



Swamp Camp Services, Inc.,
1380 Maxeys Road, Union Point, Georgia 30669

Update 1: March 12, 2020

How Swamp is Responding to Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Swamp strives to be the *"safest place on the planet, besides your home."* With this key focus Swamp will make whatever decisions in the face of this adversity for the well-being of your child and our staff. As Covid-19 remains a frequent topic of global news, it's important to us that we remain transparent with you about how we are responding. Given how quickly news and information are evolving, we are prepared to continue updating our approach to ensure the health, safety, and success of our campers, volunteers, staff and events.

Our Response

Though the coronavirus (COVID-19) situation is evolving rapidly, we are continuing our "business-as-usual" summer camp registrations and event planning while monitoring daily the situation as it develops. Here is our current stance for each of the following:

Mother Son Retreat

With much prayer and advice, we believe the socially responsible thing to do is to not hold the Mother Son Retreat this spring for the protection of all involved. We may consider holding this in the fall if an open weekend presents itself. Each person will be contacted with further steps regarding refunds. Moms have a great date night with your sons that weekend!

Summer Camp (June – July)

We are now witnessing limits and cancellations of public events at an increasing pace. It may seem the responsible thing to do would be to cancel summer camp at this time; however, due to the role that camp plays in our kids and staff's spiritual health and well-being and due to the fiscal weight the summer camp revenue bears for our annual budget (65%), registration will continue to be open at this time. We will re-evaluate the situation as the weeks progress and make the necessary and appropriate decisions as the situation evolves.



Currently, we are off to the fastest start to registration in our history with over 400 registering in a few weeks; perhaps the result of only offering five (5) weeks this year instead of six or seven due to the Orlando Summit. Realizing it is not how fast we start but how full we finish, we encourage you to continue to register so your child will not find himself or herself on a waiting list with no spot. We understand that each of you must make your own decision as to whether to register your child in light of the circumstances. On our end we will waive the non-refundable deposit stipulation and increase our procedures and awareness and availability of hygienic activities while at camp in order to make this decision a bit easier.

Swamp Corps Trips (Honduras in June, Kenya in August)

At this time, we are treating these trips in the same manner as Summer Camp as explained above; however, we are carefully watching the flight status and condition of each country as we work and communicate with our host partners who have boots on the ground at these locations. Any change will be made in a timely manner in light of flight deposits and various commitments we have made for the trip, i.e. transportation, lodging, etc. Airlines have been very accommodating and lenient in these regards. We will re-evaluate the situation as the weeks progress and make the necessary and appropriate decisions as the situation evolves.

Conclusion

Swamp is a most beloved place for our families and kids and we are grateful for the years of trust you have shown us as you dropped your kids off for a week in the woods. With this in mind, we want you to know that we feel the weight of that trust and the responsibility of your child's and our staff's health and safety. Please be assured if there is an increase in continued risk of your child's wellbeing, we will respond accordingly—no matter the cost. We choose at this time to watch and see and hope for God to do amazing things and exalt his Glory during this unparalleled time.

Knowing that we all want camp to happen this summer and we want to spiritually navigate this situation, we ask that you fervently pray for the:

- Health and energy of our healthcare professionals.
- Health and safety of the vulnerable.
- Improved condition of those currently infected.
- Containment of the virus and the disturbing effects in its wake.



- Summer Camp experience to be one of the most amazing ever with “*no snakes and no breaks.*”
- Wisdom to know what to do, when do it and how best to do it.
- Faith of each of us to not fear but trust the Master of Molecules.
- Hearts of disciples to serve above and beyond those affected whether in health or loss of a job, that we might be a city on a hill holding out hope and love for those in need.

Much love,

Jeff & the Swamp Staff and Board of Directors.