

### EYE ON SAN DIEGO

## Happy – and Smarter – Campers

EAGER PARENTS gather up progeny as young as 9 and as old as 24. Youngsters may be straight-A students or the kind of children whose report cards cause parents to gray prematurely. These offspring are then shipped off to prestigious college campuses around the nation for intensive 10-day retreats.

It's summer school. No, it's summer camp. Actually, it's SuperCamp.

"Too often, students are told to take notes, go write a paper, go study for a test--and a lot of times they've never been specifically taught how to do those things," says Learning Forum cofounder and president Bobbi DePorter. "In SuperCamp, students learn strategies and techniques to help them in ways they best learn."

Not just an academic camp, SuperCamp packs its days with activities in and outside the classroom. Sessions are alternated with life-skills training in areas like communication



SuperCamps aim to teach kids academic and interaction skills.

and relationships, creative thinking, problem solving, goal setting, commitment and responsibility.

Torrey Pines High senior Nels Youngborg has attended two SuperCamps. "Nels was unsure of his goals, didn't have a real good study ethic and lacked some interpersonal skills," says his dad Paul. "I can say that it really changed Nels. SuperCamp helps kids define their goals, express themselves assertively instead of aggressively and learn to solve peer-pressure issues."

Adds Nels: "SuperCamp teaches you academic strategies that help in school. But I was most affected by what I learned about my peers. It gave me a lot of confidence in learning to

talk to people, realizing that it's okay to be yourself and that there's really no such thing as 'cool.'"

DePorter says motivating students to learn involves provoking curiosity, getting them excited about material and creating a comfortable environment. Rest assured, ideal settings don't come cheap. Costs range from \$1,600 to \$2,100. Special programs and tours are also held in Mexico, Switzerland, Hong Kong, Singapore, Thailand and Malaysia.

For more info, call 800-285-3276 or go to [supercamp.com](http://supercamp.com).

- LYNNA JAMISON