



June 1, 2020

4-H Camp Parents,

The last few months have been unpredictable and truly unprecedented. Thankfully, we are back to having summer camp! After reviewing guidance from the CDC, SC-DHEC, and the American Camp Association (ACA) over the last several months, we have adopted some new policies for this summer. As always, the safety of our campers is our top priority, and we believe that the steps outlined below will allow us to accomplish that objective.

COVID-19 Response

We want to take every reasonable precaution to prevent COVID-19 from affecting our camp programs. Our COVID-19 mitigation strategy is a layered 4-step process: **Screening, Sanitizing, Symptom Awareness, and Social Distancing.**

SCREENING

This summer our families will take part in increased medical screening that will require two additional steps to our typical process.

The first will be a COVID-19 Screening Form that will be emailed to all families one week before your child's scheduled camp week. In addition to the Camp Health Form that you have already completed that gives us general information about your child's medical background, this new screening form will ask some basic information about your child's immediate health history in the period just before camp. This additional form must be completed and returned to us prior to your child attending camp.

The second step will be a brief COVID-19 screening that will be conducted on the day of camp registration. Upon arrival at camp, your child and every person in the vehicle will have their temperature taken and will be asked a few short questions about their immediate health history, recent out of state travel, etc. **If the camper or anyone in the car exhibits symptoms of COVID-19 the camper will not be allowed to stay at camp.**

This additional screening will slow down the registration process. With that in mind, we are asking that campers be dropped off at camp by only one parent/guardian so that we can screen everyone as quickly as possible. Included in this letter is a step-by-step process of our Check-In Day. Before coming to camp please review this process and walk through it with your child so they are familiar with what to expect.

SANITIZING

Cleanliness while at camp will be a key step to helping us fight this virus. Our proactive cleaning process will involve both campers and staff taking daily cleaning steps to help support this effort.

We will require campers to clean their cabins and sleeping areas daily. This means that we will have staff and campers clean all of the hard surfaces around the room and keep all clothes and personal items in their bags. We will not ask campers to handle any cleaning products.

As an organization, we have diverted resources typically used to do other things in order to hire additional staff for the specific purpose of cleaning throughout the camp week. The additional staff will be cleaning all of the hard surfaces in cabins daily as well as cleaning the common areas multiple times throughout each camp day.

We will also be adopting a cleaning pattern that will slow the camp schedules to allow for campers to wash their hands between activities, while also allowing the counselor to clean and disinfect the activity area.

Unfortunately, one downside of this additional cleaning will be that we will not have support staff to take as many pictures and videos throughout the week to post online. We will still have some daily pictures to post on Facebook throughout the week, but we will not be able to use Shutterfly as we usually do. We ask for your understanding as we prioritize cleaning this summer.

SYMPTOM AWARENESS

This summer we plan to be even more vigilant in monitoring camper health. We will intentionally check in with each child daily to see how they are doing both physically and emotionally. In addition, on Monday and Tuesday, we will check each child's temperature. Specifically, we will be looking for the three most common symptoms of COVID-19 (as provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) coughing, shortness of breath, and fever.

In the unfortunate circumstance that a child becomes ill during the week, we have a plan in place that will allow them to receive medical care while isolating them from the other campers. Rest assured that you will be made aware and will be part of the treatment process if this happens to your child.

Additionally, we ask all of our high-risk campers to consult their primary care physician before coming to camp.

The CDC classifies those with the following conditions as high risk:

- People with chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma
- People who have serious heart conditions
- People who are immunocompromised
 - Many conditions can cause a person to be immunocompromised, including cancer treatment, smoking, bone marrow or organ transplantation, immune

deficiencies, poorly controlled HIV or AIDS, and prolonged use of corticosteroids and other immune weakening medications

- People with severe obesity (body mass index [BMI] of 40 or higher)
- People with diabetes
- People with chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis
- People with liver disease

SOCIAL DISTANCING

This summer we have reduced the capacities of our camps by about 50% to allow for better social distancing measures. When your child arrives at camp they will be assigned to a “household” of 7-10 campers that will operate, for the majority of the week, independently of all other groups at camp.

Occasionally, multiple households will be together in common spaces, for things such as meals or evening activities. In those situations, we will have 2 to 3 households operate as a neighborhood. This allows these households to participate in the same activity while still keeping an appropriate physical distance from other households. Both households and neighborhoods will remain constant for the week your child is at camp which will significantly limit each camper’s exposure to other campers and staff.

At night, we will make sure that every child will have appropriate separation from other children in their bunks as recommended by the American Camp Association.

Camper Check-In

This summer, we will have a Curbside Check-In process. For some children, this process could seem strange and uncomfortable. With that in mind, we are asking that all parents go through this process with their children, before arriving at camp. To allow for this process to go as quickly as possible, we are also asking that only one adult drop off the camper(s).

Step 1: Arrival at Camp

Please arrive at camp at your designated Check-In time. This time will be emailed to you the week before you come to camp.

When you arrive, please have everyone in the vehicle put a mask on. You will be greeted by one of our staff members who will direct you to the Check-In line.

While waiting for our staff, please stay in your vehicle. To best protect our staff and campers, we will not have access to bathrooms or other areas of camp during Check-In.

Step 2: Medical Screening

When the line allows, you will pull your car forward to our Medical Screening area. Each person in the vehicle will have their temperatures checked and be asked a few short questions. After your vehicle is cleared by our staff you will move forward to the next step.

Please keep your masks on while our staff is at your vehicle.

Step 3: Camper Check-In

When the line allows, you will pull your car forward to the Camper Check-In area. Our staff will check-in your camper at this table. The staff will review all of your forms, payment information, and take your child's medicine. You will be given the Camp Director's contact information at this time.

Once your child is checked-in, your child can exit the vehicle. Parents will also be allowed to exit their vehicles, but all parents will need to stay with their vehicles. Please leave your mask on while you are outside of your vehicle.

Our staff will then take your camper's luggage and sanitize the outside of the bag.

At this point, families will say their final "goodbyes" and we will start a great week of summer camp!

Camper Check-Out

Our Camper Check-Out process will also look different this year. Our staff will still be doing a Closing Ceremony, but it will take place with each neighborhood, rather than the whole camp. Each camper will still receive an award and a t-shirt. Unfortunately, we will not be able to invite parents to our closing ceremonies this year. Our Check-Out process will probably look similar to the carpool lane at your child's school.

Step 1: Arrival at Camp

Please arrive at camp at your designated Check-Out time. This time will be emailed to you the week before you come to camp.

When you arrive, please have everyone in the vehicle put on a mask. You will be greeted by one of our staff members who will direct you to our Check-Out line.

While waiting for our staff, please stay in your vehicle. To best protect our campers, we will not have access to bathrooms or other areas of camp during Check-Out.

Step 2: Camper Check-Out

When the line allows, please pull forward to our Check-Out area. Our staff will check-out your camper, hand back over any unused medicine, and let you know about the amazing week that we had. Please have your ID available, so that we can confirm that you are the designated person to pick up the child.

When your child arrives at the vehicle, please feel free to exit the vehicle; however please stay at the vehicle.

Once your child has loaded their luggage into your vehicle, then you are free to leave.

Additional Items for Packing List

In addition to the packing list on our website, we ask that your camper also bring a cloth face covering that will allow for dedicated, personal use. If you do not have a mask, we will provide a disposable mask for them to use. These masks may be used during some indoor activities and other necessary times throughout the week. We also ask that you pack your child's toiletries in a bag that can be labeled with their name (Ziploc freezer bags are fine). Because of the additional cleaning in the bathrooms, each camper will need to store his/her toiletries in their luggage after use.

Thank you for continuing to trust us with your family's summer camp experience. We feel confident that these steps will help us have another great summer. We will continue to monitor the guidance of state and national health agencies and if anything changes how or when we operate camp, we will let you know immediately. Please feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns that you might have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen W. Lance". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Stephen Lance
Executive Director
Youth Learning Institute