

Date...March 14 2021

Hello to all Campers, Volunteers and Friends of DCC

The 2020 camping season was forced in virtual mode and many of us learned more about zoom meetings to stay connected. From the campers I have talked to, that has only increased their passion and desire to get together in person in 2021. There are still many unknowns as we plan for our 2021 season. The staff and Board of Trustees continue to follow the NYS, CDC and health department guidelines. We are also utilizing the American Camping Association as a resource in determining procedures for 2021 and many will be part of long term guidelines.

We are planning to open up camp for our weeklong camping season beginning with June activities. Renewing our connections with our camp families is an important part of the recovery and using our entire 45 acres on the Lake will be a good/safer way to renew these connections. The Board will continue to monitor the current Covid rates and state guidelines as we approach the Summer camping season. We hope we can open and encourage you to make reservations for the coming season. These deposits will be refundable if the season is canceled or for any reason you feel uncomfortable with you or your children attending. **The last date for Early Bird registrations and discount has been extended to May 1 2021.**

What will change in 2021? And How will DCC be making the camp safer in the Covid environment?

- **Testing...**The availability of Covid testing is becoming much more available. We are researching the cost and are considering requiring testing in the few days before arrival at camp. We expect that this will be influenced by the vaccine level at the time of camp. This potential requirement is currently under review.
- **Daily Wellness checks...**we will have a process for each cabin and all staff to perform a daily wellness check before starting work and before leaving cabins. This will insure that if anyone is not well they will be isolated from group contact. We will maintain facilities for anyone with symptoms to have a location to isolate as we make decision on whether they will be sent home or taken for a rapid test.
- **Registrations...**will need to be more strict in process than previous years. Expect that there will be a schedule for registrations with no interaction within the camp until the registration process is complete. The camp nurse will be the first step to insure testing (if required) and all proper health forms are completed. After ensuring that your payment is complete there will be an orientation and review of new guidelines with camp director and counselors. Then you will move into your cabin and begin to enjoy our Estate on the Lake. We expect visitors to be restricted and also go through a mandatory check in process.
- **Social distancing...** depending on NYS guidelines at the time of camp you can expect that there will be a few more restrictions to large groups. Expect that we will have some mask requirements and utilize our facilities to allow social distancing.. Cabins will do more activities together including dining. Expect that we will do more scheduling of

activities to reduce crowding in areas like craft barn, Pool, Playgrounds, campfires etc. This will be handled by each camp director in coordination with staff. More to follow

- **Dining Hall**...one major change will be for more disposable dinnerware. This is already becoming the norm in college settings. We are working on possible outdoor options to allow more spreading out of tables and will have takeout available for those possible at risk campers that want to eat in cabins. We are considering more packaged food and pre packed meals. For example we will not have a drink dispenser and might replace it with single serving drinks. The key is to try to avoid situations where people must line up and form crowds at certain stations.
- **Picnic tables**...last year the staff with help from the Lakeshore Correctional work program repaired and rebuilt our entire fleet of picnic tables. This will give us more tables to locate near the dining hall and throughout the camp.
- **Vespers**...this is an outdoor facility which poses much less risk. We plan to utilize the space we have to spread out the seating and utilize the sound system for all to enjoy these services/programs that can be held in this area.
- **Scheduling**...expect that we will do more scheduling of activities to reduce crowding in areas like craft barn, Pool, Playgrounds, campfires etc. This will be handled by each camp director in coordination with staff.
- **Camp capacity**...we do not yet know what NYS will allow as far as capacity in our facilities. This could restrict the numbers that are allowed at each camp. Given the size of our campgrounds we do not expect major limitations but will report guidelines as they become available.
- **Singing**...We understand this is a top activity at many camps. This is also an area where churches have been limited. We will need to follow NYS state guidelines in this area. More to follow on what is allowed both in buildings and in the open air part of the camp.

We are blessed to have 45 acres of outdoor space along with trails and beach access. This will allow our campers to enjoy the camp programs, fellowship and camaraderie in a safe environment. We understand this is a difficult decision for some. Know that we are taking precautions to make this a fun yet safe camp experience.

If you are considering camp in 2021 please register now so we can begin planning and you can reserve your space.

Looking forward to getting (hoping to get) together with our camp family and friends.

Jay Rich III

On behalf of DCC Staff and Board of Trustees