



GET OUT AND GO: LIFE'S A SUMMER CAMP

By [Mary Ann Rozance](#) on June 8, 2012

Head to Olympic Peninsula's Iron Springs Resort or Hood Canal's Alderbrook Resort for a well-deserved weekend getaway.

Starry nights, skipping stones, and adventure by land and water, childhood summer camp is filled with sweet innocent nothings. If you are looking for a vacation that mirrors your beloved camp dreams, there are two Washington resorts Seattleites can go and bask in the comfort of marshmallow roasting, moonlight swimming, and connecting to the sincerest and purest parts of oneself long ago forgotten.



Alderbrook Resort and Spa

Only a two-hour drive from Seattle, the [Alderbrook Resort and Spa](#) is an iconic northwest destination. Coming up on a centennial celebration, the resort offers a rich history for the region and serves as a special place for multiple generations of Seattle families. The rooms, furnishings, and architecture reflect the elegance of the Hood Canal; visitors are surrounded by beauty with every turn of the head. The hot tub and swimming pool are in a waterfront glass building so you can soak while pondering at the mountains and the stars. Everything from the robe and slippers to the exquisite dining room (with the panorama of the Olympic Range in the background) makes spending time in a beautiful place all the more luxurious.



While sophistication and grace create the ambiance of the Alderbrook, its unfettered charm keeps it low key, similar to summer camp. The resort boasts skipping stones along the shore as one of the best activities in the area, even providing the first throw on the nightstand. Every summer camp has a pet and the Alderbrook has two, Alder and Brook, tabby cats that wonder wherever they please and graciously accept petting. With creature comforts and expansive views, listening to one's own breath and ignoring time never felt so good. S'mores on the desert menu, campfire and BBQ pits, and the amiable nature of the staff give one the sense of being at summer camp.

With summer approaching, the Alderbrook will once again be the Hood Canal destination for boaters in the region. With waterfront BBQs and dining service many visitors will flock to the resort on sunny Saturdays and especially for the front and center view of the Hood Canal's 4th of July

fireworks show. Expect oyster eating contests, music on Friday nights, and an array of fun activities scheduled throughout the year.



What to do: Summer camp is as much about sitting still and enjoying the slow pace as it is about being active in nature's playground. Whether you are interested in a few hours, or a full day, [Hood Canal Adventures](#) (located on the Alderbrook Pier) will spark your childlike adventure in a safe and inviting environment. In addition to kayaking, the Alderbrook offers an 18-hole golf course, a game room, fitness center and a day spa. Additionally, guests can explore the nearby shell fishing (when in season), hiking trails and State Parks.

Good to Know: The guest rooms in the resort do not have cooking facilities so visitors should be prepared to dine at the resort restaurant or elsewhere. The fifteen guest cottages do have full kitchens and living rooms with a cozy fireplace.