

Outdoor Summer Camp Roundtable

April 29, 2020

Attendees

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Josh Green : If you have not already, add your agency's info to the google doc! lots of good info!

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1q8Ob1Z_zcWcAjT5gM0XQS7Vazxg172icb3IQPR7pfY0/edit?usp=sharing

Ken : PRPS will host a webinar with a representative from the PA Department of Health on Friday, May 8th at 10 AM. Questions have to be submitted in advance by 3 PM today to tour@prps.org. They may be able to address a lot of our questions we don't currently have answers for.

Concerns

Jennifer Bracken Fean : Concerned about getting enough supplies - hand sanitizers, thermometers, etc?

How are you addressing social distance protocols - looks like they will be in play even in "green"

Kimberly Mallatratt : How are you implanting the required social distancing?

Devon Serena : Devon, South Park Township.....We were also told we would not have access to the schools all summer, which is where most of our programming is held. We had planned to offer swimming at our High School, which now won't happen. We have decided to move our program to a virtual program and allow for outdoor pop-up events in July if conditions allow.

Jennifer Bracken Fean : There is a DRAFT of CDC guidelines - was published in Washington Post. Someone had the link in earlier meeting

Ashton Rosenberger : <https://files.constantcontact.com/bdc642af601/468a3d1a-bafc-4f78-9444-f9051d3bb5b4.pdf>

Jennifer Bracken Fean : Pool noodle tag. And what happens to masks at lunch?

John HrebikOwner : Do you expect and trust High School and college staff to be able to do all this and feel safe for all the children and staff?

From ksanders : Harrisburg City, we run our programs in the parks. We are following the governors protocol and direction. We are on the fence with programming and things are not looking good. The restrictions will be an issue with enforcement. We are researching more of a safety focus currently.

Dan Hendey : CDC guidelines for camps/childcare programs https://www.washingtonpost.com/context/white-house-is-reviewing-detailed-guidance-for-gradual-reopening/f263df1b-f48c-4ede-affa-76803d94ff2f/?fbclid=IwAR1ZC5zH0JtNwvtpyxrYhvsQ52mMjX11ly364eB_9dgSwWuVClQf7T2hwqc&itid=lk_inline_manual_20

Jennifer Bracken Fean : It is a DRAFT official guidelines Friday. Definitely not camp like we love it, but what will our parents do without us? (not to mention the kids

From BK : standard daily practice for early learning programs when I was teaching in HK was to take temp when child arrived at the front door

is a really good question

BK : what about camper day pack requirements from home each day? campers bring things with them?

Jennifer Bracken Fean : Guidelines talk about individual art supplies

John HrebikOwner : Allentown runs 18 playgrounds all at outside sites. How do you clean picnic tables, playground equipment, every day on what budget?

Jennifer Bracken Fean : And cleaning equipment after every use

Jennifer Bracken Fean : Our parents are concerned about them not being in air-conditioning in a normal year (drives me crazy) I tell them camp is outside by nature.

BK : what about latex allergies?

Gina Tophoney : We use Nitrile gloves

Field Trips

Dave Hutner : Field Trips, Pool trips/visits, park equipment all pose issues as well. Including the items that campers bring with them.

mrichino : Dave, I don't see how you can do trips. Social distancing on a school bus?

Jennifer Bracken Fean : Mask and gloves – yes Not a thing this summer - trips

Dave Hutner : I am in agreement with doing away with the trips

Is that one of the guidelines, masks outside for everyone? We have cancelled all our field trips

Stacey Widenhofer : As of right now when do most of you plan to start in person/on facility summer camps?

SpeakerAP : Phoenixville Borough - we cancelled all of our field trips. Considering assemblies...

Angela Russell : Just received word that NRPA has canceled their conference in October in Orlando.

pdurflinger : Patrick are you planning on still having that fifth day this year with trip locations not being open???

LisaS : We have programs visiting us but they will all be assembly style at our outdoor amphitheater

BK : Perhaps opportunities for partnering with local family fun centers, KOAs, putt-putt courses, or other amusement type locations?

dmuller : Montgomery Township - This is unofficial as of right now but our thought is cancel all field trips & prepare a much smaller program, should we be able to hold anything at all. We will need to control as much on our property as possible.

With it being a smaller program, we will not be delivering the product parents have paid for (our usual camp program), so we will be treating it as an entirely different program

Jennifer Bracken Fean : Check the guidelines - I feel like it may say something about bringing in

From Patrick Cannon : pdurflinger asked if we were still planning on having that fifth day this year when our schools are closed and we offer field trips. We haven't decided yet and, of course, that would depend on the field trip sites being open and safe. Our camps are only 3 hours a day so it would very difficult, if not impossible, to retain staff for a 4 day camp for 6 weeks.

Sanitation

LisaS : How do you sanitize a wood picnic table?

Jennifer Bracken Fean : Cover picnic tables with plastic so it can be wiped down, removed, and replaced?

Something that is durable and won't blow away

Michele Schasberger : vis. Sanitizing, are there standards?

Tom Steines : wind

Jhane Kunkel : Jason, can you send that info for that?

Lindsay Taylor : Yes, thanks!

Lauren Irizarry : Lirizarry@conshohockenpa.gov

Jennifer Bracken Fean : Do any of you think or know if the governor will weigh in on summer camp operation at all?

From BK : CDC details: <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>

From Jason Lang: Backpack sprayer

https://getpvf.com/sr-450-backpack-sprayer-duster/?gclid=EA1aIQobChMI5vX8vOGP6QIVyuDICH0qvwn3EAQYBSABEgl_5PD_BwE

Camp alternatives

Jhane Kunkel : has anyone outright canceled their physical summer camp?

From dmuller : Honestly I don't think the governor is thinking about camps/recreation at all, outside of outdoor fishing/golf, etc

dmuller : Virtual/pop up activities are great. I'm just not comfortable calling it "camp"

Jennifer Bracken Fean : We did trivia event for our campers on Facebook - they loved it (Family Game Night)

LisaS : If camp can't run, we will consider very small (to meet group sizes) stand alone programs or possibly Day-Camp-In-A-Box kind of program.

Cheri Matter : The Girls Scouts have cancelled all their resident camps for the summer. My daughter was enrolled. We are in the Harrisburg Area.

LisaS : Girl Scouts in Washington DC have cancelled all in-person girl scout activities until Aug 31

BK : We maybe there is an opportunity to pivot and conduct small group / personal camp sessions - kind of like themed birthday party providers or entertainers

From dmuller : BK, that's what we're looking at, pending restriction guidance

What about loss of income?

genny baillie : Fishing is allowed. Can you do a fishing contest event as a fundraiser

Michele Schasberger : United Way at least in Wyoming Valley is very concerned about learning loss. If camps offer 1-2 hours of math/literacy in the morning, maybe could get some funding there.

Sarah Prebis : golf courses will be open too. maybe a golf outing as a fundraiser?

BK : Look into the CARES Act materials: <https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/cares/state-and-local-governments>

Staffing

JoAnne Morris : Concerned about hiring staff. How do you hire staff at last minute & will I be able to get counselors who are willing to wear masks, disinfect, etc.

Gina Tophoney : Another hold up will be Act 47

Megan Prusienski : I did a survey for staff, I think MOST are eager to do something and they said whenever we open they'd be there.

Dave Hutner : We already have the hiring process almost already complete. We have been keeping them in the loop via emails, etc. It has been very positively received, and we have all panning to return.

Megan Prusienski : I agree with Doug - no one else is hiring, we're all in the same situation.

SpeakerAP : I reached out to returning staff via email to see how they (and their parents!) feel about them working at camp. Most are willing given guidelines are followed and training is provided

Jennifer Bracken Fean : We hire 16 and up - we are considering only going with 18 and up

Dave Hutner : They have also been engaged in the opening process with questions and ideas on how to move forward

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Jennifer Bracken Fean : As of about a week ago, a fingerprinting location is open in Newtown, PA if anyone is close

Megan Prusienski : Dan, the link isn't under edu opportunities. where is the info for that webinar?

BK : Perhaps it would be proactive to ask future volunteers (frequent returners) to get background checks now. they are free to volunteers in PA currently

Legal issues

John HrebikOwner : Allentown is in the Red area on Wolf's map. Who knows when we get out of this? How can we plan on anything when all I hear is that things need to move slowly?

Craig Shevchik : I totally agree with Dan. Do the best you can with the guidelines

Craig Shevchik : Amen

John HrebikOwner : Will all that stand up in a court of all. Being a good Samaritan is one thing, but when a situation occurs that's forgotten!!!!

dmuller : Talk to your solicitors & insurance providers when we get there

What activities can you offer?

Stacey Widenhofer : Has anyone made any plans for virtual or "do at home" camps?

Scott Cope : give everyone a 6' hula hoop to wear! lol

From Courtney : Do we think parents are going to want their children to go to a summer camp if we all still feel as though we are at risk?

From BK : Gardening and environmental activities can be conducted individually

Devon Serena : South Park Township is working on virtual programming.

Jennifer Bracken Fean : Pool noodles!

Michele Schasberger : jump rope, badminton

dmuller : Minute to win it challenges? May need modifications

SpeakerAP : yoga, dance

Gina Tophoney : There are a lot of program providers offering virtual specialty camps

Cope : bird watching, nature hikes, etc

From Megan Prusienski : bike rodeos, everyone brings their own bikes

dmuller : Drawing/canvas

BK : stream ecology

John HrebikOwner : Will these really fill up a kid's day and will all want to do this?

Kelly Venture Outdoors (Pgh) : <http://www.ventureoutdoors.org/virtual%20outdoor%20experiences/>

Carly Greene : kites...has anyone had a large scale kite event?

Audrey Logar : Carly I have a kite event each year. Ours this year got canceled. email if you want info,

BK : refurbish local park areas / service projects

Jennifer Bracken Fean : I think if we can do this they will be grateful to physically be with people their own age

Michele Schasberger : juggling, diablo

Jennifer Bracken Fean : At camp they are not graded, and much easier to plan activities for camp without parent involvement.

To camp or not to camp (virtual)

dmuller : Engaging the kids is extremely important, BUT ultimately parents will be looking for a safe place for their kids regardless of activities. Like Dan said, it's all in the marketing and being up front with what to expect.

No empty promises

Jennifer Bracken Fean : Agreed

John HrebikOwner : Who wants to be inside on Summer days, be REAL!!!!

Chuck Frantz : I really think it's not going to be a good year for a summer camp.

Chuck Frantz : we should just close it down for a year for the safety of everyone.

John HrebikOwner : With high schools , colleges, and professional sports all being down, how can anyone feel safe running a playground program or camp?

Courtney : This is my first year as Chairperson for our small summer camp. I would absolutely love to see this year be as normal as possible but I just don't see it happening....

Megan Prusienski : if we don't have camp, has anyone suggested their staff engage in promoting themselves as a nanny for those who still have to head to work?

Chuck Frantz : they are saying that all major sports will be shut down for the rest of year.

From Chuck Frantz : What if it comes back during camp

bwarren : I have sent out a link from the Red Cross to become a certified baby sitter

Megan Prusienski : yes also VERY WORRIED about the "second wave"

Ken : Megan--Agreed!

Megan Prusienski : what if we do open, then a second wave comes, and we have to be sent back home. the admin refund nightmare is also on my mind.

Scott Cope : Just curious, how many people will be relieved if we will not be allowed to have summer camps

Devon Serena : Has anyone started working on virtual programming? I have some ideas, but I'm looking for more engaging things for our kids. I am also worried about what a virtual program will do for our kids who have been stuck on computers doing school.

Megan Prusienski : agreed. planning for the unknown is horrific.

LisaS : totally agree

Jennifer Bracken Fean : 100% Mike!

Chuck Frantz : me we need to be safe with everyone.

John HrebikOwner : The western part of the state looks better on Wolf's map than the eastern half.

Unfortunately Allentown is in the Red part and will take a long time till we get Green!!!!

dmuller : Sure. Can't move to Plan B until Plan A disappears

Dave Hutner : I agree with knowing as opposed to the uncertainty

JoAnne Morris : We can't plan without guidelines

Melissa Eldridge : Briar Bush Nature Center - I'm trying to think of ways to offer virtual programming, but I'm not too sure it will go well with the parents.

Lan : If you have sent out surveys to parents, would you mind sharing the questions you ask?

Dave Hutner : Stay safe all!

Craig Shevchik : Thank you Dan

Melissa Eldridge : Thank you!

Megan Prusienski : Thanks, all!

Rich Ehnou : Thank you!

Jennifer Bracken Fean : I will send mine to Dan!!! (survey questions)

JoAnne Morris : Thanks Dan!

Scott Cope : Thanks for doing this Dan!!

Anthony : Thanks Dan!!!

Jennifer Bracken Fean : Thank you!

Gina Tophoney : Thank you!

Devon Serena : Thank you!

LisaS : Thank you!

Sarah Prebis : thanks!!! stay safe everyone!

Lauren Irizarry : Thank you.

Alexis Fitzgerald : Thank you all! This was very beneficial! Hang in there, everyone!

Audrey Logar : Thank you!

Beth : Will folks open if they are in the Yellow, or wait until they are in the green?

SpeakerAP : thank you!!

Chuck Frantz : Thank you. be safe

Jhane Kunkel : thank you

Keith Mark : Thank you all!