



Dear Camp Sealth Campers and Families,

As winter is starting to shift to spring, we're starting to think about warmer days and building excitement to return to camp this summer. We also know that it's a good time to update you on our plans for Summer 2021 overnight camp.

Since our cancellation in summer 2020, we have been continuously gathering information and preparing for what summer 2021 would look like. We're using data and identifying key lessons learned from camps that did run in 2020, and we're looking closely at COVID-19 guidance from the CDC and the Washington State Department of Health. We feel confident that we can safely operate this summer.

It's important to be clear that we can't guarantee a COVID-free summer at camp, so the risk of attending camp isn't zero. Our system for mitigating the spread of COVID-19 is a multi-layered approach, with preventative measures taken both before and during camp to keep campers and staff safe. Small, stable groups of campers will remain together throughout the week, with minimal interactions outside of their group. Masks and physical distancing will be required with anyone outside of the small group. Campers will remain outdoors and much as possible, with increased ventilation in indoor spaces. Increased cleaning and daily health screening will also be a part of camp life. We also anticipate that most of our staff will be fully vaccinated by the start of camp. And when a case of COVID does show up, we have a robust communicable disease plan to quickly identify and avoid any spread within the greater camp community.

Camp will look different this summer. We are updating our procedures for everything, from check-in, to cabins and bathrooms, camp activities, food service, and more. We want our campers and families to feel prepared for these changes, so we'll be communicating them out to families, beginning in April via email, on our website, and through social media.

While we have been diligently working to prepare for this summer, the one thing that is out of our control is Washington State guidelines. Current guidance does not allow overnight camps to operate, except as family camps. The Washington State Camp Coalition (WSCC) is an advocacy group which is working with Governor Inslee's office to update the guidelines and allow camps to reopen. Our Executive Director, Rick Taylor, and myself are on the Leadership Alliance for the WSCC, and are actively engaged in this process. Several other states across the country have recently opened up overnight camps, so we are cautiously optimistic that Washington State will follow suit, and we anticipate having this guidance in place by early April. Camp Sealth will make a go/no-go decision once the guidance is in place, around mid-April.

In the meantime, start looking out for more information from us on what camp will look like this summer and how you can prepare. After mid-April, we'll open up any remaining spots for camp this summer for kids who would like to attend more than one session.

As always, please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns.

Carrie Lawson
Summer Camp Director
Camp Sealth