Message from our Medical Director and Executive Director

Out of an abundance of caution, Camp Sunshine has decided to offer both virtual and onsite programming this year that will incorporate strict monitoring for COVID-19. Our primary interest is ensuring programming that is safe and minimizes any unnecessary exposure to infection to the children and families Camp Sunshine serves.

This year, in-person Camp will look different and will be focused on the joy of participating as a family in activities on our beautiful lakeside campus. As this is a year for parents and children to celebrate the summer season together in a fun vacation-style model, Camp will run mixed diagnosis programs with fewer numbers of families. We have also decided to limit attendance to families of children who are not immunosuppressed.

We appreciate that this model will represent a significant difference for many of you. It is our hope that Camp Sunshine will be able to safely return to more traditional programming in 2023. We thank you for working with us to ensure the health and safety of all children and their families in the upcoming season.

Andrew Eichenfield, MD
Medical Director

Michael Katz
Executive Director
Dear Volunteers,

We are incredibly excited to offer a new type of in-person programing for 2022: a fun family-style camp with “Space” as a theme. We understand that many of you may have been expecting a return to our more traditional model of programming. In order to keep our families and volunteers as safe as possible, we had to change our programming model. While this may be different, it offers a unique chance to do new things, to boldly go where we have not gone before!

With this in mind, we would like to lay out what the volunteer experience will be like, and what our expectations will be for volunteers.

Navigating Camp in 2022

- Each family will stay together as their own group throughout their stay at camp (pods). Children will not be assigned into groups.
- Limited volunteer opportunities for each session: 30 total volunteers, 20 to be assigned directly to work with families as family guides and 10 to help out with general activities: food service, waterfront, photography, arts & crafts, and activity window, or to be assigned to a family in case of a volunteer cancellation.
- Volunteers who are assigned as family guides will have duties that include acting not only as a guide to the assigned family, but also assisting and leading a variety of activities for a wide variety of age groups.
- Sessions will be 4 days in length for families and 5 days for volunteers (an additional day for volunteers prior to the arrival of families for a required day of training).
- Volunteers will be assigned their own housing unit. Couples or 2 people from the same household may room together. Any volunteer who is a family guide will be in an individual room.
- In order to best implement the new programming, we will be requesting that only returning volunteers who are 18 years or older apply.
- We regret that we will not be able to accommodate groups or families with children who are not old enough to volunteer.
- There may also be the potential for a Camp session to be cancelled in its entirety. This is nothing we would do lightly, and would be done only if the health and safety of families and volunteers were at risk, or other factors that would impede the successful execution of the program.

We have a Camp theme!

Each family attending camp will receive one of our Boxes of Sunshine filled with space-themed projects, activities, and swag. We are also going to have a variety of space-themed activities on campus as well!

Applications for Volunteering open Monday, April 25!

https://www.campsunshine.org/volunteer/apply
Eligibility

- All volunteers will be required to be optimally protected with the initial COVID-19 series and any available boosters prior to Camp. You can learn about available COVID-19 vaccines here:

- In addition, volunteers under the age of 26 MUST HAVE the following immunizations prior to attendance:
  - 5 DTaP (4 DTaP if the 4th is given on or after the 4th birthday)
  - 4 Polio (if the 4th dose is given before the 4th birthday, an additional age-appropriate inactivated polio immunization should be given on or after the 4th birthday)
  - 2 MMR (measles, mumps, rubella)
  - 2 Varicella (chickenpox) or history of disease
  - 2 Meningococcal vaccine
  - 1 TDaP booster

- No individual can attend who is moderately or severely immunocompromised due to an underlying condition or its treatment. Moderate and severe immunocompromising conditions and treatments include but are not limited to:
  - Active treatment for solid tumor and hematologic malignancies (other than with standard-risk acute lymphoblastic leukemia in remission on maintenance therapy)
  - Receipt of solid-organ transplant and taking immunosuppressive therapy
  - Receipt of CAR T-cell therapy within 2 years of transplantation or taking immunosuppression therapy
  - Receipt of Hematopoietic cell transplant (HCT) within 2 years of transplantation, or taking immunosuppression therapy
  - Moderate or severe primary immunodeficiency (e.g., DiGeorge syndrome, Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome)
  - Advanced or untreated HIV infection
  - Active treatment with
    - high-dose corticosteroids (i.e., ≥1 mg/kg prednisone or equivalent per day when administered for ≥2 weeks)
    - transplant-related immunosuppressive drugs (mycophenolate, azathioprine, tacrolimus, cyclosporine, sirolimus)
    - other biologic agents that are immunosuppressive or immunomodulatory (rituximab, or other B-cell depleting, or T-cell depleting therapies)

- Volunteers must drive to Camp and their primary residence must be from a Northeast or Mid-Atlantic state which includes: Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, Virginia, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia. This is so that if a volunteer is unable to complete their duties due to illness or exposure to COVID-19, they can leave for home immediately.

- We also ask that you do not carpool unless you are from the same household. With a very small volunteer force on campus, potentially losing more than a few volunteers due to exposure or illness would result in a noticeable impact on the program, no matter where people were assigned.
What We are Asking of Our Volunteers

We need your help to make this a safe place for our families and your fellow volunteers. To do that, we are asking volunteers to fully commit to the following in order to volunteer for 2022:

- Bring a copy of a negative PCR COVID-19 test within 96 hours of your arrival at Camp, even if you are fully vaccinated. Without those results you will not be able to enter our campus.

- Be screened on arrival at Camp. Please note that if you have a fever or any potential COVID-19 symptoms on arrival you will be isolated for further evaluation. Please, do not plan to come to Camp if you are sick or have any COVID-19 related symptoms (please notify our office as soon as you know that this is the case).

- Take a rapid COVID-19 antigen test on arrival before entering the building.

- Have daily morning symptom screenings while at Camp.

- Take a rapid COVID-19 antigen test before you leave on the last day of Camp.

- While at Camp, observe Camp’s social distancing rules and masking requirements at all times.

- Follow our Social Contract Commitment (Code of Conduct).

- **Commit to arriving on time for the volunteer training.** There are many new things to go over in addition to existing protocols, COVID-19-related guidelines, the new programming format, and activities training.

- **Commit to sending in all necessary forms ASAP before the session begins.** Included are waivers, Mandated Reporter Training certificate (this form is good for 4 years, so some folks may need to renew), immunization records, Code of Conduct Agreement, etc.

- Be familiar with and be able to run any activity in the activity guidebook.

- Remain on site for the duration of the session.

- Bring your energy and be prepared for a lot of walking and outside activities.

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Questions? Contact Beth Packard, Volunteer & Program Coordinator: bpackard@campsunshine.org