

## ERDC 2021 Covid Updates – December 2020

Eagle Rock Day Camp was one of the only local camps to operate in 2020. We served an average of 100 campers per week for eight weeks. Our administration is confident that we can once again provide an exceptional camp experience to our campers while keeping them safe and healthy.

It is important to understand that as of today, the same guidelines and restrictions that were in place for the 2020 season are still in place along with some additional rules. We anticipate that many of these guidelines and restrictions will be changed, relaxed or eliminated entirely. The following is a conservative list of restrictions and program adaptations that we believe may be in place. Please keep in mind that we intend to update these as revised policies are released by the CT Office of Early Childhood. The progress of the virus and administration of a vaccine will play a large role in determining what mitigation steps need to be taken in summer of 2021. We will keep our families updated with any changes on a monthly basis.

Once again, our overall goal this summer will be to keep the kids outside, keep facilities and equipment as clean as possible, and limit close contact. And of course we are going to have fun!

### Dates of Camp

Camp will run June 21<sup>st</sup> – August 21<sup>st</sup>. In the event that snow days cause schools to run into the week of June 21<sup>st</sup>, we may opt not to open until June 28<sup>th</sup>.

### Registration Dates

December 1<sup>st</sup> – Registration opens to all campers who paid in a deposit in 2020, did not attend, and chose to roll that deposit to 2021 AND campers who attended in 2020

January 1<sup>st</sup> – Registration opens to all campers.

### Transportation

We have reason to believe that bussing will be possible for the summer of 2021. In order to plan for reduced capacities and possible screening procedures, we have revised the bus stop locations and timing. The full schedule is available on our website. We also ask that parents who are able to drive their campers to and/or from camp please do so. Staggered pick up and drop off procedures will be implemented. On the busses, we will most likely be instituting assigned seats, staggered seating and siblings sitting together.

**We will be accepting campers on the busses at a limited capacity of 25 – 40 campers (depending on the # of sibling groups).** Campers will most likely be required to wear masks while riding the bus. If a bus reaches capacity, we will run additional busses on the same route, provided that we have a minimum of 25 campers per bus. If a bus reaches capacity and there are not sufficient campers registered to warrant an additional bus, you will be notified and placed on a waiting list for bussing. In that case one of two things may happen: 1) we will continue to accept campers on the waiting list and once enough campers are signed up to add another bus we will notify you, or 2) we will notify you that there are not enough campers signed up to warrant another bus and alternate transportation arrangements will need to be made for your camper.

Failure of ERDC to provide bussing will not warrant a refund. Please see Cancellation Policies for more details.

## **Screening Procedures**

Every camper will be required to undergo screening procedures upon arrival at camp or before boarding the bus. This may include a temperature check, visual screening for obvious illness and/or a series of questions regarding Covid 19 exposure and symptoms. Exact procedures will be determined at least two weeks before each session and may change throughout the summer.

## **Social Distancing & Cohorting**

Social distancing will continue to be encouraged at camp. In some cases it may be required, but it is too soon to know to what extent. We believe that social distancing is a concept that will be around for many years and will implement strategies for the campers and staff whenever possible. Examples include one way paths and stairways, limiting capacity on busses, and adequate spacing between groups at activities. Our activity instructors will generally maintain a 6' distance from all other staff and campers whenever possible. A cohort system, keeping campers in the same groups as much as possible, will likely be in place. We anticipate that regulations may allow for larger cohort groups and some mixing between camper groups. Examples of this may include riding the bus and limited elective periods (if provided). We do not think all-camp games or special events are likely for 2021.

## **Handwashing & Personal Hygiene**

Campers and staff will be required to sanitize or wash their hands before entering the camp program each morning, upon arrival at every activity area, when leaving each activity, before entering the bathroom and after using the bathroom, before & after eating, and after coughing or sneezing. CDC recommendations regarding covering coughs and sneezes will be followed. This will most likely stay the same for 2021.

## **Masks**

It is too early to know what mask mandates will be in place at the time of camp in 2021. If the current mandates were to remain in place, all campers and staff would be required to wear masks when social distancing from all other campers & staff is not possible, except when eating or swimming.

## **Cleaning & Sanitizing**

2020 Policies: "High touch surfaces will be cleaned continuously throughout the day. This includes railings, door knobs, bathrooms, etc... We will limit the use of shared equipment to the extent possible based on the activity. For example, markers will likely be necessary for art projects and will be sanitized after each use. However, community costumes & props in performing arts will be very limited or not used at all. In some activities, sanitizing "low touch" items like a climbing harness is not possible between users. In this case, the camper will be required to sanitize their hands immediately before putting on the harness and again before entering the ropes course. They will then sanitize again before removing the harness. Harnesses will be washed daily. Specific policies regarding every piece of equipment at every activity are being developed and will be implemented. These examples are meant to give you an idea of the various methods we will be using to prevent the spread of germs." It is likely that these policies will remain the same for 2021.

## **Groups**

Camper groups will mostly consist of all campers in the same grade, however, some groups may combine 2 grade levels (for example 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> grade might have a combined group). The number of campers in each group will depend on the regulations in place at the time of camp. We expect that the group size will be in line with our usual group sizes of about 10 – 16 depending on age. Campers will stay with their assigned group for the entire week. Switching of groups mid-week will be highly

discouraged and only done when deemed necessary by the administration. Please make sure you let us know in advance of any group requests.

### **Activities**

We will once again be focusing on outdoor activities this summer. All of our activities have outdoor locations, with indoor space available if necessary. We have not yet decided if workshop, robotics and/or laser tag can be safely run. Stay tuned for updates on those programs. If we are not able to safely offer these activities, we will likely expand on our outdoor activities once again. All other activities will be run with guidelines in place for reducing touch points, limited use of shared equipment, and additional cleaning and sanitation.

### **Lunch**

Parent feedback regarding the packed lunch option in 2020 was that it worked really well for campers and families! Based on whatever CDC and State guidelines are in place, we may have the option of offering a lunch menu in 2021. This menu will be focused on healthy food choices and daily snacks. If this option becomes available, a menu will be sent via email on the Thursday prior to the start of the session, so it can be completed and returned on Friday. Campers will be asked to choose either packing lunch for the week or having camp meals for the whole week. Of course, Pizza Fridays will continue! Weather permitting, most campers will most likely continue to eat lunch picnic style on one of our fields in order to provide additional social distancing while eating!

### **Electives**

In 2020, true electives were not offered, however we tried to incorporate the campers activity preferences into their group's schedule. We do not anticipate a return to traditional electives in 2021, however, we are hoping to implement some choice into the camper's schedules. This will be determined when the state releases their guidelines for cohorting in 2021.

### **Rainy Days**

We anticipate that gathering inside will still be strongly discouraged. Each group will have a specified area where they will be based if there is a lot of rain. In light rain, activities will proceed as usual as we have done in previous years. In the event of thunderstorms, older children will take shelter on our pavilion and younger children will take shelter in an assigned area of our indoor sports building. In the event of severe weather, like the storm in August 2020, all children will take shelter inside the sports building. Most likely, all campers and staff will wear masks while inside at all times.

### **Swimming and Boating**

Campers will be allowed to swim and boat in the pond with their group at least once per day. We hope to be able to provide swim lessons this summer. We feel strongly that teaching water safety is essential. Again, this will depend on cohorting regulations. All campers who are not scheduled for a swim lesson will receive a free swim daily. At the pond, high touch surfaces and lifejackets will be sanitized between groups. Towel service will be determined.

### **Water bottles**

Reusable water bottles will be provided to campers again this summer. We will be implementing a system to safely refill them throughout the camp day. Single use cups will also be available.

### **First Aid & the Nurse**

In order to reduce the number of campers visiting the nurse, we will be training all group counselors in First Aid. Group counselors will provide basic first aid to their campers for minor cuts and scrapes, etc...

They will also be trained to administer an inhaler if a camper in their group needs one. Illnesses and more severe injuries will be treated by the camp nurse. The nurse's office will be located outside on the office porch and campers will be pre-screened before entering.

### **Sick Policy**

Campers who are experiencing a cough, shortness of breath, fever of 100 or more, chills, diarrhea, vomiting, sore throat, unexplained muscle pains or a new loss of taste or smell cannot attend camp. The camper's physician should be contacted for further guidance and advice. If symptoms remain mild and Covid19 is not suspected, the camper can return to camp 24 hours after the last symptom resolves without the use of medication. If Covid 19 is suspected, the pediatrician will provide you with further details about how to proceed. If your pediatrician indicates that there is a strong suspicion that your camper has Covid 19, you must contact camp immediately.

If a camper becomes ill and misses more than 3 consecutive days of camp a credit will be applied to your account starting with the fourth day. Credits can be applied to a future week in 2021 or 2022. Please see the refund policy below for more information.

### **What if a camper or staff member becomes infected with Covid 19?**

In February 2020, COVID-19 was added to the List of Reportable Diseases. We must report cases of COVID-19 infection immediately to the Connecticut Department of Public Health and to the local department of health in the town of residence of the case-patient by telephone on the day of recognition or strong suspicion of the disease. At that time we would work directly with the Department of Public Health to determine if any other campers or staff meet the guidelines for having been in close contact with the infected person in the 48 hours prior to symptom onset or the test being taken. Many precautions being taken are to minimize the amount of close contact between campers and staff. Anyone determined to have been in close contact with an infected person during that time frame will be required to stay home from camp for 14 days. In that case, a credit for days missed will be applied to your account and can be used later this summer or in 2022. In the event that a camper or staff member tests positive, all parents will be notified including whether or not that camper or staff member was in close contact with your child.

### **Change of Weeks, Cancellations, Refunds and Payments**

If you wish to change, remove or add weeks you may do so by contacting the camp office, as long as space is available. Please read the cancellation policy for deadlines to change or drop weeks without penalty.

Adding Sessions: You may call or email the camp office to add sessions if space is available. For extensions after June 1, payment is due immediately, in full by cash, cashier's check, money order or credit card.

Changing Sessions: You may call or email the camp office to change sessions if space is available. There is no penalty for changing sessions as long as notification is made by June 1. If notification is not made by June 1, a processing fee of \$50 per week will be charged for each week that is changed.

Partial Cancellation: If you need to cancel some, but not all, of your camper's enrollment, you may do so with no penalty if the camp is informed in writing by June 1. If the camp is not notified by June 1, you will incur a cancellation fee of \$100 per week.

Full Cancellation: If you wish to cancel your camper's enrollment, we must receive written confirmation from you before it can be processed. \$50 per week of each camper's deposit is non-refundable. Remaining deposit will be refunded if cancellation occurs on or before April 30, 2021. Starting May 1,

2021, the entire deposit is non-refundable. Non-arrival of camper(s) on the opening day of any session without prior notification of at least two weeks will result in a 100% forfeiture of tuition. Due to the uncertainty surrounding the Covid 19 pandemic, an additional cancellation option will be offered for 2021: For a full cancellation prior to May 31, 2021, you may choose to roll your payments to 2022 and a flat cancellation fee of \$100 per camper will be charged. No additional discounts for 2022 will be offered for rolling over your deposit.

Full Cancellation for Deposits Paid in 2020 and Rolled to 2021:

For any weeks for which you have rolled over a deposit from 2020, you may cancel by May 31st and receive a full refund. After May 31st, if you cancel with at least two weeks notice, a flat cancellation fee of \$100 will apply. If cancellation is not made with at least two weeks notice, the deposit will be forfeited. All cancellation must be submitted in writing.

Refunds:

If you are entitled to a refund under the cancellation policy listed above, please note that refunds will be made at the end of the summer, no later than September 15, 2021, except in the case of financial hardship on the camper's family.

If you have rolled payments made in 2020 over to 2021 and do not use those credits this summer, a refund will be made by September 15, 2021.