



Experiencing God, Community and Nature

Camp Alexander Mack, Inc.

Dear Parents,

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Camp Mack has used many sources to make decisions regarding the safety and health of campers, guests, and staff. We have consulted the latest advice from the Centers for Disease Control, Indiana State Department of Health, the Kosciusko County Health Department, and the American Camp Association. We have also talked to our guests and many parents regarding their thoughts about what it takes to be safe at camp. This has been very successful as there have been no COVID cases related to camp from any guest or staff over the last fourteen months.

We have also noticed over the last few weeks, a change regarding the opinions expressed by doctors and epidemiologists as more and more people have been vaccinated and the rates of infection have decreased. It was not surprising to us that recommendations regarding outdoor activities and masks changed late last week.

At this point, nearly everyone over the age of sixteen who wants a vaccination has been able to receive one. Soon that will be true for children between twelve and sixteen as well. However, we have many campers who are under the age of twelve each year that will certainly not be vaccinated. The science tells us that children are at much lower risk of severe disease, and they do not appear to spread the virus as easily as adults. Yet it is important for us to do everything we can to provide a full camp program that is as safe as possible for all. For this reason, we want to update you on two of our precautions for this summer.

First, we will continue to require masks when campers, staff, or guests are in the John Kline Welcome Center or any of our lodges. Masks will be optional in cabins or out of doors, unless campers are interacting with people from another family group for ten minutes or longer without physical distancing. This means that active games, swimming, boating, hiking, challenge activities, campfires, and worship will not require masks. Only if people from two or more groups will be in close contact for longer than ten minutes will masks be required. A camper may always choose to wear a mask.

Secondly, our pre-camp screening requires a camper to provide one of three documents when arriving at camp in addition to the other paperwork we normally require. A camper must provide either:

1. proof of full COVID-19 vaccination, **or**
2. a negative COVID-19 rapid test result taken within three days of arrival (either Friday, Saturday, or Sunday), **or**
3. a completed two-week Camper Covenant.

When your camper arrives, he or she will provide this documentation, turn in other paperwork and medications, and pass the normal health screening. Once this is completed, you will drive your camper to their cabin area and present a pass to the team leader who will complete your check-in. Parents will assist campers in removing luggage, bedding, and other items from the car, but they will not be allowed to go to the cabin. A member of the staff will help campers get their "stuff" to the cabin.

We are excited that we can provide the full joy of summer camp this year, and with these few adjustments, it should be a safe and rewarding experience for everyone. Please contact me at Camp Mack if you have any additional questions or concerns. Thank you for being part of the Camp Mack community.

Blessings,

Gene Hollenberg, Executive Director

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*Camp Alexander Mack provides a sanctuary where people connect with God,
experience creation, and build Christian community.*