



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

2021 SUMMER CAMP UPDATE -- April 20, 2021

Dear Camp Families:

At YMCA of the Pines, we are working excitedly on preparations for the 2021 summer and are grateful that we are collectively in a better place than the spring of 2020 when we did not know whether summer camp would happen, and how it would look. With that said, we are still waiting on the New Jersey Department of Health (the governing body for summer camps in New Jersey) to issue its 2021 summer camp guidance. Once that guidance is released, we will be able to revise and update our policies and protocols regarding camp operations and COVID-19, and share them with our camp families (and also on our website: www.ycamp.org).

I do not have a timeline for when the guidance will be released, although I expect that it will be soon. With that qualifier out of the way, I wanted to share some relevant updates as we plan for this summer.

May 1 Cancellation/Refund Deadline Extended to June 1

We previously communicated that you could register with no risk, as you could cancel any registered sessions up to May 1, 2021 and receive a full refund (deposit included). To better support our camp families, we are extending this deadline to June 1, to allow you more time to plan and map out your summer. Further, this should give you the opportunity to review our policies and protocols in full prior to making a final decision on whether to send your camper to camp this summer.

May 1 Session Switch Deadline Extended to June 1

You may also switch sessions until June 1 at no cost, pending availability. I mention this policy because we do expect that campers will have to quarantine for 2 weeks if they travel out of the region (such as a family vacation to Florida), as this is currently the prevailing regulation in New Jersey for unvaccinated individuals. Of course, should New Jersey change that guidance, we will communicate that information, accordingly. Until then, please be mindful that if you are traveling out of the northeast region (NJ, PA, NY, DE, MD, CT) with your camper this summer, you should adjust your camp schedule so they are not coming back to camp immediately following the trip.

ANSWERS TO FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Trips

We are operating our wilderness trips this summer (Rangers, and BOLD & GOLD)! Regarding field trips for Explorers, we are awaiting camp guidance from the Department of Health, as such trips were not permitted in 2020. If field trips are permitted in 2021, we will seek to do them in accordance with all applicable guidelines.

COVID Testing/Screening

For Lake Stockwell Day Camp, we anticipate that families will be asked to self-monitor and screen campers at home (temperature check, much like going to school) each morning, and to stay home if ill. For sleepaway camp and wilderness trips, we are planning on working with a medical vendor to conduct rapid-testing of campers at check-in, and possibly a second time during the session. Note, the rapid test utilized is a base nasal swab that only swabs the base of the camper's nose (not the deep-nose swab).

Vaccines

Campers are not required to be vaccinated against COVID-19 to come to camp. We are highly encouraging our staff to be vaccinated, and assisting them in making appointments now that all New Jersey residents are eligible. We are proud to confirm that 100% of our full-time program staff are fully vaccinated!

CLOSING

Thank you again for your patience as we work through our planning this spring for the upcoming summer. As noted at the outset, we are in a much better position to operate this summer given our experience from successfully operating in 2020, and how much knowledge we now collectively have about COVID-19 and its transmission compared to this point last spring. We will be sure to share more information with you about our policies and protocols once the Department of Health has released its camp guidance, and in the meantime are happy to provide you with additional time and flexibility as you make plans in advance of the summer.

Please contact our Welcome Center at 609.654.8225 with any questions. I am happy to answer any questions you may have as well.

Thank you, and we look forward to seeing you at camp this summer!

Sincerely,

Greg Keresztury, Chief Operating Officer
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