



May 5, 2020

Dear Camp Families,

We're writing with disappointing news. **We are suspending all programming for the summer of 2020.** We know you've been patiently waiting on our decision, which is carefully grounded in two months of study and introspection. Ultimately, we've arrived at one simple truth: *The safety of our campers, their extended families and our staff must come first.*

We say we are "suspending" camp— not "canceling" it — because in the very unlikely event it becomes legal, ethical, and even possible to run "some camp" later in the summer, we pledge we will do our best to make that happen. But this, we believe, is optimistic, at best.

However, now is the time to be pragmatic. It's time to acknowledge the disappointment and eventually move on. We know each person, child and adult, will do this in their own way and in their own time. We know how hard this year has been for everyone, but we hope you've also been surprised and learned or relearned to appreciate something in your lives. We certainly have.

**We believe that, even while they mourn this loss, our campers will both surprise and inspire those around them.** As adults, we all know that in times of adversity there are opportunities for growth and building character. Kids teach us, inspire us and provide us with wisdom. Our trust in kids and young adults provides us with hope and steady resolve. Camp will be back. Camp will adapt. Camp will be even better. That's the plan.

Joe told one of our campers yesterday that he wasn't sure if camp would run. She replied, *"I hate this virus. It's ruining my life! Ahh!"* So, with this sentiment in mind, we are doing several things to support our campers and their families.

- **First, we've made a video just for campers** to explain our decision. Please watch it with your camper(s). To see it [click on this link](#).
- **Secondly, we are having a virtual "friendship fire" Saturday night for the whole family, 5/9, at 7:30 pm.** To attend, follow the [directions on our website](#). The theme of our friendship fire will be Hope, Struggle, and Change. Please let your children know that if they have a poem or song they'd like to share or request, they can email [joe@camprooseveltfirebird.com](mailto:joe@camprooseveltfirebird.com).
- As you may know, we've been offering **virtual camp activities** for the past 7 weeks. Next week, we'll be **sending out an exploratory survey** to see if "virtual camp" activities are of interest to you and your kids. *Please respond so we know how we can support your kids.*
- We are creating a **FAQ page** on our website to help you and your children understand our decision.
- **And finally, our Covid-19 refund policy is at the end of this letter.**

**To close, thank you for your kids, your understanding and your support.** Our campers and staff tell us *"camp is my safe space," "camp is where I find acceptance" and "camp is where I make the most amazing friends and have a total blast."* **We should celebrate all of this.** Your kids have made Roosevelt Firebird a wonderful place. We think about this often. We are confident times will change, the seasons will pass and that once again we will be frolicking on the shores of Leesville Lake.

Stay safe and healthy. Please give us a call at 216.849.9395 if you'd like to chat. We hope to see you sooner than later.

Warmest regards,

Joe and Cynthia

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## **REFUND INFORMATION**

*Our amended refund policies are below. For those who have already registered, we are providing **two options**:*

1) **Full Refund:** We understand these may be tough times. Therefore, simply request a refund and we will provide it to you as soon as possible within the next two months. We are sending out a google form next week in which you can make your request. We want you to understand that camps typically spend from 30% to 40% of yearly revenue before a camper walks in the door. We are a year round business with year round operating expenses. Thus, we have already spent your deposits. That's the business model. Therefore, we ask for your patience and understanding. We are being very assertive and creative as we pursue financing from the government, private institutions and other sources. We will weather this storm.

2) **Roll Over 2020 Tuition Payments to 2021:** If you can do this it will help us a great deal. We do not expect you to do this but if your circumstances allow we would deeply appreciate it. It would work like this: We hold your money in your account and apply it to next year's camp tuition. And, as a thank you, we'd like to provide you with a free weekend of fun at camp (with your own cabin and access to our equipment.) We can't say when this might take place — be it this summer, this fall (or whenever) but we're inviting you to come have a vacation with us when government regulations allow.