

October 26, 2020

Dear Camp Country Lad Families,

It is hard to believe that summer has come and gone and we did not see your boys this year, but I cannot tell you what it has meant to me and my family to hear from so many of you about how much your boys are looking forward to returning to Camp, and, most importantly, that they are well and facing all this uncertainty with such bravery and resolve.

The pandemic has brought what can feel like a constant state of wait-and-see. Planning for the future is filled with “maybes” and “ifs,” but at Camp Country Lad, some of the most fun we have is when the plans change and we do something unexpected. As I look towards next summer, the spirit of “having fun in the right kind of way” that has always guided us can lead us on new adventures and experiences with friends that just might be able to happen only in this special summer!

We are developing a plan to open Camp this summer, if the conditions allow. We will create a “bubble” around Camp making all our adventures happen inside the 1200-acre Camp Country Lad properties. As we get closer to Camp, we will provide you with more information about how this will work, as well as detailed information on all pre-Camp logistics, screenings, and travel. (Though, currently, we are not expecting to provide our regular airport transportation. If this changes, we will let you know.) We will continue to work with the American Camp Association, as well as regulations and safe practices coming out of the CDC and local health departments as we refine our plans. Camp will likely look a little different, but the spirit and the fun will be the same! Now, let’s figure out how to get your boys back to Camp!

Current regulations prohibit gatherings of more than fifty people, so our plan for now is to open at half capacity and we will adjust as the circumstances allow. We invite each boy to attend Camp for at least two weeks (and our boys currently in 9th grade for the full four-week session) to see their friends, to breathe that mountain air, to ride horses, swim in the lake and jump off the rock at the Rock House, and to reconnect with the ideals of simple living in the out-of-doors. If things improve, we will offer more boys the full four-week session, but for now we will work to get everyone to Camp at some point in the summer.

On December 15th, we will begin to accept campers. **We ask for you to let us know as soon as you are able when your son would like to be at Camp.** We try to keep no more than two to three from one area and not more than two from the same school in the same cabin so that boys get to know and experience other boys from all over the country. With limited capacity, **I anticipate some age groups filling up very quickly.** In the past, we have often been able to accommodate another boy at the last minute, but this year may be different so please let us know your plans now.

Please apply by mailing in your son’s registration and deposit directly to Camp. I have enclosed an application for our 2021 season. If you rolled over payment from last summer, please indicate that on your son’s application. Please note that it is front and back this year, as updated liability requirements necessitate your signatures. We will **guarantee returning campers** at least a two-

week stay and **guarantee our returning oldest boys, those currently in 9th grade**, a full four-week session, **if you apply prior to December 15th**.

Applications received after December 15th will be accepted in the order received. However, **I cannot guarantee acceptance to returning campers after December 15th**, so please send in your application before then if you are considering Camp this season. You will be notified of your camper's acceptance as well as any positions still on a waiting list after December 15th.

We still believe a four-week stay is the best for a boy at Country Lad and encourage you to apply for at least four weeks in hope that we can accommodate them as we get closer to Camp time! If applying for four weeks, please indicate a preference order for the two-week sessions in case we can only accommodate two weeks for each boy. We will do everything we can to accommodate your first choice of two-week sessions, but second and third choices will help ensure a position.

If you are placed on a waiting list for any session, please hold on and stay with us! We are being very cautious in our planning right now and hope to accept boys off the list if the situation improves.

We understand that your comfort levels may fluctuate with the circumstances and we want you to be able to change your mind as we get closer to Camp if you do not feel like this may be the best choice for your family. Therefore, **we will offer a full refund of tuition up to three weeks before your son's arrival**. That said, if your son does have to withdraw, please kindly notify the Camp office immediately so that we may open that position up to a waiting camper. If at any point prior to Camp, your son needs to withdraw due to either COVID diagnosis or exposure, a full refund of tuition and deposit will be available up to and including the day of scheduled arrival.

If there is anything we have learned during this pandemic, it is the value of returning to simple living and the joys of simple living together. The values we hold at Country Lad of treating others as you want to be treated and "I am third" have never felt more important. Right now, the boys need time at Camp, to get away, to be outside, to be with friends, to play freely and to be thankful for their many blessings, and we will do everything in our power to make that available to them.

Let your boys know we are thinking of them and we pray for the safety of your family and your communities. We will be here, and they will be back when the time is right. We will swim in the lake and ride the trails. We will hike together to the Rock House, sing along at a hootenanny, sit under the trees in our Church and give thanks for one another and this special time together.

We will be here, we cannot wait to see everyone back at Camp and I know our staff along with your boys will make it "the best summer of them all!"

Sincerely,



Marion Williams
Executive Director