



Our Plan as of Monday, May 25th, 2020

We know that you have been waiting for this decision, so let's not waste a lot of time.

It is our intention to open camp on Sunday, June 7.

We use the word intention only because the Governor has not said definitively if and when camps will be allowed to open. Earlier last week, however, he did say, *"Our goal is: We want to open up summer camps, schools and youth activities....It is responsible and prudent to plan ahead."* When the Governor does lay out some directives, they may have some impact on that June 7 open date. This is something we will be watching closely.

Having said that, we want to share with you our policies, requirements, and thoughts on the Summer of 2020 at Friendly Pines Camp

How we made our decision: For the past couple of months, Friendly Pines Camp has been in constant communication with doctors, nurses, scientists, government officials, and lots of parents as to what we would need to do in running a camp that not only safe but one that is also fun and capable of offering the benefits of summer camp. Friendly Pines Camp has been studying the guidelines offered by the CDC and American Camp Association. We have also been in frequent contact with Yavapai County Health Department. We have endeavored to make decisions based on reason, data, and common sense. We have worked hard to filter through the many loud voices, to hear clearly the information that is true, sound, and scientific.

In the end, most parents have put their trust in Friendly Pines Camp to make a good decision and protect their children, and we tried to never lose sight of that mighty responsibility.

So let's take a look at what the Summer of 2020 will look like.

TESTING

In our May 12 email, we stated in order for camp to proceed, each camper and staff must be tested on day one. That implied (and was actually our thinking at the time) that we would test on the first day of camp with some sort of instant test. By May 15 we realized that our original expectations were unrealistic. Such testing capabilities simply don't exist for our business. In talking to doctors, however, we became convinced that

testing before camp, when done correctly, could be just as effective. We are committed to the idea that testing is critical to us opening, so that we can provide campers with a safe environment and parents with the confidence that Friendly Pines Camp has done everything it can to keep any infected campers off the grounds.

We are requiring that ALL parents have their campers tested for COVID 19 before coming to camp. They will need to present proof of a negative result before arrival to camp or at the time of arrival.

What if my camper has recovered from a COVID19 diagnosis or has had a *positive* antibody test? If this is the case they will not need to be retested. You will just need to provide proof of this situation on your Waiver & Testing Verification Form. You can read further instructions on the flow chart featured in Dr. May's Mitigation plan.

How do I get my camper tested? There are a few ways this testing can be handled.

1. **Contact your family doctor/pediatrician.** Your doctor may be able and willing to do the testing in his/her office. If not, the doctor should be willing to write your camper a referral, as he/she is about to enter a congregate living environment.
2. If your family doctor/pediatrician cannot do the testing, you can go to a place like **NextCare Urgent Care** and have the test done. There may be other places in your area that will do testing. You may need to contact your county health department to find out where to go. Some of the clinics we spoke with said they would test anyone. Some said it would be up to the discretion of the clinic. Some said they would test only those with a referral. You may need to do some homework. Depending on your insurance, there may be a co-pay. Results take 3-5 days.
3. If you are in the Phoenix area and neither of the two above options work for you, **Arizona State University is working with Friendly Pines Camp in offering a test.** It is one where you spit into a tube. We are meeting with the lab administrators on Tuesday, May 26 to work out details. We will have more information. Initially, they are saying that the tests are \$100. Insurance may or may not apply. We'll know more after Tuesday.
4. We also have doctors in North Phoenix and Flagstaff who have offered to help with testing on a limited basis. Contact us if other options don't work.

When does your camper need to be tested? The answer to this will depend on the availability of your test, and how much cost you are able to bear.

1. If your family doctor/pediatrician is testing or if you plan to use a facility like Urgent Care, you are going to need to give yourselves 3 to 5 days. **That means that your camper needs to be tested on the Monday or Tuesday before camp starts.** After getting tested, your camper is going to need to STAY HOME. We

are going to have to trust that families will take this seriously. This is the same procedure one would have to follow if they were getting surgery - tested a week before the operation and isolated until the operation.

2. The Arizona State University testing will offer a two-day turn around, so testing will probably be on the Wednesday or Thursday before camp.

Cost is going to be something you will have to consider. You can test early and have insurance cover the cost, and then quarantine for 5 or 6 days. Or you can test later at a higher cost and quarantine for 2 or 3 days.

Friendly Pines Camp simply cannot bear the costs of testing for all campers. Out of pocket costs for these kinds of test can run us as much as \$300 a test.

Will staff be tested? Yes. Staff will be tested. They likely will be tested several times throughout the summer.

MEDICAL PROTOCOL

Fortunately, Friendly Pines Camp corporate president, is an M.D. Dr. Christopher May will be writing all of the medical protocol relevant to COVID 19. (We have standing orders for other typical medical situations).

What if a camper gets sick? If a camper presents with symptoms common to coronavirus, our medical team will try to eliminate other possibilities (i.e. strep throat, dehydration, allergies). If they cannot, they will assume the symptoms indicate a COVID infection. The camper will be isolated and parents will be notified to pick up the camper. If parents cannot pick up the camper, they will identify an adult who can. The adult will need to come with identification. The camper will then need to stay home until he/she is cleared to return if that is possible.

FINANCIALS

When will balances be paid? It is our plan to take the balance of payment as close to arrival time as possible. We will notify you when we are about to take a payment and for how much. Below are some estimated dates.

Session One, Pioneer A, Pioneer B, CILT	June 3
Session Two, Explorer A, Explorer B, CIT A	June 15
Session Three, Trailseeker A, Trailseeker B, CIT B	June 29
New Adventure Camp	July 13
Half Sessions	July 20

PAPERWORK

Our medical records person will update you on your paperwork. We know a lot of you have had trouble getting a physical. Please make your best effort to get it whenever you can. If you need a new Physical Exam Form, you can download one from our website.

Remember the physical exam can be done at a pharmacy or walk in clinic if you can't get in to see your usual doctor.

THE FIRST DAY OF CAMP

What are the procedures for arrival day? Arrival Day will be one of those days of camp that will need to change from what has been done in the past . Everything we do is to lower exposure. We will ask your cooperation and understanding. Below is a bullet points of what to expect.

- ***All campers must arrive by car.*** Because of the more involved check in procedure, Friendly Pines Camp will not be providing transportation from Phoenix this summer.
- ***Campers will arrive in waves.*** We will assign arrival times. A third of the campers will be assigned to arrive from 1-2 PM. A second 1/3 from 2-3. The final 1/3 from 3-4. Something like that.
- ***Campers will be screened upon arrival.*** Parents will be sent a screening form to be filled out before arrival. When campers arrive, you will stay in your car or at your car until a nurse or assigned staff comes by to your car. The following will occur
 - Screening form collected
 - Camper temperature taken
 - Campers who check in healthy will be sent to their cabin group with their luggage. Parents will not be allowed to leave the parking area. When parents and camper are ready to say goodbye, the camper will be united with his/her cabin while parents remain at the car. Parents will have a chance to meet the counselor while maintaining safe distancing. We know this is a big change from how we've done it, but we feel it is necessary to reduce exposure. We suggest you take the time to prepare your camper for this type of arrival.

GENERAL PUBLIC HEALTH PRACTICES

What daily procedures will the camp institute to maintain health and hygiene?

Even though everyone will have been tested before arriving, we will monitor the health of campers and staff daily.

- Every morning all campers and staff will have their temperatures taken.
- Handwashing will be scheduled throughout the day. We have built multiple handwashing stations.
- Cabins will operate at 30% lower capacity.

- Short cabin clean ups will be scheduled twice a day.
- We will avoid large group indoor meetings. Dining Lodge is spread out. Campers will eat in cabin groups.
- Have three or four evening activities at once in order to maintain smaller groups.
- Hand sanitizer available throughout camp and in cabins.
- We will avoid group activities where touching is a big part of the activity – yes, that does mean round dances.

Will campers have to wear masks? The general answer is no. Staff and campers will not wear masks throughout the day. But we will ask that each camper bring a mask or two as there will be times when masks are required. Seeing the nurse might be one of these. Coming into the office will be another. Some activities may require a mask *temporarily*. For example, whenever the camper and staff must be close – on the zipline platform, being boosted onto a horse – a mask will be required for both. Sewing is an activity where all participants will wear masks. It is an indoor activity. The staff is older. Lots of machines and desks that get touched. We know it is not the most comfortable, but it will be a requirement.

Please remind your campers that masks are to protect others. It is a sign of respect for another person’s health. At camp, we emphasize taking care of one another, and this is one small way in which we do that. It is a sacrifice, but not the greatest sacrifice campers will ever make in their lives.

What about people coming and going into camp? We do have some staff who come and go each day. Some of these people work separate from groups of campers and staff, but whenever they are in cabins or around others, they will be required to wear a mask. Kitchen staff who live off property will also be required to wear masks while they work. The photographer will wear a mask when she is working with groups. The sewing staff will wear masks. Delivery people who come into camp will be asked to wear masks and gloves.

THE CAMP EXPERIENCE

Will there be the same activities? Because we have fewer campers, we can only afford to hire fewer counselors. Though we are able to offer the most popular activities, there will be a few that we will drop. We’ll be sending a list of activities soon.

Will campers still get to choose their activities? Yes. This is an area where we diverge from the CDC’s recommendations. They suggest that campers *always* stay in cabin groups. That would mean that we would have to offer a set schedule for each cabin group. We believe, however, that we can allow campers to have individual schedules and still maintain a safe environment.

Will there still be counselors from other countries? Because travel is so difficult, we were not able to keep any international staff. This is really sad, but we have invited them all back for next year.

Will camp be fun? We get asked this a lot. Our answer is, yes. But it is also important to note that camp will be different. New campers, however, will never know that camp ran any other way.

Some of the changes we make may actually enhance the camp experience and become a part of what we do from this day forward. The challenges of 2020 have forced us to think differently and that creativity may very well lead to some permanent changes.

We will work very hard at making sure that the really important stuff at camp is just the same. Our activities will be fun and well-run. We will still sing songs. Our counselors will be nice. Campers will build forts. Play Gaga ball. We'll have campfires and make s'mores. There will be surprises. There will be friendships. There will be memories.

Everything about this year has been different, so we suspect that most of you have learned to adapt to that new normal. And even though Friendly Pines Camp will do some things a little differently, it will still be a place where children can enjoy all of the wonders of childhood.

Cordially,



Megan May
Co-Director



Kevin Nissen
Co-Director



Dr. Christopher May, M.D.
President