bathroom and laundry facilities o Roommate policies o Teen versus staff 			
THE PEOPLE			
Composition <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Program and group sizes o Age range o Local/national/international o Co-ed or single-sex o Diverse ethnicity/religions o Successful type(s) 			

	Program Name	Program Name	Program Name
THE PEOPLE (cont'd)			
<i>Ownership and Staff</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Individual or group owner (+ tenure) o Adult/teen ratio o Ages o Background/training/screening o Return rate o Role (supervisory/specialists) 			
THE POLICIES (VERY IMPORTANT!)			
<i>General</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Phone/e-mail contact/visits o Electronics (e.g., cell phones, tablets) o Behavioral/emotional issues o Meal choices o Travel with friends or alone o Structured versus free time o Organized social time (e.g. night time; by age or group) o Application criteria o Teen responsibilities (luggage, laundry, group tasks, etc.) o Travel supervision (to/from home) 			
<i>Behaviors</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Relationships o Smoking/alcohol/substance abuse o Spending restrictions/allowances o Curfews o Response to policy violations 			
<i>Special Needs (e.g., Diet, Allergies, Medical, Religious, Emotional/Physical)</i>			
<i>Health/Safety</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Innoculations/passport required o Infirmary/nearest hospital o Experience with specific conditions o Security and policies 			
THE COSTS			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Tuition o Transportation o Luggage and linens o Books/supplies o Trips/special activities o Food o Other 			
<i>References</i>			
<i>Director Meeting</i>			
<i>Other</i>			

High School Summer Planner

Using this organizer in conjunction with 'Teen Program Choices', you and your teen can plan out and keep track of each summer's choices/experiences. Be sure to relate these to your teen's objectives, abilities, personality, interests, schedules and college goals. While these summers should be purposeful, choose options that match your teen's needs, not merely those that can be resume enhancers. The key is to build progressive summer experiences that reflect depth and consistency.

	Freshman	Sophomore	Junior	Senior
Summer				
Parameters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Objective(s) o Teen's Available Dates o Program Types Considered o References o Selected Program(s) o Location(s) o Session Length(s) o Selected Program Date(s) 				
Required Documents <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Application/Essay o High School Transcript o Recommendations (from whom) o Standardized Tests o Interview o Passport, Birth Certificate o Immunizations o Health Insurance o Medical Physical o Other 				
Due Dates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Application o Additional Documents o Course Selection o Departure Date(s) o Arrival Date(s) o Travel Arrangements o Other 				
Experience <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Valuable, Worthwhile o Enjoyable o Not Enjoyable o Met Objectives o Did not Meet Objectives o Recommended Improvements 				
Program Evaluation				

About the Author

Jill Tipograph, Founder & CEO, Everything Summer®



The New York Times called Jill an “expert” for summer. That’s because she takes the time to understand the personality and needs of each individual family and child – and tailors her recommendations accordingly. Her objective guidance helps you find a program that is just right.

A youth development expert, educational consultant and professional summer program planner for more than twenty years, Jill has researched more than 2,000 programs and helped families worldwide plan the “right” summers. Her unique Everything Summer® evaluation process is focused on safety, well-being, family values, and “personality fit” between kids and programs. Our team visits camps/programs in season and personally interviews directors and college admissions officers year-round. This gives Jill a comprehensive look into each program’s profile, culture and priorities – enabling her to give first-hand insights to her client families.

Jill has a BA in Psychology and an MBA from New York University. Prior to summer advising, she spent many years as a corporate executive, honing her skills in client service, research, analysis and planning.

She is an active member of the American Camp Association (ACA), and a professional member of the Independent Educational Consultants Association. Jill is on the board of the non-profit Summer Camp Opportunities Promote Education (www.SCOPEUSA.org), an organization that sends inner city children to camp. And she speaks frequently on youth, parenting and educational topics.

Jill has appeared in national and local media, including:

- *ABCNews*
- *Bloomberg News*
- *Boston Globe*
- *Business Week*
- *CNBC*
- *Forbes*
- *MSNBC*
- *NBC TV’s “Today Show”*
- *NBC News*
- *New York Times*
- *New York Observer*
- *Parents TV*
- *Real Simple*
- *SheKnows.com*
- *Smart Money*
- *Time Out New York Kids*
- *USA Today*
- *Wall Street Journal*

Jill produces seasonal newsletters and a blog that cover summer trends and insights, as well as parenting and education topics. Jill has two children who have been through camp and a variety of teen summer programs.

Your Everything Summer® Guide & Planner is packed with advice, tools and checklists to help you prepare your child and your family for summer.

"Complete, conscientious, and helpful." - Ilene, mother of two

"I could not believe how thorough this book was. Not a stone was left unturned... as a full-time working mother, this tool is essential." - Jamie, mother of three

More than 70 full-color pages, including:

- The Everything Summer® Inventory: Simple and fun questions that help you set goals for yourself and your family.
- Easy-to-complete checklists for camps and teen programs.
- Questions every parent should ask a director.
- Hints, reminders and interactive tools for dealing with topics like camp readiness, communications, homesickness, shopping, packing, transitioning, reference checking, and more.

Whether you're choosing a camp, deciding on summer activities for a pre-teen or teen, or just need help organizing for summer, you will benefit from this fun and tip-packed book!

www.everythingsummer.com

