



After many weeks of discussion and consideration, LARC has made the difficult decision to cancel the Summer 2020 Camp MOE season. The COVID-19 pandemic has affected all of our lives and the ways in which organizations like LARC must now provide services. Our decision to cancel camp was based on the great risk posed to LARC staff, campers, and families if the camp were to open.

As many know who have been involved with any camp—whether as a parent, staff member or camper—managing large groups of children and keeping them safe is a time-consuming component of a typical camp day. Add the safety precautions that would be required to keep campers and staff safe during this pandemic, and the job becomes extremely unwieldy. The decision to not hold camp was driven largely by the fact that there are no definitive measures that will ensure no one contracts the COVID-19 virus while attending camp this summer. Even by following the most stringent procedures, we cannot ensure that no child or staff member would be exposed and infected. This, above all else, was the driving force behind cancelling summer season 2020.

We also found that besides the many barriers to creating a safe camp experience, there are a number of logistical realities that impacted the decision:

- Lack of replacements for vital positions such as camp nurse and camp director in the event either is unable to work
- Lack of sufficient sheltered space to accommodate campers during sudden inclement weather
- Transportation impediments—parents were notified that transportation would not be provided and many cancelled their registrations
- The need for PPE, sanitary amenities (hand washing stations, touchless dispensers), and other infrastructure needs that will be difficult to find and secure
- Limits to the types of activities that could be offered—as well as strict guidelines for the delivery of these activities
- The need to adhere to contradictory guidance from Federal and State agencies

When all of these realities were considered together, it was inevitable that we would arrive at the decision to cancel camp. To further complicate matters, we have begun working to ensure that we can reopen programming across the agency (day, vocational, and others) in a timely manner—and doing so has placed great, additional strain on our agency resources.

We have already begun to devise ways of using the Tall Timbers property as both a community resource and a venue that could be used by others—and Stephanie will use the time this summer to work on these efforts.

Please visit the Camp MOE website ([www.campmoe.org](http://www.campmoe.org)) to learn about some of the online activities that will be made available this summer. More will be added as the summer progresses.

Thank you for your understanding. With a continued commitment to the future of Camp MOE, we look forward to Summer 2021. Best wishes to you for a safe, healthy, and happy summer.

Michael Menard, Executive Director, LARC