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May 15, 2020

Dear Holston Families,

I am writing you with good news regarding our summer camp programs! Given the current recommendations by NC Gov. Roy Cooper surrounding the coronavirus, Holston Presbytery Camp and Retreat Center Board of Directors and I have decided we will open our day camp program on May 25. Day camp will provide Christ-centered childcare for our surrounding community. As of this writing, there are no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Avery County.

The program will operate Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. A light breakfast is served from 8:00 until 8:30. Lunch and a mid afternoon snack is also served. Sessions are planned through June, July, and August. Day Camp will not operate the week of July 4. Children in rising grades 1 through 8 are encouraged to register.

We have carefully considered the CDC guidelines in combination with American Camp Association's recommendations for camps and have concluded the following as we plan for day camp:

SOCIAL DISTANCE:

We will continue to observe a safe distance of 6' between campers. This may be easier said than done with children eager to be with their friends, but we recognize the value of this practice. We have designed activities that observe social distancing.

FACE MASKS:

We require that each camper bring a clean, washable, cloth mask to camp with them. (Please no buffs or bandanas.) Although we may be in open areas without a mask, there will be times we need to apply face protection.

OUTDOORS:

Research shows that transmission of a virus is less likely in open, outdoor spaces. Holston Camp has 150 acres of beautiful, wooded land for children to explore. We plan to keep children in the open air, and when it rains, we have covered open spaces as well.

HYGIENE AND SANITATION:

We practice personal hygiene and sanitation every day. Washing hands and using hand sanitizer is very important to staying healthy. We are abiding by CDC standards for cleanliness in our kitchen, bathrooms, and indoor areas. We sanitize commonly touched surfaces daily.

MONITORING GROUPS:

Our enrollment will be limited to smaller groups that will not be interspersed. Temperatures will be taken at drop-off, at lunch, and at pick-up. Campers will be closely monitored for any symptoms that indicate a possible infection. Communications with parties involved in that session is important in establishing transparency and trust with our camper families.

Overnight Camp has been cancelled for June and is tentatively scheduled for July with a modified program called ALL IN CAMP. Overnight camps will be held in our “rustic” campsite areas where campers can enjoy screened-in cabins, bathhouse, and open-air picnic areas.

With these key factors in place, we will offer youth a summer camp experience that unites them with friends, offers stimulating activities and conversations, and identifies and worships God as our creator, sustainer, and redeemer.

Please call Jim Austin, Director with any questions. (844) 465-7866.