



5/11/20

Dear Valley Trails Families,

The weather is warming up, and the school year is nearing a close, and this is the time of the year that we are most looking forward to as camp is approaches. Based on the communication and surveys with our camp families and community, we are know that camp is essential and needed more this summer than ever before. This summer, we will be making the necessary changes in order provide a safe and meaningful program for our campers.

We have been working on summer since the fall of 2019, and still look forward to campers joining us this summer for a much needed camp experience. As the COVID-19 virus has changed all of our normal lives and routines, we have been busy working on Plans A, B, C, etc for the upcoming summer. Our guidelines will be provided by the CDC, the American Camp Association (ACA), an outside firm (Environmental Health Engineering), as well as our local authorities to determine how we operate this summer. These guidance will be following the best practices that is being released by the American Academy of Pediatrics.

SCHEDULING

Valley Trails Summer Camp has offered flexibility with our enrollment options, allowing families to select the number, the days of the week, and the weeks that their camper would attend camp. This summer, in order to provide a safe, and closed group of campers and leaders this summer, we will only be offering a 5 day program (Monday - Friday). If we were to allow multiple day options, the number of campers going in and out of the groups would be too high, adding unnecessary risks with community spread of the COVID-19 virus. While the flexibility of selecting your days may not be there, we are certain that this will create a benefit to our campers providing even stronger relationships and opportunities for individual and group development.

PROGRAM CHANGES

Swimming, challenge course activities, archery, and most of our traditional camp activities will still go on as planned, and the guidelines for cleaning and safety will be strictly adhered to.

The main changes will be centered around the group experience. We will not be running as many all-camp activities and events this summer, where the focus will be on creating even more group spirit, friendship and camaraderie. Large camp gatherings will be limited to a maximum of 50 participants (Campers and Leaders). Each group will still maintain a level of social distancing from one another to minimize the opportunity of community spread.⁵

SAFETY MEASURES

Valley Trails Summer Camp will continue to employ a professional and properly trained and equipped cleaning crew who will properly clean and sanitize throughout the camp day, and in detail every afternoon prior to the opening of camp. Lunch periods will be staggered allowing more space between

campers while enjoying their lunch, and more time to properly clean and disinfect our lunch areas between groups.

All staff and campers will be screened daily before entering camp. These screening procedures will follow the guidelines provided by the CDC and local experts.

TRANSPORTATION

At this time, we have not made a decision if Valley Trails Summer Camp will offer transportation as we are awaiting further guidance. We will be creating enhanced drop-off and pick up systems, as well as screening procedures to ensure safety and ease bringing your camper to and from camp.

SCHEDULING & PAYMENTS

Families who are currently enrolled will have priority in selecting their weeks for the summer of 2020. The payment deadline for the summer will also be extended to June 1st. Additional guidance and information for our camp families regarding payments and deposits, screening, transportation, and health and safety on our FAQ page.

NEXT STEPS

Families will need to log-in to the Valley Trails Summer Camp registration page. You will be able to select the 5-day weeks for your camper's to attend. Deposits that have been already been submitted will be applied to the new session that you are enrolling your camper for during our new 2020 program.

WHAT IF WE ENROLLED, BUT CHOOSE NOT TO ATTEND THIS SUMMER?

If you have enrolled, and choose not to attend during the summer of 2020, your deposit /payment will be held over and applied towards the summer of 2021. There is nothing that you need to actively do for this, it will be automatic. If you choose not to attend this summer, please email our office to let us know so that we can update our records.

I know that you will still have questions and will do my best to answer these as quickly as possible. Through the continuous panning and concern that we have to provide a safe and quality program, that our campers will benefit from their Valley Trails experience as they emerge from their "Safer at Home" environment. **For faster answers and replies to your questions, please send emails to mike@valleytrails.com. All calls should be directed to our Santa Clarita office at 661.257.0266**

Yours truly,



Mike Stillson (aka Otter)
Executive Director