



DC Summer Programs 2020 : COVID-19 FAQ

Greetings Camp Families,

Summer is almost here and we are excited as we anticipate welcoming your children to camp!

We have been diligently working in preparation for our program to be in compliance with the CDC, the PA Department of Health, and American Camping Association guidelines for operation within the yellow and green phases of re-opening. During this time, we have received many requests for specific information about what the camp day will look like. Recognizing that recommendations are ever-changing, this communication will inform you of the protocols and precautions we will put in place based on the information we currently have on hand.

More information will be forthcoming throughout the month of June in preparation for opening day on June 29. Our goal is for everyone to know what to expect when you bring your child to camp on the first day. With much thought and pre-planning, our summer team believes that we can offer a program that is equal in quality to any past experience you may have enjoyed with us. Our mission and values remain the same; it is the process in which they are accomplished that is being adjusted. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions.

Blessings,
Kevin McIntyre
Director of Summer Programs

Will campers and staff members be practicing social distancing?

Yes, to the greatest extent possible. Campers will be grouped into smaller cohorts with a maximum of 10 campers and a minimum of 1 counselor. Each cohort group will stay consistent throughout the week with the same counselor assigned each day. Cohorts will stay socially distant from other cohorts, but will still have the opportunity to see one another and interact in fun and creative ways while maintaining proper social distancing protocols. Campers within the same cohort will practice social distancing to the extent this is practical throughout the day. Cohorts will have their own classroom as their headquarters and separate spaces for the storing of their belongings. We are working to build a program that will allow campers to experience the community aspect of camp while remaining physically separated.

Will campers and staff members be required to wear masks?

In accordance with the PA Department of Health Guidelines for camps, all staff members will be required to wear cloth face coverings when outside of their cohort or when social distancing is not possible. However, face masks for campers will be optional while operating within their cohort. We will work to ensure all staff members and campers wearing face coverings stay safe, cool, and hydrated.

Will camp have weekly or daily health screenings?

Yes, the following daily precautions will be taken when campers arrive.

1. Hand sanitizing stations will be present at all points of entry to camp each day.
2. Parents will conduct an assessment of their child to identify any symptoms or measured fevers present on a daily basis before campers are admitted. More specific instructions will be provided in the camper welcome email the week prior to the first week of camp.

What if a camper or staff member develops an illness or fever while at camp?

More care will be taken in training counseling staff to identify campers showing signs of illness and having them visit the nurses station. If a child or a staff member is found to have a fever or is showing symptoms consistent with COVID-19, they will be moved to a different location on camp with a member of our nursing staff. Parents will be contacted to pick-up their child and will be given further instruction on follow-up steps as needed at the discretion of our nursing staff.

How will the daily program look different?

The largest change to the daily program will be the move from a free-flowing, choice-based format to a station to station activity format. Groups will move from one activity to the next with appropriate transition time being given for sanitizing equipment and spaces between groups. We have developed a schedule that utilizes up to 10 different stations 2 times throughout the week, allowing us to engage campers in new and creative ways every day. Activities involving all campers will still take place with cohort groups remaining distanced from one another while participating in the same type of activity in large, open, outdoor spaces with well-defined boundaries.

How will you be handling lunch and snacks?

Lunch will be eaten as a cohort group either outside or in that cohort's classroom headquarters. Parents should plan to pack a snack for their child every day in addition to lunch. We will have pre-packaged snacks on campus in case families forget from time to time. Traditionally we have provided snacks, so this will be a change for returning families. In accordance with mitigation guidelines, it is best practice for all food eaten by a camper to have come from their home.

What will the protocols be for sanitizing spaces and equipment?

We have developed a daily cleaning schedule for commonly used spaces and equipment. Additional staff have been hired specifically for cleaning purposes. Only equipment that is

easily sanitized will be used during activities. Buckets for clean and used equipment will be present at all activity stations to make it easier to renew that space for the next group.

How do you plan on using your aquatic facilities?

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the construction of our new pool has been delayed. We expect our on-site pool to be available as early as session 3 (mid-July). Even in the absence of a physical pool, there will be plenty of water activities available for use by camper cohorts. Once our pool is operational, it will become a part of our station schedule. One group of campers will use the pool at one time and transition time between groups will allow for the cleaning of surfaces. Social distancing will be maintained to the extent possible.

What about the Field Trips?

Currently, all field trips are still on the camp calendar, but are pending. In the event that a field trip is not possible, our program team has been formulating special on-campus activities to fill the void. If field trips become possible, we will be offering families the option to attend the field trip or stay at camp for a day of fun. Families should note that a majority of field trips may not take place this summer.

The full version of [DC Summer Programs Policies and Procedures in Response to COVID-19](#) can be accessed in the [Health and Safety](#) section of our web page.