

COVID Safety Measures for Inclusive Summer Camp

Our priority as always at camp is making sure that your child has a safe, fun, and enriching experience! This year “safe” will require a few extra steps due to COVID. Please read carefully through the changes to our camp procedures, and let us know if there are any that may present challenges for your camper, so that we can work with you on accommodations.

We have done our very best to create a comprehensive operating plan with assistance from several experts, including an epidemiologist at UNC Chapel Hill and the Orange County Department of Health and Human Services. However, we know without a doubt that some of these policies and procedures will have to change as they are tested by “real world” use, and we ask for your patience as we navigate a world that is new to all of us (and for your ideas – if you have suggestions, we’d love to hear from you!). We do reserve the right to change this plan at any time as we deem necessary for the safety of all, and we will adhere to any changes in the local, state, or federal guidelines relating to COVID-19.

When You Arrive At the Farm

Camp Dropoff

- When the driveway forks, stay straight to drive directly to the house/office (it is just after the curve to the left).
- You will see camp personnel awaiting your arrival. Please remain in line, inside your car, until you reach the front of the line.
- Once at the front of the line, please ensure that face coverings are in place on everyone in the vehicle who is required to wear them under the state order. During transfer times, when we will be at less than a 6’ distance, face coverings would be appreciated but not required for children 11 and under who are able to wear them safely.
- When a counselor asks you to do so, please roll down your window. You will be handed an iPad (sanitized between every client) to answer a series of health screening questions and sign a liability release. You will also have your temperature checked via a touchless thermometer. Once both of these are completed, your camper will exit the vehicle and have their temperature taken.
- Assuming everyone’s temperature is below 100.4, your camper will be escorted to the house, where they will step on a disinfectant foot mat and wash their hands. Then they will begin their day of camp!

Camp Pickup

-At camp dropoff on Monday, you will be provided with a sign with your camper's name - please place this in the window of your vehicle prior to pickup.

-When you arrive at the farm, please again follow the driveway all the way to the house and remain in line inside your car. Once our staff sees your sign, they will radio the other counselors to let them know that we are ready for your camper at the pickup area.

-Your camper will be escorted to your car with their belongings, and you will again be handed a sanitized iPad through the window to sign your camper out for the day. Once your camper is signed out and safely in your vehicle, you're free to go!

Please note that if anyone other than yourself is authorized to pick up your camper, we will need that information in advance. Please also remember that for everyone's safety, we do observe a strict speed limit of 10 mph on the driveway.

General Guidelines

We want you to know that we have put quite a bit of work and expense into making the camp experience as safe as possible for your child. We will be following the guidelines below throughout camp, and we are happy to answer any questions you may have about camp or our safety procedures. We will do our best to post plenty of photos and videos on our social media pages so that you are able to see your camper's activities throughout the week.

If a positive case is identified at the farm, anyone with potential exposure will immediately be notified, and all programming will shut down immediately for up to 14 days.

No more than 25 people may be present at the farm at any time. No more than 10 people in one area of the house at any time.

6' distancing should be observed by all times with the following exceptions: when closer proximity is necessary for safety, or within existing pods (i.e. household members).

In the event that 6' distancing cannot be observed, whether indoors or outdoors, a mask and/or face shield must be worn, with the following exceptions: children under 12 years of age, and clients who are unable to wear a face covering due to a medical or behavioral condition.

All visitors to the farm will be logged to ensure that a) we do not exceed the capacity mandated by Orange County, and b) so that in case of an exposure anyone who was potentially exposed can be contacted. Because of this we ask for everyone's cooperation in keeping to a tight schedule, and we will not be able to accommodate unscheduled visits to the farm.

Camp-Specific Changes

Although we will not be riding this week, campers will wear helmets during ground work with the horses. Our helmets have been in storage since March when we closed for programming; they will be disinfected prior to use and then assigned to individual campers for the week. If your child has an ASTM/SEI approved helmet specifically for equestrian activities they are also welcome to bring their own.

Please send a refillable water bottle for your camper; we will have water available and want to be sure to keep everyone hydrated. If you are not comfortable sending a refillable water bottle, you are welcome to send bottled water which we will store in the refrigerator.

Camp counselors will be masked when unable to observe 6' distancing. We will also be operating with reduced staff to minimize exposure as much as possible. For most camp activities, campers will be divided into groups of 3 - 4 campers, with 1 - 3 counselors.

We have made a number of changes to the areas campers will use to increase cleanliness and safety. Fans have been installed in all indoor areas to increase ventilation per epidemiologist recommendation. Craft supplies will be individually bagged for each camper. Sinks and/or hand sanitizer will be available in all camp areas and used throughout the day. The bathrooms, playground, tables, door handles, etc will all be sanitized throughout the day. We have also made changes in the barn, so leadropes, grooming tools, and other shared items will be disinfected daily.

At the same time, we know COVID has been very stressful for a lot of our kids, and we are doing our best to integrate these changes into our camp in a way that does not detract from the camp experience, and keeps things fun. For example, since this is Pioneer Week, we will be making soap as a pioneer activity, with the hope that everyone having their own custom soap will probably naturally lead to more enthusiasm about hand washing.