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## **Kamp A-Kom-Plish Offers Tips on Choosing the Right Summer Camp**

*Registrations for 2009 Sessions Has Begun*

Melwood's Kamp A-Kom-Plish Vice President, Jonathon Rondeau today offered parents six tips to help make their children's summer camp experience as enjoyable as possible.

When selecting a summer camp, Rondeau advises parents to:

- **Ask if the camp is licensed by the state and accredited by the American Camp Association.** State licensing ensures that the camp adheres to established safety and health regulations. ACA accreditation ensures that the camp meets governmental requirements and voluntarily complies with an additional group of best practices for the safe operation of a summer camp.  
*Kamp A-Kom-Plish is licensed by the State of Maryland and accredited by the American Camp Association.*
- **Decide what type of camp is most appropriate.** Consider a child's age, personality and the type of activities and experiences they want out of camp. A day camp may be preferable to an overnight camp for children who are young or have never been to camp. Parents of children who require special health care or support services should ask about the camp's ability to administer medications  
*Kamp A-Kom-Plish offers both day and overnight camp, is able to register children 6-16 years old, and is certified to administer prescribed medications.*
- **Get to know the camp before registering.** Familiarize yourself with the camp, its staff and facilities. Is the camp director friendly, accessible and able to discuss questions you and your child have about camp? Are the facilities well-maintained and the counselors well-trained?  
*Many camps, including Kamp A-Kom-Plish, enable parents and children to visit camp before registering, or parents can visit [www.kampakomplish.org](http://www.kampakomplish.org) to learn more about programs and services. The facilities at Kamp A-Kom-Plish are fully-modernized with air-conditioned cabins. Counselors undergo training in emergency procedures, safety regulations, behavior management techniques, communication, appropriate staff and camper behavior and supervision procedures.*
- **Decide if the camp's values match their family's values.** Camp activities and programs should complement one's parenting philosophy. For example, team sports camps may emphasize competitiveness, while other camps encourage peer cooperation.  
*Kamp A-Kom-Plish specializes in creating a total camp environment where all children have an opportunity to create lasting friendships.*
- **Ask if the camp activities will challenge children outside their comfort zone.** Summer camps should help children gain independence in a fun, nurturing environment. Activities should be fun, challenging and out of the ordinary, without being threatening or intimidating for the child.  
*The activities offered at Kamp A-Kom-Plish are designed so all campers can challenge and enjoy themselves, and achieve things they may not have thought possible.*

- **Ask about opportunities for children to experience new and different ideas, personalities, and abilities.** Properly designed summer camps can help older children model adult actions by enabling them to learn work responsibilities. *The Terrific Teens Program at Kamp A-Kom-Plish offers campers the chance to combine summer camp fun and learn work responsibilities, such as helping with selected camp activities, in the camp office or the equestrian program.*

Camp staff report that, “Summer camps enable children to develop skills and talents they might not know they have. By following these six tips, families can select the best camp for their children, which will increase any parent’s peace of mind and their child’s summer camp enjoyment.”

Parents interested in registering their child for any of these programs should call the camp office at (301) 870-3226 or visit the camp website at [www.kampakomplish.org](http://www.kampakomplish.org) for the most up-to-date pricing and registration information.

About Melwood’s Kamp A-Kom-Plish:

Melwood’s Kamp A-Kom-Plish offers enriching day and overnight summer camp experiences for children ages 6 to 16 of all abilities. Campers enjoy archery, arts & crafts, sports, high and low ropes courses, horseback riding, a climbing wall, swimming, talent shows, traditional activities like campfires, cookouts, theme days and many more activities. Teenagers 13 to 18 can enroll in the Terrific Teens program to develop teamwork and leadership skills and become counselors-in-training or activities assistants at camp. Melwood’s Kamp A-Kom-Plish is located on 108-acres in Nanjemoy, Maryland and part of Melwood’s Community Services Division.