

I apologize for the long email, I have a lot to say! If you're in a rush, scroll down to the bottom to read about 'May 1st Payments'. Or keep reading...

Our returning campers will be familiar with our camp 'rules,' "1. You must have fun, 2. You must be safe" – we are developing many plans on how to meet these two rules for the summer, while following any restrictions that may be put on us by the current climate. That being said, we understand there are still a lot of questions and we want to assist you as parents in answering some of the hard hitters.

## HOW TO TALK WITH YOUR KIDS WHEN THEY ASK ABOUT CAMP THIS SUMMER

### Follow their lead.

For many of us, but especially our younger campers, the summer still feels far in the future. They are appropriately more consumed with the day to day questions about when they will return to school, extracurriculars and playdates with friends. If they are not asking about it, it's okay to let it be for now.

### Answer honestly.

If, and when they ask, and it's often out of the blue, it's helpful to answer with a simple and honest response. Something like, "We are hopeful that camp will happen this summer, but we don't know for sure right now." And then move on to the next matter at hand.

### When you need more:

For many, and especially our older campers, a summer without Camp is unthinkable. In that case, this is an important conversation. They have probably already asked many times and are wondering what the next few months hold. Many are holding onto the vision of a "normal" summer as a helpful and hopeful focal point. For those campers, I would share that

"Camp leadership is hard at work preparing for Hazen's Centennial Summer. They are doing all that is in their control to be ready for the summer."

### Take one day at a time.

The next question might be, "When will we know?" We are all getting a thorough education in the art of being comfortable with the unknown. Just as none of us knew what this would look like at the start of the year, we don't know exactly what the coming weeks will look like, so it's helpful to look at each day and each week as it comes.

### Focus on what *is* in their control.

Staying Connected: In a time when so much is beyond our control, we want to help our kids to focus on what is in their control and what they can do. With regards to camp, they can stay connected with Hazen and their camp friends through our social media and our virtual camp offerings. These can be found at <http://camphazenyumca.org/youth-family>

Exemplifying the Hazen-Pillars: As we are spending more time in our homes, with the same people, it may be a good time to remind them of the lessons we learn at camp; to treat each other with respect, play with responsibility, to act with care and to speak honestly.

## THE PARENT BIT

We really are working on plans for every eventuality. We have our regular summer planned, and now we are coming up with plans A-Z for as many scenarios as we can dream up. Here are some examples of some of our 'What ifs':

- What if we have to postpone our opening?
- What if we can't have international staff?
- What if we have to change the program so we limit large group interactions?

We also like to work with facts. Here are some of our 'We knows':

- We know kids need camp now, more than ever
- We know we have a committed year round staff team ready to make the Summer of 2020 a success
- We know that we need to be open with our camper parents about the decisions we are making
- We know we'll need to change our Check In Day health screening procedures
- We know we'll need to review our hygiene protocols for programming and food service
- We know we have a strong Hazen community made up of campers, families and alumni
- We know we'll never forget Hazen's Centennial Summer!

Here at Hazen we have worked for years to build the trust that families have with us - trust that we'll care for the needs of each and every child that comes to us; trust that we'll be open with our communication; and trust that we'll think through every decision before we follow through. We don't take that trust lightly. We have already been working with our consulting physician, local health authorities, other experts in the camping field, and our Board of Directors to ensure we're doing all we can to not only keep people safe, but to ensure Camp Hazen YMCA is around for the next 100 years.

## MONEY TALK

I'll be honest, if camp doesn't run this summer, we will take a hit, a big hit. However, we have been blessed with a number of good years behind us, and we will pull through. As of today we have not had to make any changes to our year round staff team, and we are able to continue with our preparations for this summer. We are also fortunate enough to be in a position to help our local community by offering Emergency Child Care for essential workers though this time. We are doing ok.

Here's what we ask of you; Stick with us.

I'm obligated to quote you our refund policy "*Camp Hazen YMCA will refund program fees (less deposit) for cancellations made 30 days prior to the start of the session.*" We are changing this from 30 days to 2 weeks, so families can make decisions based on the most current information available.

If camp doesn't happen for you this summer either because we're told we can't open in time for your session, or because you feel it is the best choice for your family, you will have a few options with regards to any payments you have made. Firstly, if you are in a position to do so, we would be very appreciative if you would consider making it a donation to Camp Hazen YMCA, to help ensure our fiscal security going forward. Alternatively, you are welcome to apply your payments towards summer 2021. This would also be greatly appreciated, as it would help with our cash flow during this uncertain time. Finally, we would be happy to issue you a refund, no questions asked.

## MAY 1<sup>st</sup> PAYMENT

If you are on a billing preference of 'Pay in Full', that payment is scheduled on May 1<sup>st</sup>. If you would like to postpone that payment to June 1<sup>st</sup>, just let us know.

On a final note, I hope that you and your family are happy and healthy. If you need something to brighten your day - why not try baking some [Hazen Cookies](#).

If you have any questions about payments, or about what is going on at camp, don't hesitate to give us a call or shoot us an email, we love to chat!

Be well,

Kath Davies  
Camp Director