

Southampton Summer Day CampYour Name

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Dear SSDC 2020 Staff,

Jacque and I sincerely wish that you and all your loved ones are healthy and doing as well as can be expected during these tough times. We believe that this update will bring some clarity and hope to all of you.

As camp owners and directors we have had the good fortune to take care of so many amazing children each summer for the past 46 years. Jacque and I consider all of those campers and you, our staff, to be our extended family. We recognize that for us, as well as many of you, camp has helped to define us. Camp promotes self-confidence, independence, and resilience while teaching all of us the life skills needed to build and maintain long term friendships and solid working relationships.

For us, as you can envision, this has been one of the most challenging times of our entire lives. It is fortunate also that we have been able to draw on our years of experience to help us navigate through the volumes of information, proposed guidelines and regulations to meet the needs of our campers and staff for the summer of 2020. We have spent countless hours monitoring the progress of this virus, learning about its impact, and how to best protect us all. We are developing detailed plans to help us be most effective in creating a more “protected environment” for all of us here when we open camp. As we decide how best to proceed this summer, we are in daily contact with government agencies, consulting with health professionals, and conferring with other professionals throughout the summer camp industry. The responsibility for providing a rewarding camp experience while doing everything possible to protect and care for everyone here at camp is indeed tremendous.

The challenge for us now is to totally rebuild our program from the ground up for this one season based on all suggested “best practices.” It will surely be different for all of us, but...it will certainly be a summer which none of us will ever forget!

Currently, based on all best available information and statistics from credible sources, we expect to open camp a week later on Monday, June 29 and end camp on Friday, August 21. Primarily, as we have always maintained, **we will not open camp unless we are confident that we can adhere to all recommended “Best Safe Practices” for all in attendance.** Also, we need to be confident by the middle of June that all facts on the ground that we are presented with will allow us to execute a plan that helps keep the virus out of camp. We must also be confident that we can deal promptly and effectively with it at all levels if necessary. Only if we can reach those conclusions, AND the State of Pennsylvania decides that it is safe by permitting us to open, will we consider opening.

Here are just a few of the many different things to be aware of this summer:

- This will NOT follow the regular typical flow of an SSDC summer!
- You will certainly need to wear a face mask at camp, gloves sometimes too.
- There will be longer breaks between each activity period for hand sanitizing
- Each Bunk will be smaller and self-contained throughout the day
- There may be no clubs or leagues to minimize overall contacts.
- Social distancing will need to be followed with campers as much as possible, but absolutely between all other staff members
- Health screening for all will take place upon arrival each day
- Many favorite activities will be adjusted or eliminated with quite a few new ones added
- All staff will be expected to be safe and smart at home and in all social situations while away from camp.
- Staff members will only be permitted to drive their own family members to and from camp. Interns under age 18 may be required to be dropped off and picked up by a parent each day.
- There will be no counselor driven vans this summer
- Bus transportation is uncertain currently
- We may need to stagger arrival and departure times or perhaps have work shifts
- All pre-camp meetings and trainings will be virtual

Jacque and I have always been optimistic, but also realistic, about all of this. We understand the value of a rewarding summer camp program for everyone but our approach to confronting our challenges and accurately measuring all the risks will be rooted in comprehensive guidance from all the expert sources mentioned above.

Of course, much about the future of this virus is still unknowable. Nothing can ever be absolutely 100% perfect and free of risk. Certainly, nothing about this situation can be guaranteed. IF we are PERMITTED by the state to open, we will be well prepared by all available known standards.

We will be looking for folks to help set up camp very soon. June 4th seems the most likely date to bring in the set-up crew. If you are interested in joining the crew, please call me directly at 267-246-2693. Also, if for any reason you now have doubts about being at camp this summer please let us know immediately.

We genuinely believe in the value of an SSDC experience. While it will not be easy, and there are no guarantees, we will go to whatever lengths possible to keep you and all of our campers safe while helping everyone have a wonderful, productive, and much needed positively great summer to remember!

So, for now stay safe and busy, keep fingers crossed and look for more meeting and training details very soon.

Healthy wishes,

Rick and Jacque

Sincerely,

Your Name