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# CAMP SLOANE YMCA

# COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

Reviewed May 2021



# Camp Sloane Re-opening

## Why choose to send my child to camp?

Choosing Sloane is a family choice. It's important that you are comfortable with the procedures that we are putting in to action.

Every time that a parent allows their child to leave the home environment carries a certain amount of risk. While Camp Sloane will do everything possible to minimize the risk of any staff or campers getting sick this summer, including reduced camper numbers, more cleaning of common spaces and program equipment and a thorough health screening process, we cannot make any guarantees that there will not be any cases of COVID-19 at camp this summer.

There are many reasons to choose summer camp this year. We have heard from hundreds of families about the need for camp:

- For working parents who need regular programming for their day camp aged child
- To get a break from technology and screens and living rooms and remote learning
- The need to be around peers and to interact with people outside of their typical cohorts
- To reconnect with the outdoors and spend time playing in open spaces

## Who should attend camp?

We are excited to be able to welcome back staff and campers to Sloane this summer. The past year has taken a heavy toll on everyone and children, especially, have experienced a lot of loss and sense of normalcy.

Choosing to attend Camp Sloane this summer is an important step for your family and we take the responsibility of keeping all of our families safe with the highest regard.

Campers and families who have high-risk medical conditions or underlying health concerns should seek medical advice to discuss summer camp plans prior to attending camp.

## Pre-Arrival

### Sheltering in-place

It's important to limit activities to low-risk behaviors for at least a week before arriving at camp. The health and safety of our camp community will rely on families joining forces to reduce the risk of COVID-19 entering camp.

Camp Sloane is asking that you prioritize our staff and camper welfare this year. We are making the recommendation that families do not travel inside the 7-day window of arriving at camp. If your family has a planned vacation, please contact us to discuss options for your child's camp session.

For day campers who are returning home each day, it's important that families continue to practice non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPI's) at home and in the community. This includes maintaining social distancing protocols, mask wearing outside of the household, regular and effective handwashing and staying vigilant about the contacts that your family has with other people.

### **Monitoring Health**

In the days leading up to camp it will be important to monitor, track and report your health. We will be sending (electronically) a health tracking survey to families that will be required to be printed, completed and returned to camp upon arrival.

### **Packing for camp**

For Day Campers only – each day your camper should bring a backpack that includes a water bottle, bathing suit and towel, sunscreen, bug spray and mask that meets CDC guidelines.

For Overnight Campers – a detailed packing list will be made available this spring. It is important that you send your camper with a sufficient supply of masks that meet CDC guidelines. We are recommending at least one mask per day.

Please consider investing in a mask lanyard to help reduce the chances of a mask getting lost. It's important that you label your child's mask with their name.

## **Testing and Vaccines**

(Information accurate as of May 19<sup>th</sup>)

Overnight campers and all staff will be required to provide a negative PCR test taken within 72 hours of arriving at camp. Families will be reminded on the Wednesday before the start of the session and again on Thursday (testing day). Anyone who does not provide us with a copy of a negative PCR test will be required to take a rapid test upon arrival at camp. This test will be administered by our camp nurse and will cost \$50.

It is important that parents monitor their emails over the next few months to stay up-to-date on pre camp testing.

A second test will then be provided at camp on day 5 of the campers' session. This test will be a BinaxNow antigen rapid test and will be administered by our camp nurse. Families will be charged \$10/camper for each session they attend.

**Day campers will not be required to test prior to, or during, their session.**

For staff and campers who are eligible for the vaccine, we are **strongly encouraging** that they consider receiving the vaccine prior to camp. While we are hopeful that the mask-wearing requirements for individuals who have had the vaccine will be eased prior to the summer, we will continue to monitor how the State of CT mandates restrictions on vaccinated individuals.

# Check in Day

## Overnight Camp

Check-in day will be as contactless as possible. We are requesting that only parents and campers arrive at camp, with no additional family members or friends.

- Older campers (7<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> grade) will check in from 1pm-2pm. Younger campers (3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade) will check in from 2pm-3pm. Please do not arrive before your allotted time begins as we will not be able to check you in.
- If you have both an older and a younger camper, please check-in at the 2-3pm time slot.
- Once you arrive, please make your way to the center of camp (the 'oval') where you will check-in with one of our camp directors. The pre-camp health tracking survey will be handed to the director that you check-in with.
- If the camper has medications, or needs to check-in with the nurse, you will be directed to a parking area and one parent, wearing a mask, will bring the medication to the nurse's station. Please follow the social distance markings in order to remain 6ft apart from other guests and staff.
- Families will be then be directed to a village check-in location where they will meet the Village Directors and be given their tent assignment. Parents will be required to wear masks and remain in their vehicle.
- Campers will have their temperature taken and recorded at this time.
- Families will then be directed to the unloading zone at their child's village. This is the perfect time to give your camper a HUGE hug and wish them a great time! One parent, wearing their mask, can exit their vehicle and remove their child's luggage. A Sloane staff member will verify that everything is ready to go and walk your child to meet their counselor, while another loads the luggage and delivers it to the tent.
- With the check-in process complete, in the interests of the safety of everyone, we ask that parents leave camp at this point.
- Our staff will have additional training in how to help campers get their bunks set up.

## Day Camp

Daily drop off will happen at the Day Camp Drop Off Circle. Parents should prepare their child for a contactless drop-off. We are recommending that families attend an open house to help the child understand what this will look like and get them ready for camp.

Parents should never have to get out of their car during check-in. We are recommending that where possible, the same person drops off each day. The drop-off person will be required to wear a mask.

- Upon arrival, parents will follow the signage and turn left into the Day Camp Drop Off Circle.
- Please follow the signals of the staff member controlling traffic flow. This will help keep your child safe as they are exiting the car.
- A Sloane staff member will approach the driver's window and will ask the parent to confirm their answers to the following screening questions:
  - Has there been a change in your child's health status as indicated on the 2021 Health History Form

- Have you had contact with anyone known to have COVID-19 or who has been under investigation for COVID-19 in the past 14 days?
- Do you have any symptoms of a respiratory infection (eg. Cough, sore throat, fever, shortness of breath)
- Have you had a fever within the last 72 hours?
- Has anyone in the household tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 14 days?
- The camper will then exit the car with the assistance of a Sloane staff and have their temperature taken and recorded. A Sloane staff member will then walk them to their counselor.

## In-Session Procedures

### Daily Temperature Checks

Overnight Campers will have their temperature checked and recorded on a daily basis. This will be done in the campers' village by a leadership staff member, using an infra-red thermometer.

### Mask wearing

As of May 19<sup>th</sup>, we are requiring all staff and campers to wear a mask anytime that they are indoors, or when they cannot maintain social distance of at least 6ft from another pod. The camper villages will be considered a mask-off area, as will outdoors activities - provided that campers can maintain social distancing from other pods.

Staff will be expected to wear a mask, if they are not vaccinated, anytime they are within 6ft of campers. If the staff are vaccinated and are with their pod, they may have their mask off.

Tents will be considered a mask-free area for all campers and staff when resting/sleeping

### Cleaning

Our wonderful maintenance team will be increasing the cleaning of common areas, bathrooms, hand railings and the dining hall.

Schedule changes have been introduced this summer to allow for additional time to clean program equipment between groups.

### Handwashing and Hand Sanitizer

Schedule changes have been introduced this summer to allow for handwashing before and after each program activity period and before and after each meal. Additional handwashing stations have been constructed at the dining hall to help promote handwashing.

Handwashing signage has is being displayed in all bathrooms to encourage effective handwashing practices.

Hand sanitizer will be available at all of the major program area locations. Staff will be expected to carry an individual hand sanitizer bottle that they can use to provide a squirt of hand sanitizer any time a camper needs it.

## The Program Experience

### Overnight Camp

The State of CT Office of Early Childhood has stated that we should follow the CDC guidelines for safe operation of camp. As such, each camper will be in a tent with around 5 campers and a staff member. Each tent will be part of a village that will of 20-campers and will be the cohort or 'Pod'.

We have adjusted our regular elective-based program to be a pod-based program. This means that campers will have a pre-set schedule that their pod will follow throughout their time at camp.

Campers can expect limited, socially distant interactions between the pods. In order to be able to contact trace any illness at camp, we need to maintain these separate pods.

For campers who have chosen water-ski or horse-riding lessons, you will be assigned a set period each day to attend your lesson. We will schedule as many campers as possible from the same pod to be at the lessons at the same time OR we will ensure that campers maintain social distancing and mask wearing guidelines if there are campers from different pods.

It is important that parents speak to their campers about this program change ahead of time. This will be a noticeable change for returning campers. Our goal will be to cycle each pod through as many of the age-appropriate camp activities as possible.

Camp traditions, such as flag raising, camp fire, showcase, theme days, overnights and square dance will still happen and will be modified to fit the pod model.

Tent groups will be given some elective options that they will choose as a tent group.

### Day Camp

Traditionally, the day camp model has followed a pod-based approach. This year we will refine the process to ensure camper safety.

Changes that campers can expect are limited interactions between the different age groups, a separate lunch service time and slight modifications to the times of scheduled activities to allow for more handwashing and mask-off breaks.

## Check-out and Day Camp pick-up

### For overnight campers

Check-out will be as contactless as possible. Upon arrival at camp, you will be greeted and directed to your child's check-out location. We are asking that families remain in their cars and wear a mask when they are interacting with our staff.

- The first stop after greeting will be to sign the check-out document. Please have an ID ready for inspection. You will also receive information about saving your spot for next summer.
- If you have medications to collect from the camp nurse, you will stop at the nurse's station. Only one parent should get out of the car at this location.
- After signing out/collecting medications you will then be directed to your camper's village. Please park in the designated area and remain in your vehicle. A staff member will walk your child and their luggage to your car.
- Once you have your camper and luggage in the car give them a huge hug – they will be excited to see you! As you are leaving the village have a discussion about next summer.
- You can save your spot by dropping off the paperwork at welcome shack by the front entrance.

### **For Day Campers**

Daily pick-up will occur at the same location as drop off. As you enter camp you will be greeted by a staff member who will ask who you are picking up and check your ID. If an adult other than a parent is picking up, you will be required to inform the camp office.

As in the morning, turn left into the day camp pick-up circle and follow the directions of the staff member controlling traffic. A staff member will walk your child to the car and assist them with getting in.

## **Management of Covid at Camp**

In the event of a COVID related illness at camp this summer, we will put in to practice the following guidelines:

- If a camper or staff member feels unwell, they should report to the health lodge
- The health lodge will have a separate entrance and treatment area for individuals who are displaying COVID-like symptoms.
- Health Lodge staff will maintain appropriate PPE when assessing all campers and staff for illness or injury
- If there is a fever present that is over 100, the sick individual will be isolated immediately. Parents of camper will be called to make arrangements for pick up.
- All parents of the camper's pod, as well as anyone who is deemed to have been a 'close contact' will be notified immediately to inform them that a child or staff member from their group has left camp due to a fever over 100.
- If we are informed of a positive COVID-19 test, the entire pod, day camp group or close contacts will be required to leave camp and obtain a negative test before returning to camp. **IF YOUR CHILD IS VACCINATED: they will only be required to leave camp if they are showing symptoms.**

- If your child shows symptoms of COVID-19 and tests positive within one week of leaving camp, please inform us so we are better able to conduct community contact tracing.

## **Scenarios that prevent a child from attending Camp**

A child/staff member will be unable to attend camp if one of the following is true:

- Traveled from any country and has not fulfilled at least 2 weeks of time passed since travelling. We will also be giving guidance as the summer approaches about any states that are on the "mandatory quarantine" list.
- Has had contact with any person who has a confirmed case of COVID-19, or is under investigation for COVID-19 in the past 14 days
- Any symptoms of respiratory infection (cough, sore throat, shortness of breath) that required medication OR occurred in the previous 72 hours
- Have had a fever in the past 72 hours, or taken medication for a fever in the past 72 hours.
- Have tested positive to COVID-19 in the past 14 days

## **Refund Policy**

- Refunds of deposits are available up until May 1<sup>st</sup>, without cause. After May 1<sup>st</sup> the deposits are non-refundable.
- Balances are due on June 1<sup>st</sup>. After June 1<sup>st</sup>, refunds can only be made (less deposit) for medical reason that has been documented by a physician.
- Campers who become ill due to COVID during the session and are required to leave will have their camp fees pro-rated and a credit offered for future camp sessions.