

Dear camp families,

We hope that you and yours are safe and healthy. As we approach the one-year mark of COVID-19's arrival in Michigan, the City of Ann Arbor Parks and Recreation staff wanted to update you regarding our current plans for summer camp.

We know that the past year has been difficult for so many people, which is why our staff have been working with local, state, regional and national agencies and experts to determine how we can provide camp options in 2021. We had hoped that many of the orders and social distancing guidelines would have been loosened by this point so that we could run camp normally this summer. Unfortunately, many of the requirements are still in place, so we have had to figure out how we can operate this summer while providing as many opportunities as possible. Our goal is to keep campers, staff and the community safe while providing a positive camp experience.

Based on the conversations that we have had with the State of Michigan licensing agency, American Camping Association, organizations that ran camps last summer and other local and county health departments, we have developed the following plan for 2021. Each of the camps will operate differently than before COVID-19 but we are excited to be able to offer these options.

SAFETY

Some common safety themes at all the camps include: all campers will be in pods of 10 with consistent counselors, daily health checks prior to coming to camp along with temperature checks at sign-in, required mask wearing, physical distancing between and within pods as necessary, reduced sharing of supplies and increased handwashing/sanitizing stations and opportunities. We will continue review safety procedures and practices to ensure that we are doing everything we can to provide a safe environment.

This year camp hours for all camps will be from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Traditional camp activities will still take place from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. but this added time will allow us to provide consistent staffing for each pod of children. Additionally, we will be able to spread out when drop off and pick up are taking place so there is less congregating at these times.

BUHR

Buhr Park Pool Camp will look similar to prior years except for the fact that the pool will not be open to the general public during the majority of the camp day. By closing the pool to the public during the camp day, campers will have full access to all Buhr facilities to create a secure bubble for its campers. We are asking the State to increase the capacity of camp at Buhr to accommodate more campers this summer. Assuming the increase in capacity is granted by the State of Michigan we will be offering 70 camp spots each week.

ARGO AND GALLUP

The river camps at Gallup and Argo Canoe Liveries will have different processes in place to comply with state licensing and COVID-19 precautions. Some of these processes are reduced camp size at Gallup (from 30 campers to 20 campers per week), limited transportation and a more defined separation of campers and the general public on docks. Argo camp will accept 20 campers per week, the same as in years past.

FULLER

Unfortunately, we will not be offering a camp at Fuller Park Pool. Fuller pool will be open all day to the general public for swimming, which makes it extremely difficult to separate camp and the general public, a requirement by the State of Michigan camp licensing authority. This was a difficult decision, but in evaluating options with the State we believe this is the appropriate decision.

SCHOLARSHIPS

We know that this past year has been hard on so many in our community and that summer camp is vital for so many of you. This year we have set aside 10% of our camp spots for our scholarship recipients. We know that spots often go fast and eliminate the ability for some families to register for the care they need. Our scholarship program is open to any Ann Arbor resident who qualifies and for more information please contact our customer service department at a2parks@a2gov.org.

REGISTRATION

We missed seeing everyone last year and are looking forward to seeing both familiar and new faces this summer! We are planning on opening camp registration on Monday, March 15 at midnight. Prior to March 15, please visit a2gov.org/camps to see camp details and to review your CivicRec account to ensure that your information is correct. If you find any issues with your account, please email a2parks@a2gov.org for assistance

We appreciate your patience during this time. Please let us know if you have any questions. We have included contact information below for each of the camp facilities.

Contact information

Argo & Gallup River Camps– Cheryl Saam – csaam@a2gov.org

Buhr Park Camp – Sarah Stewart – swallsstewart@a2gov.org

Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation Customer Service – a2parks@a2gov.org