



&



5/26/2020

This past week we have had to make the very difficult decision to cancel our CA, MW and Adult camp due to concerns from our venues due to Covid-19. Our new dance program, NEXT STEP has been rescheduled to July, 2021. We are still planning and preparing our NY CRC camp in New York and have changed our venue to better suit the safety of our campers and staff. We will continue to plan until we hear further information from the DOH in Oneonta along with guidance from the local county officials and CDC.

We have introduced our new online program called CRC – CAMP in a BOX for our CST/EST time zones on June 15th – 19th and for our PST campers on June 22nd – 26th.

Please email the office for more info.



4/24/2020

Dear Parents,

This is our second letter to our camp community and it certainly does not get any easier. Firstly, our thoughts and prayers are with you and your loved ones during this time, and like so many, we have a heavy heart as we hear each day about the impacts COVID-19 is having on our communities. Secondly, thank you to our camp parents and family members who work in healthcare...you are all truly inspiring to us all!

We realize communication is vital at this time. It has been difficult to communicate when honestly, we are so unsure of things ourselves. This week we saw some positive news when the CDC outlined its 3 phases to getting the country re-opened. We were pleased to see they mentioned summer camps as an essential program for our kids. Our kids will need camp this summer more than ever! CRC will do everything it can to make it happen. Our own three kids will be devastated if we cannot operate as they look forward to seeing their camp friends. So for them and every other camper and staff member that needs an outlet, we will continue to plan, re-arrange, prepare and communicate. The ultimate decision will come down to the Department of Health and our venues.

In the meantime, here are some common questions we would like to answer for you:

Will camps go on as planned? Registration for the summer is still open. We are not accepting any payments right now, but if you have not registered you can still reserve a spot. *There will be a limit on how many campers we can accept* and we will stay in touch with you when we come close to this number. When this is over – kids will be ready for camp. We will be ready, too. Current session dates remain in place and if anything should change, we will inform you.

I'm not sure I feel comfortable sending my child to camp because of Covid-19. What will you be doing to keep our kids safety a priority? We get it! We are parents too and we have the same concerns. Previous camp families know the amount of effort we put into making our Health Center first-rate, along with the steps we go through ensuring our campers and staff are safe. *We'll now double that!*

Along with any new guidelines the CDC and Department of Health will require of us, we have discussed additional steps we will also be taking. For instance, campers temperatures will be taken daily as well as more hand-wash stations and sanitizing stations. Rooms will be spread out in order to accommodate social distancing in the bathrooms and hallways. These are just a few examples of the numerous steps we are introducing into our program. We firmly believe our setting will actually be safer than most public areas after we are done with it.

What will you be doing differently at camp? Camp will be a bit different this year, but we will still be bringing the fun and positive vibes our campers will so desire by summertime. Things like registration day will be staggered along with camper meal times as to provide social distancing and limit group size. Medical screenings will have more detail to them. Dorms will be sanitized weekly and dining hall daily. We will remove classes like Ceili Night from our schedule, but we have come up with creative alternatives. All in all, camp may not look like it has in the past but we are working hard to make it even better!

If camps cannot operate, what is your return policy? At this point we do not have a COVID-19 policy in place. We are still waiting to hear if we can operate. If you are attending from Canada, we are aware the border closing has been extended and will continue to watch the news and get updates. We are also in the planning stage of how we can offer our programming in new and innovative ways. We realize that camp provides a consistency for kids and they *WILL* want to be doing something this summer along with seeing their Irish dancing friends and staff.

Recently we had a ZOOM meeting with 29 other camp directors from the upstate NY area organized by the American Camp Association. We walked away from this meeting feeling energized and inspired. Talking with our fellow peers, sharing suggestions and health tips was informative and uplifting. We will continue to respond to the COVID-19 situation, following guidelines set in place and adapt our cleaning processes and practices to maintain the most sanitary environment possible.

This is going to be challenging but we will get through this and thankfully we have an amazing staff helping us. We overheard this saying and it really touched us... 'We have to be apart today, to be together tomorrow.'

Thank you for your continued support and be well.

Sincerely,
Tony & Sheila
CRC Directors

April 9th, 2020

Dear CRC & Next Step Families,

Our thoughts are with you, your family and all our CRC staff and campers while we collectively fight back against COVID-19 through social distancing. We wanted to update you as best we could on where our summer programs stand.

CRC operates as a Children's overnight camp which is regulated by the county health departments. Therefore, we are following the advice and guidelines they present to us as information unfolds. NYS Schenectady County Health Department has emailed all summer camps that, at this moment, they are proceeding as planned. Also, the CEO of the American Camp Association sent an email stating that 'all camps are planning to operate this summer'. Of course we realize that things change daily and that is why we are watching closely and staying in touch with

our various venues and multiple staff. We cannot express enough how we hope things get much better and kids are allowed to be out and about this summer!

The safety and health of our campers and staff is always our highest priority. We reached out to our contacts at the Health Department and were assured that moving forward, guidelines will be setup for all camps and venues to follow this summer in order to support the wellbeing of our camper families. This will be in addition to the health & safety guidelines that we currently implement at each venue. Knowing this gave us both comfort not just as directors but also parents.

Moving forward... we are still working and accepting paperwork. All deadlines will be pushed back to 2 weeks before camper attendance. If you cannot make an appt with an MD for the required Physical Examination form, we will accept school or sports physicals for this year. We are here to work with you!

We know that we're all nervous...we're all worried about our loved ones...we're all worried about our jobs or small businesses... we're all worried about so much uncertainty. CRC is a family run business and our main source of income. We are sure you can appreciate how enormously devastating it would be for us and our staff if it becomes necessary to cancel. Like so many other small businesses, we are concerned for our family and our livelihood. To be blunt, without you, there is no us! We ask if you could please be patient with us while we navigate thru this challenging time. We have confidence that we will have a better idea where things stand after April.

We remain hopeful that as a community we will get through this. We also know that programs like ours provide consistency for our kids and is a crucial resource for many of our campers. From the bottom of our heart, thank you for your ongoing support in this challenging time. TOGETHER we are better - physically, mentally, and emotionally.

Sending all of you our prayers, love and gratitude,
Tony & Sheila
CRC Camp Directors