

Camp Frank A. Day COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions:

Why was Camp Frank A. Day cancelled?

The decision to cancel camp this summer was very difficult. Over the past couple of months, our team has worked tirelessly to examine every possible angle of opportunity to make summer camp a reality. We've modeled alternative program plans and re-examined our medical practices, staffing requirements, licensing regulations and accreditation standards. However, after weighing the risks and seeking guidance from the ACA, the CDC, local health departments and medical experts, we have concluded that there is too much uncertainty surrounding COVID-19 for us to confidently operate camp this summer. The health and safety of our camper's, guests, staff, and community is our number one priority. We are hopeful that through more organizations like ours making tough decisions like this every day, we can together minimize the spread of this illness and reduce its impact.

Is there a possibility that any session at Camp Frank A. Day will happen this summer if things change?

No, there is not a possibility that any session of camp will run this summer. Preparing for camp within a typical environment is an incredible endeavor. Given the amount of new preparation requirements we would need to implement to ensure a safe experience, we do not anticipate changing this decision.

Can I get a refund of my tuition?

Any tuition paid for 2020 programs is fully refundable including the program deposit. Families will also have the option to defer their paid tuition to next summer or make a donation to Camp Frank A. Day to support camp during this difficult time. You will receive an email detailing these options in the next day or two. If you do not receive this email, please contact the camp registrar at campings@wsymca.org.

How can I help support Camp Frank A. Day?

We are beyond grateful to the members of our community – our alumni, guests, camper families, volunteers, and staff – who have recognized the challenges a situation like this can pose to a human services organization. While we are confident that Frank A. Day will make it through this difficult time, we also anticipate significant financial challenges due to program cancellations this year. For those that are able and interested, please [make a gift here](#). THANK YOU for your support of children and families during these uncertain times. If you have paid tuition and would like to donate all or a portion of these funds, please contact our registrar at campings@wsymca.org.

Why aren't you able to just delay camp or run a portion of summer?

COVID-19 and the ensuing state mandated restrictions have had a large impact on our internal preparation for summer. Preparing for a successful summer in normal years is a massive undertaking that requires months of preparation - from staffing to preparing the property to ordering supplies and equipment. While we did explore many scenarios to run some aspect of camp, ultimately due to the uncertainty surrounding COVID-19 and the nature of our camp, we are not confident that we could run a safe high-quality program even for a portion of the summer.

It was my camper's senior camp year. Will they be able to apply to LIT next year?

We have not decided at this time regarding camper's in this category. We want to take time to talk with both staff and camper's that this will impact and then decide. Our plan is to consider all variables and viewpoints.

It was my camper's LIT camp year. Will they be able to apply to be a Junior Counselor next year?

We have not decided at this time regarding camper's in their LIT year in 2020. We want to talk with both staff and camper's that this will impact and decide. Our plan is to consider all variables and viewpoints.

My camper is having a really hard time with this, do you have any suggestions?

This pandemic has been a significant challenge to all of us. It has affected the safety and well-being of our loved ones, disrupted our jobs and regular activities, and altered how we interact with others. For most of us, there has never been a time in our lives like this, and the effects of the pandemic have impacted the lives of people across the globe. It is incredibly difficult for adults to make sense of these circumstances, let alone children.

Feeling sad, or even lashing out about not being able to come to Camp, are very natural reactions for some children. In fact, we see these emotions and associated behaviors every summer when dealing with homesickness—which is strangely a similar situation only in reverse. This year your camper is likely to be “camp sick.”

Below are some links to articles which may help you talk to your children during this challenging time. Many of these resources came from our connections with others in the camping industry and it is a great example of how we can build stronger relationships during a time that is physically keeping us apart.

- <https://www.verywellfamily.com/coping-with-missed-activities-4802257>
- <https://childmind.org/coping-during-covid-19-resources-for-parents/>
- https://www.healthychildren.org/English/family-life/family-dynamics/communication-discipline/Pages/Positive-Parenting-and-COVID-19_10-Tips.aspx
- <https://firstthings.org/how-to-talk-to-your-children-when-bad-things-happen/>

I was hired to work at camp this summer – will I be eligible to work at camp next year?

All staff who were hired for this summer will be considered for hire once our programming resumes. Please be in touch if you have questions and we will keep you updated.

Are there any jobs available at camp this summer?

Unfortunately, currently there are no seasonal jobs available at this camp this summer or fall. There may be positions available at Camp Pikati (WSYMCA day camp in Newton, MA). Assuming we can run programs for 2021, we'll begin our hiring process towards the end of 2020. Please visit our website employment page to learn more about our hiring process.

Can I come visit camp this summer?

We certainly understand your wish to come visit camp and how special a place it is for everyone but, for the safety of our staff and the protection of the property, we are not open to visitors currently.

Will there be camp next year?

We are fully anticipating being able to re-open for next summer and we look forward to welcoming you all back once again in 2021!

When can I register for camp for next summer?

We realize many families may be eager to lock in a space at camp for next summer and we are excited to take those reservations. We are currently developing a plan for enrolling camper's in 2021. You will receive an email in the Fall with more information about this process.