

COVID-19 UPDATE



May 10, 2020

We still have not determined when or if we will be able to have camp this summer. At this point, we know that we will not be starting on-site staff training in early June, and are working on plans to provide some of our training online. If we move to a modified program, we would be looking to be at camp on or around July 1. Camp would end as scheduled so as not to interfere with school start dates. As we have said all along, if we are able to run a modified program, it will include Rookie, Mini, and both sessions. We also know that this year's program will not include our LIT trip to Disney nor our CIT community service trip (both groups have already been informed of this change). By the end of May we expect to be able to share programming details or if we will be unable to have camp this summer.

On April 20 (see below), we shared the financial hardship Capital Camps & Retreat Center is facing. Looking ahead, if Capital Camps is unable to open this summer, we will be in uncharted waters. As an independent nonprofit, almost 98% of our revenue comes from camp tuition, retreat fees, and donations for direct camper services. At this point in time, Capital Camps has received \$3.2 million in tuition toward summer 2020. We spend money year-round to plan for camp, run programs, and maintain and prepare our property. In recent weeks, we have reduced our spending. However, if our camp cannot open, we will have significant layoffs and pay cuts for year-round staff members. A full year without income will create a significant operating loss. In order to sustain camp into 2021, we will be asking our families to donate what they can, to rollover tuition to next summer, and to be patient with us as we work to refund what is needed.

Capital Camps is a strong community. We see this when we gather online and when we hear about individuals and groups reaching out and connecting. We also saw our community's strength on Giving Tuesday when 124 camp families, staff members, alumni, grandparents, board and community members came together and donated \$29,754. As was expressed by so many of you during our parent program last Monday, we will get through this together.

May 4, 2020

With the arrival of May, we continue to hope and plan for camp, but also acknowledge that we may not be able to open this summer. We continue to watch decisions, guidance and recommendations from state and local governments, as well as American Camp Association (ACA), Jewish Community Center Association (JCCA), Foundation for Jewish Camps (FJC) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). We are thankful for the strong support of our camp families, summer staff and our local community leaders. We are a community and together we will weather this storm. Ultimately, we will make a decision that is best for our community, guided by our values with safety as our top priority. We will provide further updates – with the goal of a more definitive decision about the start of camp.

May 1, 2020

As this week came to a close, you may have seen the news that some camps are choosing to close for summer 2020. Please understand every camp or national organization will need to make their own decisions based on their own geography, state regulations, financial stability and community needs. We support our colleagues in Jewish camping through this unprecedented and painful time. We continue to watch decisions, guidance and recommendations from state and local governments, as well as American Camp Association (ACA), Jewish Community Center Association (JCCA), Foundation for Jewish Camps (FJC) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Ultimately, we will make a decision that is best for our community, guided by our values with safety as our top priority. We will provide further updates - with the goal of a more definitive decision about the start of camp.

April 20, 2020

In all our online gatherings we have seen and felt the value of our Capital Camps community. From our youngest camper with parents also online to staff logging on from overseas, we have had hundreds of participants join us for our weekly #WaynesboroWednesdays. During our virtual staff meeting, Jewish young adults reconnected with friends and met peers from Israel and other distant shores. Our

virtual village times have brought campers together in creative new ways. During these gatherings our campers have said "this is fun", "can we do it again". Our answer is "yes". We will continue to connect virtually because bringing our community together is important.

Our summer Leadership Team has also been reaching out to call each of our families to check-in and see how everyone is holding up. The coronavirus has had a significant impact on our camp community families. Some have shared about illnesses in their extended families, some have already encountered financial hardship and all of us are concerned about the toll on physical and mental health. We know that camp is now even more important for our children and young adults. Our camp community is here to help and support each other.

During some of these calls, there were questions about our plans as they relate to the Covid-19 pandemic. While we are continuing to plan for Capital Camps to open as scheduled, the situation remains fluid. We recognize that due to Covid-19 there are going to be changes. We are assessing our options for summer operations from strategic, financial and internal perspectives, and will be guided by health guidelines and suggested best practices developed by professional camp associations. We appreciate your ongoing patience and partnership as we work through these issues.

Capital Camps is your community camp. We provide campers a fun and safe experience that utilizes the best practices of informal Jewish education to strengthen Jewish identity, to instill Jewish values and to build Jewish community. We are guided by these values as we explore possible scenarios. If we modify our session dates we would still have both sessions. If cancelling out-of-camp trips and limiting visitors is in the best interest of our community, we will do so. And if it is not safe to gather, we will not run camp. The safety of our community is our top priority.

Capital Camps, as you likely know, is a not-for-profit community camp, therefore the financial implications brought on by Covid-19 and the potential of not opening this summer are extremely serious. That said, our decision will not be guided by finances, but instead, by what is best for our community. It is important that we share that during the normal course of business, we have incurred – and will continue to incur – many costs, regardless of what happens this summer. We will need all the help we can get to meet financial obligations and to allow for camp to open. Guided by our values and sensitive to the needs of individuals in our

community, we are committed to refund tuition in the event Capital Camps is not able to run this summer.

If we determine camp will not open, *we will contact you* with details. **No action is required now.** In the event we are closed this summer, our refund policy will include the following options:



Donate some or all of your payments as a charitable donation to Capital Camps.

This is the best option for our ability to survive this crisis and will provide us with funds to help ensure we can continue to operate. [The JCamp 180 Harold Grinspoon Foundation](#) has recently announced that it will match tuition money converted into donations, dollar for dollar.



Roll over some or all of your payments to enroll for summer 2021. Our Capital Camps family is a strong community that looks forward to being back together.



Request a refund for your 2020 tuition. We understand that some of our families will not be in a position to choose other options and we appreciate your patience as we determine how to make refunds available.



These refund options are also available to 2020 families in the event we are able to open but an individual camper needs to cancel registration due to circumstances related to Covid-19.

We care about each and every member of our Capital Camps family. We are working to open camp this summer. Please complete your camper forms to help us prepare. The prayers we say at the start and end of every day at camp have special meaning for these challenging times. We start each day at camp with Modeh Ani,

being thankful we are together, and end each day with our arms around each other singing Hashkiveinu, asking for peace and safety. We are looking forward to reuniting our community, at camp, as soon as possible.