

Thank you for making a cabin request for Az Soccer Camp.

If you are inquiring about placing a younger child in an older child's cabin, (or vice versa), please carefully read below.

Although most parents understand the necessity of constructing cabin rosters by age groups, we understand that, at times, parents request a younger sibling be placed in the same cabin as an older sibling... even the other way around at times . Most of our requests are to separate siblings. Most older kids don't want their younger sibling hanging around them all the time.

We understand, however, the "insecurity" of going away to camp – especially for younger kids or first timers. We take special care to meet the needs of each age group. In the Az Soccer Camp environment, which is free from the social expectations pressuring them at school, our camp encourages kids to relax and make friends easily. All the fun at camp draws everyone together— singing, laughing, talking, playing the sport they love, and participating in uniquely designed "team building" activities both on and off the field – draw kids together.

We fully understand that, although the summer camp experience is a tremendous opportunity to meet new friends, many kids also wish to spend quality time with friends/teammates they already have. In some cases, a younger child wants to be in a cabin with an older brother or sister. Cabin groups are NOT our focal point.

So, What does Az Soccer Camp do to help with this matter?

While kids are at Az Soccer Camp, campers are grouped strategically in
4 different groups:

- 1) The Camp Family, as we call it! This is the whole camp which we are committed to keeping small. We turn away kids every year, but we don't want hundreds – we want a small family atmosphere of

no more than 80 kids. We take great pride in creating a family atmosphere at Az Soccer Camp. All of our staff members have been here as campers themselves and we have over a 90% return rate.

- 2) Skill training groups for soccer instruction: These groups are normally not restricted to gender. They are, in part, grouped by age, but more so by ability and experience so we can better meet the individual needs of each camper.

- 3) Cabin Groups: These cabin groups are constructed by gender and age. We try not to place kids more than a grade (or 2 apart) Remembering that there are physical, social, and cognitive differences in each age group, we want kids to be placed with other people their own age for obvious reasons. It may also help to remember that, for example, other 7th graders may not be so keen on rooming with a 10 year old. The parent thinks having the 10 year old in the older cabin helps create a feeling of security, however, it often has the opposite outcome as the week goes by.

- 4) Teams: We also group kids in “teams”. These teams are led by a camper “Captain” who is very experienced at Az Soccer Camp – normally has been attending for many years and may be in their last summer at Az Soccer Camp (15 years old). These teams are combined with various ages and both genders. *The vast majority of our activities off the soccer field are done by “teams”, not cabins.* Kids also do not have to eat with their cabin groups... they can sit where ever they wish.

Since 1981, we have found these unique “groups” allow for kids to both be in “age appropriate” communities, but also give all campers a chance

to interact with, and create friendships with all kids and staff in camp. Hence, the Camp Family, as stated in number 1 above.

If you are inquiring about placing a younger child in an older child's cabin, (or vice versa), remembering that the vast majority of our activities off the soccer field are done by "teams", we can assure you that your younger sibling is placed on the same "team" as the older sibling. This way, they will be together for all our activities.

What should I say to my younger child who is afraid to be in a cabin without his/her older brother/sister?

First, it is important for you, as a parent, to clearly communicate that you fully trust your child's level of personal responsibility and social skills... you are confident they will "grow wherever they are planted!"... Even if they were to attend camp by themselves, they would do great and have a wonderful time. If you express any doubt at all, your child will feed off that doubt.

Assure your younger child can have access to their older sibling at any time. They go all day at school with kids their own age, and are not with their older sibling. They play on soccer teams with kids their own age and not on their older sibling's team. Best of all, we will make certain they are placed on the same "team" as stated above, so all the activities will be done with their older sibling. (If requested)

Thank you for understanding the difficulties in having kids room together who have drastic differences in physical and social levels of development. Az Soccer Camp is a place where kids have the unique and special opportunity make some of their very best friends. We have people who are on staff and in their 20's who met for the first time at camp! They are now friends for life!

If you have any questions or would like to talk to the Owner/Director of Az Soccer Camp, please feel free to call Scott Segerson at 480-217. 4095.