



## COVID-19 Policies for Operation of Day Camps

For the summer of 2022 Cincinnati Parks is following similar COVID-19 protocol as we did in the summers of 2020 and 2021. Parks adopts the following City personnel policy in accordance with guidance from the State of Ohio, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). COVID-19 risks continue to require the City, as an employer, to institute policies protective of the safety of its workers. We are also following these recommendations with the utmost care and consideration for the safety and wellbeing of our campers. If you have any questions about these updated policies and procedures, please reach out by emailing [jennifer.harten@cincinnati-oh.gov](mailto:jennifer.harten@cincinnati-oh.gov).

### **At a glance:**

Explore Nature will operate all our day camps out in the parks and at Nature Centers, in a limited capacity fashion. All camp groups will adhere to the 10:1 child to staff group ratio. In some cases, a group will have an additional Counselor in Training (CIT) to assist with group activities. Each group will be treated as a “cohort,” and have its own “room.” Germ transfer is limited within a cohort through excellent handwashing and commonsense hygiene. Germ transfer between cohorts is designed to be restricted entirely through infectious disease control, such as: physical distancing when indoors in separate “rooms” or camp spaces, disinfecting shared bathroom spaces between cohorts, disinfecting tools whenever possible between cohorts, hand washing, scheduled use of shared space, and group management.

### **FAQs:**

Do campers have to wear masks at camp?

Yes, all campers are required to wear a face covering while inside a building. Campers may take off their mask during lunch time while seated. Much of our camp day is spent outside. If we are outdoors and campers can maintain a six foot distance from others, they may remove their mask. All camp families must send their camper with a mask to camp daily. Campers are required to wear a mask when we are doing indoor activities; taking bathroom breaks; and in the event we must take shelter in dangerous weather. If a camper does not have their own mask, disposable masks will be available. If your child has sensory sensitivity or anxieties preventing her or him from masking, we respectfully ask that you help us ensure your child is able to maintain safe social distancing, especially indoors.

### **Will staff be wearing masks?**

Staff will be wearing masks for a reasonable part of the day. Staff will always wear masks when interacting with camp families and parents. Staff will always wear masks when in closer proximity to campers – less than 6’ if in their own cohort group, 15’ if near a different trail group. Staff may take their masks off during lunch time, and during that time campers will be sitting six feet away from staff members. Staff may also take their masks off at other times when they can maintain 6’ distance from campers in their own group. Staff would also take off their masks if needing to perform rescue breaths during CPR.

### **What is the size of the group?**

None of our group sizes will exceed 12. Each group or cohort will have a maximum of 10 school age children, one Camp Counselor, and at times one additional CIT.

### **Are campers expected to stay 6 feet apart?**

Yes and if campers cannot maintain 6’ distance from each other, they will be required to wear a mask.

**You're running an outdoor camp, what if it storms?**

We will be relying heavily on the great outdoors itself to accomplish physical distancing. In the event of a storm, campers will be moved indoors to our nature centers where applicable. Cohorts will be separated into different rooms and will be required to wear their masks inside the facilities.

**Inclement Weather Policy 2021 Summer Camp**

Cincinnati Parks is committed to providing a safe environment for our campers and staff. Due to current circumstances with the COVID-19 pandemic we will be following the State and Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines to keep everyone safe. In keeping with these guidelines while indoors, in the event of severe weather, we require that a face covering is provided by families and used by each camper. Disposable facial coverings will be provided to campers in the event that a camper does not have one. If your child has sensory sensitivity or anxieties preventing her or him from masking, we respectfully ask that you help us ensure your child is able to maintain safe social distancing, especially indoors. Because our facilities are not large enough to accommodate all campers indoors with six foot social distancing, we will cancel camp in the event of inclement weather.

**What if someone gets sick at camp?**

Following guidelines, if a camper develops a fever or otherwise exhibits symptoms of COVID-19 or any other ailment, they will immediately be moved to an isolated location, while being supervised by a staff member wearing Personal Protective Equipment. Their family will be notified, and they must be picked up from camp as soon as possible.

**What if a camper is reported sick outside of camp hours?**

Camp families will be notified in the event a serious, contagious illness, including Covid19, is detected at camp. This will be done anonymously.

**What if a staff member gets sick at camp?**

If a staff member gets sick at camp, they will immediately go home and be quarantined until they can be tested for the novel coronavirus. Camp staff will participate in a daily temperature and symptoms check. If camp staff are symptomatic, or have a temperature above 100 degrees, they will not report for work, and they will immediately seek testing.

**2022 REFUND POLICY:**

Cincinnati Parks will fully honor refunds at any time a camp family chooses to withdraw their camper(s) registration due to COVID-19 concerns. Cincinnati Parks will refund camp fees if we must cancel camp due to infectious diseases.

**STAFF TRAINING:**

Camp staff will receive COVID-19 related training prior to the first week of summer camp. CDC guidelines will be followed during the training to allow for distancing and disinfection of materials. Camp staff will further be trained in proper mask usage, proper handwashing, and proper disinfection protocols.

**CHECK-IN/CHECK-OUT PROCEDURE:**

Explore Nature will be implementing a check in/check out procedure similar to 2020 and 2021 summer camp protocol. Check-in/check-out will take the form of a car line. Cars will wait single file, then proceed to a designated drop-off location. We respectfully request adults dropping off and picking up their campers wear a facial covering when interacting with staff in the car line, unless it is unsafe for

that person to do so. Staff will be wearing facial coverings. It is recommended by state guidelines that the same parent/guardian conduct pick-up and drop-off each day, but we recognize the exceptional burden that places on working families. As we seek to comply with guidelines, we request that families please limit as much as possible the number of adults participating in check in/check out. **It is imperative that adults stay in their vehicles during check-in/check-out.** Ideally, sunscreen and bug spray will have already been applied, but if it is necessary to get out of the car to help your camper with something prior to the start of their camp day, please pull over somewhere near the camp welcome site (but out of the way of other vehicles) and please take care of anything BEFORE getting into check-in/check-out lane.

Check-in procedure will include a staff member taking your camper's temperature and asking questions about symptoms and exposures. Check-in policy states that any individual answering "yes" to these questions or with a fever of 100 degrees or higher may not stay at camp. We ask that parents/guardians screen children prior to camp each day and not send children if they have a fever, are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, or have had an exposure.

A staff member will direct your camper to wash/sanitize her or his hands and direct your camper to their "cohort" and "room/area." At the end of the day, the process is reversed, and campers will wash/sanitize their hands immediately before sitting down with their group for pick-up.

#### **DURING THE CAMP DAY:**

We will immediately send home any child or employee who has a temperature of 100 degrees or higher or otherwise displays symptoms of COVID-19 (fever, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, chills, muscle pain, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell).

Please bring your camper's belongings to camp all in one bag with their name clearly marked on the outside of the bag, on their lunch bag, and water bottle. We cannot use drinking fountains, please pack enough water for the day. Other optional items that need to fit in the bag: raincoat, change of shoes, bug spray, or sunscreen. This bag will stay at the campers "room," in a basket which we will provide each camper for the week.

Each Cincinnati Parks Explore Nature camp operates with slightly difference space amenities, but in each case, we will promote social distancing in the following ways:

- Each cohort's "room" will be marked out so that campers can remain socially distanced while in an enclosed space
- Campers will be encouraged to maintain 6' between them during trail time, and hike groups will not combine during the day
- We have selected camp games which promote distancing whenever possible
- We will provide baskets or designated areas for campers to store their camp bags, avoiding the use of shared table space. All camper personal items must fit into these baskets/spaces. (If your campers items fit into a standard backpack, this should be fine.)

Our handwashing policy has always been for everyone to wash hands: after using the restroom, after handling bodily fluids, after handling animals, before handling food and before eating lunch. To that, we add that everyone will wash hands: upon arrival for the day, after eating lunch, after handling cleaning supplies (staff only), after doing activities where campers may have touched the same object, and directly before departure. Hand sanitizer may be used when soap and water are not available.

**While parks are, and have throughout the COVID-19 pandemic remained open to the public, our nature centers are closed to anyone but summer campers and staff.**

We will take every precaution we can to stop the spread of germs between cohorts. For example, after one cohort has used the bathroom and before the next group uses the bathroom, frequently touched surfaces in the bathroom will be disinfected using a disinfectant approved for SARS-Cov-2 usage.

In an effort to reduce mixing between cohorts, we will eliminate opportunities for all groups to mingle. For example, there will be no large parent meeting on Monday. We will not combine groups for full camp introductions or presentations. We will not have camp-wide games. The same staff will remain with their cohort throughout the entire camp.

If cohorts are going to share materials, those materials will be disinfected prior to the next group touching them. For example, digging tools, binoculars, bug jars, game equipment, etc. will all be cleaned and disinfected immediately after use by camp staff. We will work to provide groups their own materials as much as possible. All camp spaces and “touch points” will be sanitized each evening.

#### **CONFIRMED CASES:**

If it becomes known that a camper or staff person has tested positive for the novel coronavirus, the entire camp will be informed. Anonymity will be maintained. That camp member’s cohort will be ended for the remainder of the day, and those individuals should complete isolation or quarantine procedures in coordination with the local health department and be tested prior to returning to future programs until a negative result can be obtained or have been symptom free for at least 72 hours. That camp member’s area at camp will be closed and undergo deep cleaning and disinfection. Refunds will be provided to the other camp families in the suspended cohort for the day of camp. If those camp families choose to withdraw their camper from any additional weeks for which they are registered, refunds will be provided for those as well. Other cohorts will continue for the day, but refunds will be given if families choose to withdraw from camp. Day camp providers must immediately notify the Department of Job and Family Services in writing if a child or employee tests positive for COVID-19. If it becomes known over the course of camp someone in the camper’s immediate family has tested positive for COVID-19, that camper should complete isolation or quarantine procedures and be tested in coordination with the local health department prior to returning to future programs within a 10 day period or until they are symptom free for at least 72 hours. Refunds will be given.

If a staff or camper develops COVID-19-like symptoms during the day (fever, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, chills, muscle pain, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell), they will be isolated while under supervision of a staff member until they can be picked up from camp. At that point, the camper must wear a facial covering if it is safe for the camper to do so. The camper will be provided a mask if they do not have their own. All camp families will be informed of the situation, which will be reported as an unconfirmed illness at camp. Anonymity will be maintained. That individual must be tested, with a negative result, prior to returning to future programs within a 10 day period or until they are symptom free for at least 72 hours. Refunds will be provided for any family who misses camp for reasons relating to COVID-19.

#### **TIPS FOR PREPARING YOUR CAMPERS FOR CAMP:**

If you have attended a Cincinnati Parks Day Camp in the past, please know that we are working hard to continue to provide a fun experience for your camper, but it will not be the same experience as before.

It may be helpful to explain ahead of time that counselors will share rules for the day that are designed simply to keep everyone at camp healthy. Campers can help counselors follow the rules by listening to the guidelines and doing their best to comply. Our counselors appreciate when campers help everyone have a safe and fun time! Campers should know that just because counselors are wearing masks does not mean they are sick. It is only a precaution for preventing germ transfer. They are just following the rules 😊. Campers are required to wear masks indoors, during bathroom breaks, and in situations where 6' distance cannot be maintained. If your child can not wear a mask, they must maintain 6' distance from everyone else in their cohort while we're inside that space together. You may consider using these talking points from respected sources when you talk with your children:

Girl Scouts of America: "How to talk to your kids about the coronavirus"

<https://www.girlscouts.org/en/raising-girls/happy-and-healthy/happy/coronavirus-and-kids.html>

Kids Health: "Corona Virus (COVID-19): How to talk to your child"

<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/coronavirus-how-talk-child.html>

Centers for Disease Control: "Talking with Children About Corona Virus Disease 2019"

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/talking-with-children.html>

#### **CANCELLATIONS:**

If you will be requesting a refund for your camp fees due to COVID-19 concerns, we will of course honor it. However, would you consider making all or part of your registration fee into a donation to help Explore Nature fulfill its mission of nature education well into the future? Please specify if you would like a full refund or donate a portion of your camp tuition.

**THANK YOU** for choosing a Cincinnati Parks Explore Nature Summer Camp! It is our pleasure to provide a safe, fun, enriching summer camp experience for your family.

Sincerely,

The Explore Nature Summer Camp team

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