



## Fernbrook Farms Environmental Education Center

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June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020

Dear Summer Camp Families,

I hope you and your families are doing well! As you may have heard, last Friday Governor Murphy announced that Summer Day Camps may begin operating as of July 6<sup>th</sup>.

I'm sure that many of you have questions about what measures will be put in place at Fernbrook Farms to ensure the safety and well-being of your children. Earlier this month, a Field Guide was released by the ACA (American Camp Association) in conjunction with the CDC and EH&E that fully describes the procedures for running camp during these unprecedented and changing times. We have read this field guide and have participated in several webinars with doctors, nurses, and health officials to ensure that we have fully understood the procedures before designing a protocol that reflects both the Field Guide recommendations and Fernbrook Farms' programs.

To begin, we will use cohorts to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. At Fernbrook Farms, our cohorts will be the Pollywogs, Jr. Fiddleheads, Fiddleheads (two cohorts) and Young Stewards. Within Fiddleheads, campers will be placed into core groups, which are organized by age and grade. It is our goal to minimize the changes within core groups from week to week throughout the summer. Each cohort will be able to come together without masks but they will maintain social distance from other cohorts. While this will have an impact on how we structure a camper's day, it will not impact what is available to campers or many of the Fernbrook Farms traditions that campers love. For example, we will not come together as one large community at the beginning of the day, at the end of each day, or for all camp activities as we have in years past. But, we will meet in smaller round-ups by cohort and our Friday afternoon campfires will happen throughout the day so that each cohort gets to experience the fun and joy of the campfire.

Next, we have already started to make changes to our facilities to ensure the continued health and safety of our camp community. Due to our limited indoor space and our need to maintain separation between cohorts, our total camp capacity will be lower than in a typical summer. As well, there will be additional hand-washing stations and hand sanitizer placed in and around the Education Center. We have also ordered extra camp supplies so that each cohort will have their own set of supplies. Where this is not applicable, we have ordered extra sanitation supplies to increase the amount of times per day any shared surfaces are disinfected.

Finally, we will ask families & staff to do a self-screening process for 14 days prior to attending camp. We are all in this together and it is very important that we self-monitor and stay home if we are sick or experiencing even the subtlest of symptoms. Our staff will wear masks during drop-off and pick-up and more details regarding these times will be forthcoming in our Welcome Letter. While at camp, we will prioritize hand-washing and sanitation. Additionally, we have ordered extra hand soap, hand sanitizer, and other PPE to help ensure that we are fully prepared. Respecting oneself and each other is a priority every year at camp and especially this year. We will emphasize washing hands, coughing/sneezing into one's arm, communicating how one is feeling & more.

Should you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to email me.

Thank you,

Brian Kuser  
Summer Camp Director

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