

Dear Camper Parents,

We made it through the snow and cold, Spring is upon us, but it's hard to believe that Summer Camp is just around the corner after nearly two years since we were last together at Camp Waluhili. Along with other camps across the country we are working to identify the best solutions for camp this summer. While the challenges have seemed insurmountable, we believe that by following the guidelines from the CDC, the ACA, and lessons learned by other camps in 2020 we can provide the safe, fun, and enriching camp experience our youth so desperately need now.



Camp will look different this year. So, here is where we are now. Please be patient and flexible with us as we will, undoubtedly, make adjustments as we move closer to summer. While there have to be changes to the way camp runs, as always, our goal is to provide your children an amazing week in the outdoors.

Prescreening: We will be sending a link to a health survey two weeks before the beginning of your session. We ask that you complete this survey with your camper daily. At camp we will be doing daily health checks and this will not only help identify a potential infection, but develop the habit of being aware of how you feel and when something is different.

Pre-Arrival shelter in place: We are asking that families self-isolate for two weeks leading to camp and diligently use face masks. While there are vaccines, campers and many family members will not have received them by this summer. The best way to minimize risk of infection before camp is to control what is within your ability to control. The two areas that can have the greatest impact is to minimize contact with people outside your household and wear masks outside of the home.

Daily Health Screening: Similar to the screening you will do with your campers before coming to camp, they will go through a daily health screening in their cabins before they head out for the day. If anything appears out of the ordinary for them, they go directly to our Camp Nurse/Medic for further evaluation. The Camp Nurse/Medic will then determine whether they or the cabin group should be isolated.

Cohorting: We've been cohorting at camp for a long time, we just called it a cabin group. Campers will do everything with their cabin groups. The cabin group will be their family for the week. They will do all activities, meals, and well, everything together. Cabin groups will be limited to 10 campers and 2 counselors. In addition to doing everything with their cabin, campers and staff will distance and wear masks when they cannot.

Disinfecting, Cleaning, and Handwashing: These are all part of our daily routines at camp. This year, we will simply add additional levels and vigilance to making sure they are done. Campers and Staff clean their cabins daily as well as other areas of camp. Handwashing has always been encouraged, this year we will wash our hands before and after meals, after activities, and upon entering their cabins. We have also purchased hand sanitizing stations that will be placed around camp.

PPE and Altered Activities: Distancing and masks are the new new this year. Masks will be mandatory anytime that we are not able to be at least 6 feet from each other ie. In cabins, at the craft hut. As well, we will alter activities and create new ones that will make distancing possible.

Check in and Check out will be a drive through event this year. To facilitate that, we ask that you have completed and returned all paperwork. The only people allowed out of cars will be campers. We will have staff present to make sure everyone gets to where they need to be. Please prepare your campers for this. In the past we have encouraged parents to help campers get settled in to their bunks. This year that transition will have to happen in the car.

As you can see, camp will look different this year. It does not mean, however, that camp will be a less impactful experience. If anything, I believe it is more important now than ever. The past year has been an incredibly difficult year for our young people on top of the already difficult task of being a young person navigating their world. Your youth need the opportunity to get away from incredible heaviness that has been their lives for the past year; to reconnect with the outdoors, hang out with their peers, to just be a kid among kids, if even just for a week.

These are the highlights and what we have been working on to welcome you all back to camp this year. We look forward to seeing your faces again, if only over the top of mask. As always, if you have any questions, please get in touch with me. I would love to hear your questions, thoughts, and hopes for this summer.

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