



**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

Dear Camp Families,

We would like to thank you again for your patience and shared support. Our goal was to issue this update earlier, but there were some delays due to releases of CDC and Office of Early Childhood (OEC) guidelines. There were not huge variations of information in these releases, but the guidance for our programs was more specific. After reviewing the updated information, meeting with camp leaders, and meeting with Y leaders we have had to adjust our Summer Camp Program to a greater degree than what we initially thought. We strive to provide a service that helps our campers grow and develop into better versions of themselves. We teach, connect, laugh, and learn at Ingersoll. We are committed ensuring this development. However, safety is of paramount concern and unfortunately, we will have to make additional changes to account for additional risks.

We have outlined the new, or updated, information in the first part of this letter. We ask that families review all of the information provided so each family can make the best decision for themselves. After a re-evaluation of the needs of this summer, we are limiting camp to 40 groups of campers. Our waiver from the OEC still has to be accepted, but if approved, 40 groups is still a reduction to our original plan. As a result, some camp programs are currently over-enrolled. We believe that the updated information below may have a significant impact on camp attendance and are therefore, choosing to wait until next Friday (May 29th) to start wait listing, or canceling, registrations. We would like to prevent a family from cancelling due to space limitations now, only to discover that space became available by next week. That being said, we are asking that families review the below information thoroughly. If it is certain that your family will not be attending camp this summer please let us know as soon as possible.

We understand that some of this information differs from previous updates. A consequence of trying to communicate often in this ever changing environment is that our policies may have to adapt multiple times in order to accommodate appropriate responses to these changes. We firmly believe that continuing to be transparent and communicating often is the best policy. We are aware this makes scheduling for the summer challenging. Please share your questions with us and we will support you in making appropriate decisions for your family as best we can.

Thank you for your patience and support. Stay safe, make the best out of our current opportunities and have a great day!

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New Information:

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- **Our first day of camp will be June 22 per the updated Memo 18 issued by the OEC.** This is the original date of session 1.
- **We will not be able to run the following programs or options:**
 - Daily Bussing will not be available. We will not be transporting any campers to and from camp.
 - Before and After Care in our traditional form: 7-9am & 4-6pm (see below for more info).
 - Session One: Flash Camp 1, Soccer, STEAM, Basketball.
 - Session Two: Soccer, Basketball.
 - Session Three: STEAM, All Aqua.
 - Session Four: Parkour, Dance, Fort Building.
 - All Summer: Back to Basics: Adventure Camping, Campfire Cooking, Olders Adventure, Film.
 - We will not have a Lake Compounce Field Trip for our Olders program CIO1 or CIO2.
 - Fishing will no longer be a travel camp. They will stay on camp grounds throughout the session and the price will change to reflect a non-travel specialty camp.
- **Drop Off and Pick Up will have staggered times based on your camper's group.** We are doing our best to develop a Drop Off plan that limits your wait time and provides the space to provide groups ample space to spread out. We have developed a rough plan to have half the camp Drop Off between 8:30 – 9:00 and pick up between 3:45 – 4:15. The second half of camp would Drop Off between 9:10 – 9:40 and pick up between 4:25 -4:55. Our goal is to create a procedure where cars are never crossing, campers can complete health screenings and temperature checks efficiently, and groups are spread out so campers can walk to them safely. As our numbers and programs change, this procedure and times may change as well.
- **Before and After Camp as we know it, will not be held this summer.** However, we do understand the need for extended hours and are actively pursuing a way to provide an extended day to some extent. Staggered drop off times may assist some families, but these times will be assigned according to groups, and each half-hour block will be subdivided into two separate 15 minute blocks for drop off. These times may not work for everyone, which is why we are working on a solution. If we are able to offer this service, those families already registered will be given priority for this option. Therefore, we are not canceling any Before or After Care families until next week. We will be able to tell all families by next Friday if we are able to provide some sort of extended program. Although we are working on a solution, this is not a guarantee. If your family has made a decision not to attend camp please let us know so we can adjust our numbers accordingly.
- **Olders Camp (CIO1 and CIO2) groups will be structured similar to our younger traditional camps.** Olders Campers will be assigned groups prior to starting their session. They will travel with their group and counselor throughout the entire day.
- **Please let us know if you plan on carpooling with campers in the same age group.** We will try to group campers in the same groups if they arrive together.





Cancellation Policy:

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- Based on feedback (thank you) and an evaluation of the current climate we are adjusting our full refund cancellation date (including deposit) to two weeks, 14 days, before your camp session starts.
- With the situation continuing to change, we want to give parents the flexibility to make decisions that are best for their family, while also allowing us to adjust programs and staffing needs. Instead of constantly shifting a specific date, you will get a full refund (including deposit) as long as you notify camp of a cancellation 14 days prior to your session start date).

Refunds: If portions of your camp programs are canceled, we will move prior payments to cover the balance of additional sessions. If family balances have already been paid in full, families have 3 options.

- Families may donate their registration costs as a tax-deductible gift to Camp Ingersoll. This generous action allows us to continue to support the community today and strengthens the future of our organization.
- Families may apply registrations costs as a credit for summer 2021
- Families may receive a refund payment via check (refunds through credit card include a \$25 bank fee). Please allow up to 6-8 weeks to process.

We understand that every family is different and just ask that if possible, families consider the impact that the Y and Camp has on our community and how to support the future of the organization.

Camp Policies/Procedures:

- The max group size will be 10 campers.
 - Groups of campers will be required to practice social distancing from other groups of campers.
- New cleaning policies will be put into place to ensure surfaces and areas are sanitized between usages, per guidelines put forth by the OEC.
- Full refunds will be given to all camp families in the event of their registered programs being cancelled during the summer (see above for refund options).
- Campers that are prohibited, by camp leadership, from attending their registered programs as a result of an updated Camp Corona Virus Policy will be given full refunds for the time not attended (see above for refund options).
- All balances (not including families participating in our automatic draft) must be paid in full by July 1st. Our standard date is June 1st, but we have pushed it back a month.

What we think with strong Confidence:

- To limit Cross Connections between groups we are preparing to keep campers attending more than one session together as much as possible.
- We will be issuing detailed updated policies and videos to introduce parents and campers to our adapted procedures.
 - We are aware that the transition into camp this summer may be challenging for some campers.





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- We are preparing to offer resources to help campers acclimate to a new environment and new expectations before arriving at camp.
- We will be reserving time on Fridays for family tours of camp.
 - We understand there are many new families that would like to look at camp and have some more information about the camp day. These tours will take families to the main parts of camp while sharing information about programming, policies, and camp in general.
 - These tours will be geared towards new families who have not been to camp. We will not be sharing any new information that is not available to all camp families regarding Covid-19 policies.

What can we do now?

- We have daily resources that are out on Facebook under CampIngersoll:
 - We start our day with “Wake up with Camp” which is modeled after our daily opening ceremonies. These start at 8am on Facebook live and are also posted as videos. We have continued our tradition of Pie in the Face Fridays, and families can vote who should receive the pie starting on Wednesdays.
 - Jokes of the day are posted everyday between 3:30 – 5:30pm.
 - Tuesdays are for trivia, which is posted around 12pm.
 - Thursdays are Think Art Thursdays, which include a link to some great artistic videos for kids!
 - Stephanie closes the week with a thought provoking Fun Fact Friday posted midday!
 - Coach Emerson’s Youth Sports Updates are posted every Saturday before 12pm and focus on getting your young campers outside and active!
- Come out to camp and spend time with you family. The Outdoor Center is now open to all YMCA and Camp Families during this state of emergency. Once we get back to a sense of normal, families will be required to purchase their Outdoor Center Membership for the year. In the meantime, hike, ride bikes (with helmets), fish (please stay on the beach not the docks), have a picnic, search for wildlife (we have spotted bald eagles recently, and there are always red tail hawks, owls, and more), and have fun (while also maintaining appropriate social distancing from other families please).
- Stay in touch! Please be sure to check you emails, if you have any questions or concerns email or call us. We would love to hear from you!

We understand that every family is working through these times the best they can. We are here to support and are doing all we can to be prepared for the best summer ever, whatever that looks like. Thank you for your patience and support and we hope to see you soon at YMCA Camp Ingersoll.

Stay safe, make the best out of our current opportunities, and have a great day!

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