

Summer 2020 Announcement

On behalf of our board and staff, we would like to update you on the plans we have for the summer. After lots of thought, prayer, and study of current circumstances, **we have decided that we must cancel our summer camps** in order to prioritize the safety of our campers, their home communities, and the hundreds of volunteers and staff who make camp possible every summer. We do not take this action lightly and would like to explain some of our reasoning for the change before diving into the exciting alternative opportunity we have in store for this summer.

Deciding Factors

Like health care workers, one of our guiding principles in ministry is to do no harm. We cannot, in good conscience, open camp's doors to hundreds of youth when the threat of COVID-19 is still so high. Many of the families we serve are vulnerable to the virus due to lack of adequate health care, or ability to take time off due to illness, or have the ability to quarantine xafter camp. It seems unwise and irresponsible for us to carry on with a normal camp schedule that would bring dozens of kids from multiple cities together, many of whom would have to ride in a bus for nearly 2 hours both coming to and leaving from camp. Our first priority in making this decision is to protect our campers, as well as their families and communities.

With that in mind, we are concerned about having to send campers and volunteers back home if exposure was to happen while at the camp. Even with rigorous screening and our best efforts to sanitize our facilities, the chances of COVID-19 being spread during close-quarters activities like worship, swimming, or cabin sleeping arrangements,

makes it necessary to find new and creative ways to fulfill our mission this summer.

We trust that God is good in all times and circumstances, and we refuse to stop pointing to Jesus' example as the best way to live. That's why we are working to modify our summer programming to do the best we can for the campers.

Alternative Camp Opportunities

We will be in contact with our campers in several ways to encourage and pray for them. Our team is preparing creative ways to connect with the campers and their families. Stay tuned for more updates.

Final Thoughts

We're excited for all the possibilities that God has in store for the rest of 2020, though it may look much different than we expected. Thank you for coming alongside God's work here through your prayers and support!

Darren Edwards,
Executive Director

For more ways you can help us minister to these kids, visit: ofckids.org