

Kirby Camp, what is it like?

“Staying at Kirby Camp for the week was a privileged experience. The setting is peaceful, beautiful, welcoming. My family went there last July for the first time--six of us. My parents stayed in the master bedroom with a queen bed and my wife and I and two boys slept in the four bunk beds in the other bedroom. The cabin has a wonderful kitchen complete with refrigerator, stove/oven and all the utensils, pots and pans a great cook needs. At Kirby Camp, you bring your own food. Imagine cooking and preparing each meal and sitting down to eat together 2 or 3 times a day. It's something I missed from growing up. We sat in the Adirondack chairs on the front porch overlooking the lake, read books, watched the wildlife and watercraft coming by. We enjoyed just talking with one another. We saw the Loons and their brood and heard them occasionally at night. When the weather was cool or rainy, we spent time in the living room with its beautiful wood furniture. For adventure, we rented the motor boat for the week and took a couple of trips around Raquette Lake. My teenage boys really enjoyed that and learned to operate and navigate a boat with an outboard motor. We swam in the lake and paddled the camp's canoes. We explored the cove of Silver Beach and four miles of South Inlet (across the lake from Kirby) all the way to the waterfalls where we surprised some otters, blue herons and ducks. One morning my youngest son and I walked barefoot on the trails leading toward Camp Marion and Silver Beach, we felt like we were Frodo and Bilbo Baggins in the Shire! At night we would start an outdoor fire and roasted marshmallows.”

“The gas lights in the kitchen and the living room work very well and add heat to the room, if wanted. There is no electricity and cell phones won't receive signal. The toilet is a composting one that is attached to the back deck and everyone was satisfied with it. There is running water in the kitchen and master bedroom. Out in the back yard area of the cabin is a shower stall that you use the solar heated water bags (have to fill with water and lay out on front dock to heat.) During our time there the lake water was very warm and some of us washed ourselves in the lake. A couple of days we did have a class of biology students or faculty folks walk by, but otherwise you are very private. We did walk to Camp Huntington a couple of times and did go to the grocery store in Raquette Lake once to restock our supplies. On our last night in the living room we found the book where previous occupants of the camp wrote in their experiences and added ours.”

“You can't come close to beating the price of Kirby Camp for vacation for a family or a couple. This past winter I yearned for it so much that I signed my family up for a week this summer! I urge you to leave the worries of modern life behind and experience the camp, the peace and beauty, and the fellowship with your family and nature.

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Weeks are still available. Contact Mary Jo Carey at (607) 753-5488 or maryjo.carey@cortland.edu