



Camp Alamisco Safety Policy for COVID-19

Dear Parents and Families:

Hello, this is Ranger Todd and I want to share that some of my best memories of life were from camp. I went to camp as a child, I worked at camp in Arkansas as a teenager for 4 years and my kids went to camp. It seems camp has always been a part of our lives, so when the Coronavirus hit, it was really hard for me and the conference administration to imagine Gulf States Conference without camp. We strongly believe in the power of camp in young people and the staff. Once upon a time, those young people were each of us.

We have been working hard to try and salvage the camp season. An important element of that is keeping our staff and campers safe during dangerous times. This document is a detailed look at the policies that we will be using to train our staff, and guide the camp experience this camping season so that we will be in compliance with our accrediting body ACA (American Camping Association). ACA guidelines are established based on CDC (Centers for Disease Control) guidelines. We are also working closely with information issued from the state of Alabama, and will be coordinating with authorities in Tallapoosa Co.

FAMILY "POD" GROUPS

This summer we are taking a step back from typical communal camp: cabins filled with souls, and line calls, and dining halls full of people bumping and jostling. The camp experience this year will be through specialty camps. These camps will be small clusters of campers who live, do activities, and bunk with the same "family pod" group all week. The family pod will form on Sunday as campers arrive. They will be registered, and then medically evaluated by the camp nurse at the gym. This will mostly consist of an interview and taking their temperature. If the camper does not exhibit any Covid-19 symptoms, or have any recent at risk history (having been in contact with people in the last two weeks who were positive for Covid-19 etc.), they will be taken by the boys or girls director to the cabin area where they will be received by counselors. The counselors this year will also be the people hosting the specialty camp for that family pod group. Only people from the specialty group will bunk in any given cabin. So fishing campers will only bunk with other fishing camp people, horsemanship campers, with other

horsemanship campers and staff. This will reduce risk of infection and isolate risk in the event that someone unknowingly brings an infection to camp.

The family pod group will go to activities together such as flag raising, morning worship at the outdoor chapel, meals, and evening campfire. Each pod family will always operate as a unit, i.e. in the dining hall, at campfire and at the flagpole and each family pod will have their own assigned place and it will not change. This reduces the chance of cross contamination or exposure. The staff will work in the same way as separate family pods. They will break into five groups with limited contact:

- Administrative Staff: These staff will operate at a higher level of safety protocol than other staff. They will be the only staff that will have contact with every other group in the camp. This will translate into a higher incidence of mask wearing and sanitation.
- Kitchen Staff: Kitchen staff will have already quarantined for three weeks when campers arrive. They will be socially distanced from the rest of the staff and will heighten safety protocol when serving food via masks, plexiglass barriers, and gloves.
- Background Staff: These are the behind the scenes staff that make everything happen for the specialty camp staff. They will have only rare socially distanced contact with family pods. When they do, they will be in a heightened safety protocol. (wearing masks).
- Family Pod/Specialty camp staff. These are the staff that host the activities and create the week for the campers. The specialty camp staff, and the Ad/Staff are working hard to create a relaxed and seamless adventure for the campers.

The purpose of this plan is to create a week where there are never more than a maximum of 14 people in a contact chain.

SOCIAL DISTANCING

Social distancing is at the heart of everything we do. During staff week, staff will undergo daily training and habit reprogramming (we all remember when we first started trying to not touch our face in public). The staff will socially distance to the best of their ability. Seats in the dining hall will be assigned to respect social distance. The outdoor chapel will be marked seating to achieve social distancing. When classes and activities require close contact, i.e. a wrangler teaching a rider how to mount a horse, then even “family pod” staff will mask up for that brief period.

OUTDOORS

We will be doing all of our meetings, and activities outdoors. We have studied a lot of research and opinions, and counseled with medical personnel who uniformly advise of the significant risk reduction that is believed to be achieved when outside. The only activity that will take place predominantly inside will be dining. Even with dining, we hope to achieve more than 30% of our dining outside.

CABINS

Anyone who has ever stayed in a cabin knows that typical cabin air is breathed many times in a night. This is widely believed to be an issue. ACA/CDC advice is to keep as much fresh air as possible circulating in structures. Due to this we are taking the following steps in cabins.

- We are reducing the number of people in a cabin. The maximum number of campers and staff that will be staying in any cabin unit is 6 (typical occupancy is 10-12). This will put cabins at no more than 50% capacity. Most of the time, there will be no more than 2 sleeping in a unit.
- We will be placing a small fan in the window of each cabin space to be pushing old air out and creating a negative air pressure. This is a significant step to create fresh air flow through the night.
- Beds will be assigned at the maximum distance from each other with the sleeping position designed to exaggerate that distance.
- Cabins will be ozonated to disinfect them during the day by background staff wearing enhanced safety gear, while the family pod groups are out doing activities. This will ensure they always return to a sanitized cabin.

DINING

We will be taking the following steps to keep dining safe.

- Everyone will have their temperature taken at breakfast by the nurse and interviewed about their physical sense of well being. Anyone who fails this test will be interviewed and evaluated by the nurse further, away from the population.
- When staff and campers enter the dining hall, they will be asked to wear their mask until they have gotten their tray of food and found their assigned seat at the table.
- Groups will be encouraged to rotate through the picnic tables behind the dining hall to increase dining in the open air.
- All food will be packaged in prepared/covered single serve dishes. (No salad bar, or communal bowls of potato salad)
- All silverware, napkins, salt and pepper will be in sanitary prepackaged single serve pouches.
- All dining dishes will be paper products. No dining dishes will pass through the dish room. Only food prep and cooking dishes.
- The staff are working hard to plan adventurous meals that the kitchen will prepare for out in the field that will be stress free and lower risk. There's never anything wrong with a picnic.
- Assigned seats at dining tables will not be set up to face each other. Campers will be set up in a line so as to not be breathing or coughing toward each other across the table.

SANITATION

In keeping with ACA/CDC/State protocol, we will be:

- Posting signs all over camp reminding everyone to take steps to good hygiene.
- We will place hand sanitizer, or wipes at every communicable contact point of common use.
- We will place signs, there, and train staff to be constantly prompting campers to wash, or sanitize their hands.
- Background staff will be sterilizing spaces where people have been. We will be cleaning all contact points between use.

AT RISK CAMPERS

If you know of any condition or risk factor that your child is subject to that could place them at higher risk of complications should they contract Covid -19, visit your physician before bringing your child to camp. Follow the recommendation of your health provider. If your health

provider recommends enhanced safety precautions, ask for this in writing so that you can pass it on to the camp nurse. This will enable us to work as a team with you and your health provider to protect your child from undue risk. If your health provider recommends not attending camp. Please accept this advice on behalf of your child.

IN THE EVENT OF COVID SYMPTOMS (CDP)

This eventuality will be anticipated before an incident occurs. We will already have been in contact with the county health department and local medical authorities to review safety protocols, and have a plan in place so that response is efficient. The county will already be aware of and have contributed to our Communicable Disease Protocol.*

Any symptom reported and deemed by the camp nurse to be a Covid -19 symptom, will trigger a Communicable Disease Protocol (CDP), including the following:

- If a staff member; He or she will go for further professional evaluation and or testing.
- If a camper, the camper will be separated discreetly from the population. The camper will be joined by the camp nurse and a staff member who the camper deems to be supportive and comforting.
- The parent of the camper will be contacted immediately by the camp nurse and Director. We will work with the parent to come up with the lowest impact way, with approval of the parent, to seek further examination or testing of the camper by doctors, or appropriate medical personnel. The reintroduction of the camper into the camp community will be at the sole discretion of medical personnel. The predominance of the time, most symptoms will be benign.
- If the symptoms are benign, the camper will be, with the permission of the parent, reunited with his / her family pod group.
- If the parent refuses treatment/testing, or if the doctors do not clear a camper to be released back to the family pod group, then the camper will be made comfortable until the parent can come and pick them up from camp.
- Once a CDP is triggered in the camp environment, camp admin/ staff will work rapidly to do the following:
 - While protecting complete confidentiality of the staff or camper, evaluate any individuals who may have come in contact with the staff or camper indicating symptoms, and call their parents or significant other, and apprise them of the situation and answer any questions they can. This will be performed quickly, not in arbitrary due process. We want all parents and loved ones to know that transparent information regarding the welfare and status of their loved one will be prompt, and that we will answer any question that we legally can.
 - Camp administration will quickly contact county and state health officials to begin the process of contact tracing.
 - Camp staff will work quickly to comfort campers, as word may spread, to ensure that campers are not frightened, any questions that can be answered are answered, and that a sense of wellbeing is preserved as much as possible.

*Due to the rapidly changing nature of this situation, and the speed at which we are having to work to put together a camp season now that the state is releasing us to open, check back to

this protocol (particularly the CDP portion found here. It may change or be updated on the recommendation of Medical authorities, County or state health departments.

TERMINATION OF CAMP

If required by changing conditions, or admonitions from the state requires, or if conditions at camp are deemed unsafe by expert advice, we will close camp. The safety of our campers and staff is the most important thing to us. In the event that a decision is made to close camp, we will communicate that quickly with parents or legal guardians so that they can pick up their camper in a timely way.

CONTINUING INFORMATION

We are committed to keeping you up to date. We will post information daily on the Camp Alamisco facebook page, and or on the Alamisco page at the Gulf States Conference site. I am a parent. Nobody loves my children more than I do and I am sure you feel the same way. The second kindest thing we can give you, the parent, (besides taking great care of your child) is communication, which right now is more important than usual. Look for the daily posting. We will do our very best to keep you informed. Please remember; if all we post is a picture, that a camper took, of a summer tanager, that is good news!

Please pray for us. Our only real protection is the grace of our Heavenly Father. Without him we strive in vain. We strongly believe in the value of camp ministry and have seen its effect, or I assure you, we wouldn't go to the trouble. We feel you value camp too, or you wouldn't be reading this. What a privilege to be able to give camp to our children.

Sincerely
Ranger Todd