

Why Every Young Person Deserves a Chance to Go to Camp



Summer camp is more than just fun!

When Marie-Claude and Brian Thompson brought a small group of Boston students to the first-ever session of [EVkids Camp](#) in 1980, they knew that introducing young people to the lush Green Mountains would offer benefits far beyond the simple joy of hiking, swimming, volleyball, and campfire songs.

From its earliest days, EVkids Camp has provided a transformative experience for campers, with positive impacts that last long beyond their week or two away from home.

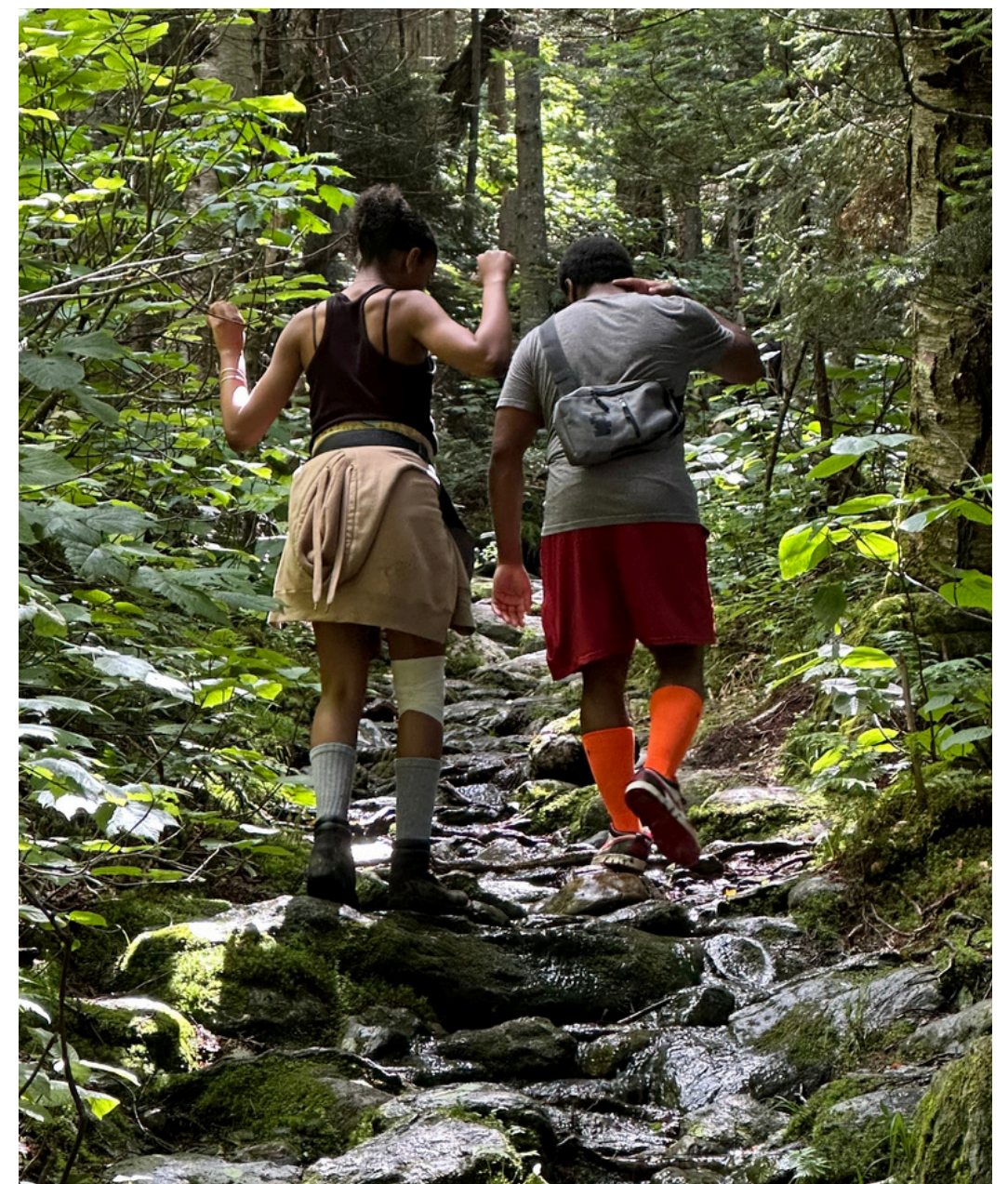


While many kids across the US enjoy day camps and sleepover camps, **children from low-income households are far less likely to attend.** Camp can be pricey: [20% of parents report spending \\$3,000 or more on summer activities for their kids.](#) This means only [7% of youth living at or below the federal poverty line](#) have the opportunity to go to camp, compared to 38% of their more affluent peers. Families without a history of college education face a [similar gap](#): parents with a bachelor's or master's degree are more than six times more likely to send their kids to camp than those with a high school diploma or less.

Kids living in cities, especially Black and Latine children, also lack opportunities to explore nature and wildlife. **Nearly three-quarters of people of color in the US “live in communities that lack access to nature that includes clean air, water, and diverse wildlife.”** [A UK Wildlife Trust study found](#) that kids who participated in nature programs gained confidence, built better relationships with teachers and classmates, and felt more capable of trying new things.

Enjoying the outdoors and being in a supportive community offers countless emotional benefits for young people at camp. [The American Camp Association's study of 80 camps](#) revealed that campers improved in the following areas:

- Self-esteem
- Independence
- Leadership
- Friendship skills
- Social comfort
- Values and decision-making skills



EVkids Camp is tailored to provide these benefits, immersing campers in a tightly-knit community of support that teaches respect, communication, and responsibility while building confidence. This includes a no phones and computers policy, which gives campers a break from the frenetic pressures of social media and encourages them to practice face-to-face social skills and problem-solving.



Campers also witness teamwork and sportsmanship modeled by near-peer counselors, providing positive role models. Finally, Camp is a place to learn new skills. For instance, Black and Latine youth have [far less access to swimming pools and swimming lessons](#), so many of our campers get their first swimming lessons at Blueberry Lake!

EVkids is able to provide these valuable experiences to our campers at a nominal cost because of our generous supporters.

[Give today to help more young Bostonians have the summer experience of a lifetime!](#)