

High Meadows Camp 2020 Summer Remix

Last updated: 6/5/20

We are excited to offer a unique and exciting program this summer. Though it will be structured and look very different from High Meadows Camp of years past, it will offer campers and outstanding camp staff the much needed opportunity to engage in fun outdoor activity and to socialize, play, and grow in these unusual times.

Please read over this information about how we hope this summer will run. As information and authoritative guidelines change over time, we may adjust our policies and program as appropriate. Consider this a guide that may still be refined and revised, but that hopefully gives you the information you need to make this summer successful and memorable.

Schedule

- Camp will be offered for 5 one-week sessions, Monday – Friday, 9:30 AM – 3:45 PM. Sessions begin June 29, July 6, July 13, July 20, and July 27.
- Arrival and pickup time will be staggered (between 9am and 9:30am, and between 3:45pm and 4:15pm) to help us move campers efficiently, safely, and quickly.
- Bus transportation is not available.
- There will be no overnights, late nights, or off-campus trips.

Who is eligible to enroll?

- **Children that will be entering 1st grade through 9th grade may be enrolled in camp.** While we do serve younger children in a typical summer, we do not feel we can properly meet their unique developmental needs this summer.
- Our program size is being greatly reduced from 300 campers a day in a typical summer to 96 this year in order to meet health and safety requirements.
- Enrollment will open first to families who were early enrollees in December. We will do our best to continue enrolling based on when families enrolled for our regular season.
- **Campers may initially enroll for one week of camp based on when families originally enrolled for summer 2020.** If spaces remain available, campers may have the opportunity to register for multiple weeks.
- Group changes cannot be made once the session begins.

Tuition

- Tuition is \$415 for 1 week of camp.
- Payment in full and a completed Health Form are due with registration.
- Refunds will be issued up until 15 days prior to the start of a session
- Sessions are not transferable.
- More refund and application policies can be found below.

What will campers be able to do?

For returning campers who know and love High Meadows, many favorite activities and experiences will be the same, and some things will look very different.

- Campers will be able to explore our forest and meadows, learn about nature and traditions, play active sports and fun games, visit our barnyard and meet our animals, swim in our pool, make art, sing silly camp songs, and, if age appropriate, ride ponies or practice with a bow and arrow.
- Instead of gathering for all-camp activities, individual groups will plan their own special events and participate in theme days.
- Campers will enjoy their own lunches and snacks. Food will not be prepared, served or shared on campus.

How will campers be grouped?

- We plan to serve 96 campers total, in 6 groups of 16. Campers will be grouped by age and there will be some variance in ages based on enrollment numbers. All camp groups will be gender mixed.
- Campers will stay in the same group of 16 children for the week. There will be no mixing between groups, such that children and staff are only exposed to those in their immediate group.
- Each group will have a dedicated indoor space, outdoor shelter, and bathroom that only they will have access to.
- Given the group size limits we cannot accommodate friend requests.

Who are the staff?

- One of the best things about High Meadows is our amazing staff team! Each group of 16 campers will be led by 3 Counselors plus an experienced adult Group Leader. While we love welcoming new staff each summer, this summer's team is 100% returning staff who know High Meadows very well.
- We will have a Nurse on campus during camp hours.
- Chad, John, and an office team will be on duty at all times in order to provide administrative and logistical support to all groups.
- Prior to camper arrival staff will have a daily health and temperature screening.
- COVID-19 tests are not recommended for staff who appear healthy. Staff who feel sick or who have a temperature will stay home (and will contact their doctor for guidance on testing), and we have plans for back-up staff.

What health measures is High Meadows taking to protect campers and staff?

Following the guidance of our Governor, the CDC, professional camp associations, and our local health and childcare authorities, we will implement and modify health and safety procedures as necessary and appropriate. To begin the season:

- Each group will have their own indoor and outdoor meeting spaces, their own arrival/dismissal spot., and their own set of supplies, games, sports equipment, etc. There will be no interaction between groups.
- Signs will be posted throughout camp to remind all to wash hands frequently, to maintain social distance as appropriate, to be aware of the symptoms of COVID-19, and how to properly deal with coughs and sneezes.
- We will have a healthcare professional on campus during camp hours.
- We will be following all recommended cleaning procedures, including cleaning of bathrooms, door handles, and any high touch surfaces throughout the day.
- All staff will wear a mask when indoors and when within 6 feet of others outdoors. Current health guidance allows for masks to be removed when outside and at least 6 feet from others. For the safety of our staff working in the summer heat, we will be encouraging them to take mask breaks outside, when they are at a safe distance from others.
- Campers and staff will wash hands with soap and water frequently, and hand sanitizer will also be available in all activity areas.
- Water and juice jugs will be available at each group's location for counselors to safely refill water bottles.
- We will have contactless drop off and pick up for campers. Only campers will be allowed to exit their car at drop off or pick up.
- Prior to attending camp, camper families will be asked to self-monitor for 14 days, taking note of daily symptoms and temperatures.
- Upon arrival, parents will be asked to verify health screening questions and campers will have their temperature taken with a contact-less thermometer. No one will be admitted with a temperature of 100.4 degrees or more.
- Arrivals after 9:30 are to pull up to the driveway lane next to the Camp Office. Do not exit the vehicle. Call 404-388-8190 and wait for a staff member to come to your car.
- If you need to pick up your camper early, notify us 24 hours in advance by email if possible (cbrinker@highmeadows.org). Pull up to the driveway lane next to the Camp Office. Do not exit the vehicle. Call 404-388-8190 and wait for a staff member to come to your car. Please be patient as it may take a few minutes to gather your camper and their belongings.

Is it safe for children to attend camp?

- Strict adherence to all authoritative guidelines for the operation of camps does not guarantee a risk-free camp environment. All campers and staff are at risk for being exposed to coronavirus and contracting COVID-19, and other illnesses. Our operations are intended to minimize and contain that risk as much as possible.
- We know that some children are being harmed by social isolation at home, and that some families are being harmed by lack of access to childcare. In deciding to offer camp, we are weighing the risk of Coronavirus against the many other ways our community is at risk of harm right now.
- We are beginning camp with our best attempt to adhere to current health guidelines and recommendations. If these criteria from authoritative sources change through the summer, we may adjust practices and policies at our discretion. The safety of our campers and staff is our primary concern and we may choose to go beyond current recommendations in order to provide a safe environment.
- All registered families are expected to be fully informed of and to accept the risks of COVID-19 and to accept and support the policies and expectations of High Meadows.

Do campers need to wear masks or distance from each other?

- Each group of 16 campers and 4 staff will operate like a family unit. Per guidelines, children are not expected to keep physical distance from one another within their group at all times. We will enforce handwashing and other good hygiene measures, but we will not prohibit children from interacting within their group. Activities that require close contact or sharing of equipment will be redirected to other ways of playing, but campers should experience social interaction within their group as mostly normal.
- Current guidelines do not require that children wear masks as long as we limit group sizes, interactions, or maintain social distance. Adult staff will wear masks when indoors and within 6 feet of others. In some situations, such as visits to the Health Center or extended periods indoors in inclement weather, children WILL be asked to put on a mask and one will be provided if necessary. We do encourage you send your child with a mask, but we cannot enforce the proper and safe wearing of the mask, and cannot be responsible for ensuring that your child wears a mask beyond the rare occasions we deem it necessary.
- During inclement weather, campers may be indoors in their assigned rooms (remaining in their group of 16 campers and 4 staff). If they have to remain indoors for an extended period of time, social distancing and/or mask wearing will be strongly encouraged.

What happens if someone presents symptoms or if there is a COVID positive case?

- Anyone with symptoms of COVID-19 or a temperature greater than or equal to 100.4 will not be permitted to remain at camp and will be isolated until picked up. They will be requested to contact their medical provider and to get tested for COVID-19.
 - There will be a lower threshold for sending a camper home for relatively mild symptoms like persistent coughing or sneezing. While these may be allergy induced, coughing and sneezing can be infectious and even mild illness or allergies may result in the need for a doctor's note to return to camp.
- Despite a negative COVID-19 test, we recommend quarantine per CDC guidelines or clearance from a medical provider in order to return to camp.
- If a child, staff person, or household member of a camper or staff person has a COVID-19 positive test, we will notify the Health Department and follow their guidance for cleaning, closure of individual groups, and notification of families.
- Families and staff are required to notify High Meadows immediately of any COVID-19 positive case in their household while camp is open, or in the 2 weeks after the session they attended.

What we ask of you as parents

We are in this together! We are on your team, trying to provide children with a healthy, active, enriching and somewhat normal summer. We need all enrolled camp families to be on board with the following:

- High Meadows will not monitor, judge, or take action on each family's level of social distancing from others outside of camp. However, we ask that as much as possible, if you choose to enroll in camp that you **choose to make camp the primary exposure your family has to others** (not including essential workers in their workplace). Families who plan to have regular playdates and other non-essential direct contact with others outside

of camp are more likely to put a whole group at risk of exposure and possible closure. In order for us to stay open, we need families to limit exposures as much as they can.

- We will all have new routines to learn. We will need parents to **read the information we send and comply with all policies and directions**. We can't do this without all of us on board to participate in communication. If you got this far in the FAQ, you can do this!
- **Each camper must bring their own water bottle to camp**, preferably with a covered mouthpiece. We also strongly recommend a face mask that your child has been instructed to use and has practiced wearing, and, if age appropriate, hand sanitizer that they can keep in their bag for personal use.

We are limited in who we can serve this summer

Including all children and families is core to our mission at High Meadows, and central to the identity of who we want to be in our community. Our reality this summer is that we cannot fully achieve all parts of this mission. We strongly considered not running any programs at all because we cannot offer them in a way that meets the usual level of engagement and growth in our activities. We decided to offer camp for the limited number of children that we can serve, believing that doing what we can for some is better than choosing to close and do nothing.

Please know this was the very hardest part of our decision to open. This is what we can do now.

- **According to the CDC, older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions might be at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19.** Please speak with your doctor about camp if your child or any household member has a chronic medical condition, or if you have a household member over 65 years old. We will not restrict children from registering for camp if they have a chronic medical condition or live with an at-risk household member.
- **Children (with or without diagnosed special needs) who are very sensitive to change, prone to inflexible thinking, or who routinely need individual support for social interactions, safe choices, and/or activity participation may not be best served in camp this summer.** Of course, this will look different for each child, and some campers may enjoy and benefit from the changes to camp. Things to consider as you think about what does and does not work for your child:
 - Our routines will look very different from what your camper may remember or be expecting.
 - Campers will still enjoy many of the usual High Meadows activities, but their choices between preferred activities and play areas throughout each day will be substantially limited. Campers will need to stay with their group at all times, and be able to independently practice safe hygiene, including frequent handwashing, coughing and sneezing
 - Adults will be wearing masks at times and/or keeping social distance, and we know that may make understanding and interpreting communication and social cues very difficult.
 - Due to the need to keep groups self-contained, we will not have support staff to connect with campers who routinely need individual direction and care.

Refund policy

We are moving into a unique time, and sharing the financial risk of doing so. If there is a confirmed COVID-19 exposure on campus, it is possible that the Health Dept will require the exposed group to quarantine for a period of time. Closures are determined on a case-by-case basis and may affect some groups and activities on campus while not affecting others.

- Refunds minus a \$25 processing fee are available until 15 days prior to the start of the session.
- If you register and then cancel for any reason within 14 days of the start of the session, you will receive a refund of 50%, and the remaining 50% is not refundable.
- Each incident of closure will be refunded at a rate of 100% per camp day missed for directly affected campers.
- If, after the start of a session, you choose to withdraw your child for any reason other than a confirmed COVID-19 positive case in your household or a mandatory quarantine, your tuition payment is non-refundable.
- Sessions are not transferable.

None of the tuition policies are intended to be punitive, or to sway your decision making in what is best for your family. These tuition policies are necessary to cover the costs we incur when we commit to you to have camp available this summer. In order to hire and retain highly qualified staff, to purchase supplies, and support enhanced cleaning and sanitation, we need to have financial policies that provide some budget stability.

How to apply, and how we are determining acceptance

In order to accommodate as many campers as possible, at this time, campers may initially register for ONE WEEK of camp. If spaces remain after June 15th, families will have the opportunity to register for an additional week.

Thank you for supporting our efforts to make this registration process as fair and efficient as possible in these unusual circumstances. If you have any questions once registration opens, please contact cbrinker@highmeadows.org .

- In accordance with our long standing, first-come, first-served registration policy, we will begin accepting registrations in the following order. The registration link will be emailed to families at the following times:
 - Returning families who early-registered in December for 2020 will be able to register beginning at 10:00am on Monday, June 8th.
 - The remaining families who previously registered for 2020 will be able to register on a first-come, first-served basis beginning at NOON on Tuesday, June 9th.
 - If space remains, we will make registration available to all beginning at NOON on Thursday, June 11th.
- If your registration is received prior to the above stated times, it is subject to cancellation.
- The registration link may not be shared with other families prior to June 11th.
- Payment in full as well as a completed medical form will be required at the time of registration. The medical form does not require a doctor's signature.
- Please note that at this time all money previously paid has either been refunded or rolled over to 2021.

THANK YOU FOR HELPING MAKE THIS SUMMER POSITIVELY MEMORABLE!