



Camp Foster YMCA

Dear Camper Families,

As we face these uncertain and unprecedented times, we have been preparing and adjusting our plans in order to run a safe, yet familiar overnight camp program for your camper. We have carefully looked at the recommendations provided by the American Camp Association, the CDC, and YUSA. We've taken into consideration multiple options for practicing social distancing, adhering to small group sizes, and mitigating the risk of exposure to the coronavirus.

In effort to protect our campers, staff, and community we have come to the heartbreaking decision that we are suspending the **2020 overnight camp season**. As we strive to fulfill our mission of putting Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind, and body for all, we have determined that we could not move forward and offer the high quality Camp Foster experience that you expect and deserve.

In the upcoming days, we will be sending out more information, including options for your 2020 camp fees, an FAQ to help answer some common questions, and information about registration for 2021 camps.

We want to thank you for your patience, understanding, and support throughout these challenging times. Please know that we are thinking of you and your camper. We are experiencing the same anger, hurt, and heartache. Our office will be closed on Friday, May 15. We need time to process this difficult decision and regroup. We promise to return to you on Monday, May 18, ready to help you navigate through the storm. **With your help, we will keep the flame alive.**

Sincerely,

Your Camp Foster YMCA Family

Hello from Camp Foster YMCA!

With the suspension of our overnight camps we are receiving a lot of great questions. We have compiled a list of those questions and their answers and want to take this opportunity to share them with you.

WHAT HAPPENS TO THE FEES THAT I PAID FOR OVERNIGHT CAMP 2020?

Please log into your camp account at <https://campfosterymca.campintouch.com/v2/login/login.aspx>. Under Forms & Documents please fill out the form **2020 Overnight Camp Suspension Fee Distribution**. Please fill this form out **no later than July 15, 2020**. If the form has not been filled out by that time, any fees paid for overnight camp (including store money, care packages, and cabin parties) will be distributed to Camp's operational fund. These forms will be processed in 30-90 days. **Please note that you must fill out the form, not call or email with your preference.**

CAN I AUTOMATICALLY ROLL MY REGISTRATION OVER TO 2021?

Due to software limitations we are not able to simply roll your camper over to the same session next year. You will need to register for the 2021 camps when they become available and you can then use your credit (if you chose to roll your credits over) to help pay for those camps. If you do not get into camp, we can refund your \$ at that point.

WHEN CAN WE REGISTER FOR 2021?

We are going to open enrollment for returning campers (including wait list campers) only on **August 18, 2020 at 6AM**. More information about registration will be coming as we get closer to this date. Registration will open to the public on August 25, 2020 at 8AM.

LAST YEAR I HAD TROUBLE GETTING MY KIDS INTO THE SAME SESSION BEFORE IT FILLED. WILL THIS HAPPEN AGAIN?

Unfortunately, this is a possibility. We have asked the software developer to help us alleviate this issue. They have not yet come up with a way to fill out an application for your family versus each individual camper. We do know that you can allow multiple people access to your account and you can each fill out an application for a camper simultaneously. If a better solution is brought to light, we will let you know!

MY CAMPER IS 16 YEARS OLD AND WAS SUPPOSED TO GRADUATE THIS SUMMER.

WHAT HAPPENS NOW?

We know how special of a year the graduation year is to those 16 year old campers. We will be planning to celebrate these campers somehow, some way this summer – AND we also invite all 16 year old campers to consider coming back in summer 2021 to participate in the TEAM Leader (TL) camp program that is designed for 17 year olds. We are creating more TL weeks to give more campers the opportunity to attend. We will also be creating a TL experience that has some of the elements that a grad camper would have experienced this summer, as well as opportunities to gain leadership skills. TL campers in 2021 will have the best of both worlds!

MY CAMPER WAS SIGNED UP FOR THE TEAM LEADER (TL) PROGRAM THIS SUMMER.

WHAT HAPPENS NOW?

Campers enrolled in the TL program will still be eligible to apply for the Foster Corps program in 2021. The Foster Corps is a two-week program for 18 year olds that gives campers a chance to really get behind the scenes at Camp Foster. We will also infuse some of the programming we would have done in the TL program into the 2021 Foster Corps experience. Applications for Foster Corps will be available in December.

MY CAMPER WAS SIGNED UP TO BE PART OF FOSTER CORPS THIS SUMMER.

WHAT HAPPENS NOW?

All Foster Corps members are eligible to apply to be part of the 2021 summer staff team. Applications for employment will be available in the Fall. We will reach out to Foster Corps members when applications are live.

IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN DO TO CHEER UP MY CAMPER?

Yes! You can bring Camp Foster to your camper this summer! Log into your Camp in Touch account at <https://campfosterymca.campintouch.com/v2/login/login.aspx> and fill out the 2020 Care Package Order Form. We will ship your camper the SURPRISE care package of your choice. Guaranteed to brighten their day!

OVERNIGHT CAMP WAS SUSPENDED. WHY ARE YOU STILL RUNNING DAY CAMP?

There are many differentiating factors between our day and overnight programs. Some of those factors include:

- Day campers do not reside here at camp, in a cabin with 10-12 other campers.
- Day campers do not have their meals provided to them on site, multiple times a day.
- Day campers do not bathe at camp.
- Day campers do not participate in the number of large gatherings that resident campers do.

We will be putting a number of new practices and procedures into practice this summer in an effort to keep your day camper and our staff safe and healthy. We will continue to implement new practices as we receive new information. Some of the practices we are already planning for include:

- Implementing a daily health check upon arrival
- Installation of more handwashing stations around camp
- Maintaining small group sizes
- Planning activities that help us adhere to physical distancing

In doing these things, and more, we feel confident that we can offer your day camper a safe, fun, impactful day camp experience.

HAVE ANY OTHER MAJOR CHANGES BEEN MADE TO DAY CAMP?

Yes, due to guidelines and restrictions for public transportation, **we have decided to suspend all day camp transportation both to and from camp.** In order to help accommodate for this change, we are extending our day camp drop off time. Day Camp drop off will be from 7:45AM-8:45AM. Day camp pick up will be from 3:30PM-4PM each day. **There will be no family night this summer.**

WILL MY DAY CAMPER HAVE TO WEAR A FACE MASK WHILE AT CAMP?

Face masks will not be required. If your family is in the practice of wearing one, your day camper can absolutely wear theirs to camp.

WE ARE REALLY MISSING CAMP FOSTER. IS THERE ANYTHING WE CAN DO AS A FAMILY?

Yes, check us out for a weekend retreat! Camp Foster will be providing activities, meals, and lodging throughout weekends this summer. With scenic grounds, comfortable accommodations, delicious meals, fun activities, and the attractions of the Iowa Great Lakes Region, this weekend retreat is sure to be an experience to remember. Guests will enjoy the comfort and privacy of their own cozy cabin (which includes a restroom and shower facility). Guests will be able to sign-up for a variety of activities which may include horseback riding, archery, riflery, waterfront activities, hiking, fishing, and more. Our dining facility will provide scheduled meals. To register, please visit https://bedell.activityreg.com/selectactivity_t2.wcs and expand the options under Camp Foster Special Events.

WE CAN'T STAY FOR A WHOLE WEEKEND. DO WE HAVE ANY OTHER OPTIONS?

Absolutely! Camp Foster is offering some of our summer overnight camp program options to the general public. Bring your kids so that you can share in the programming together, or leave them at home and have an adult day at camp doing all the fun things you've heard your kids brag about! Program options include:

- Hour Trail Rides
- Climbing Adventures (climbing walls, zip lines, high challenge course)
- Target Sports (archery, rifles, hatchets, atlatls)
- Paddle Sports (canoes, kayaks, stand-up paddleboards)
- Sailing

Contact Brian Forney at 712-336-3272 or brian.forney@campfosterymca.com for more information about programming.

Hopefully we have answered a lot of your current questions. If you have other questions, please contact us at 712-336-3272 or info@campfosterymca.com.

KTFA,
Your Camp Foster YCMA Team