

Suttle Lake Camp 2021 Adult & Family Events - Covid Q&A

Our leadership team has been working hard in preparations to welcome campers and guests back to Suttle Lake. As you consider coming to camp you may have questions about what is being done to create a healthy and safe camp environment. Here are answers to some commonly asked questions.

- **How were camp precautions determined?**

Camp guidelines were developed in cooperation with local health authorities using the [Oregon's Outdoor Recreation Guidelines which include Adult and Family Camps](#). The reopening framework from the [Greater Northwest Area of the United Methodist Church](#) has also informed our camp guidelines. We have also utilized recommendations from the CDC and American Camp Association in our preparations. Our camp staff are monitoring changes in state and local guidelines as well as activity of Covid-19 locally. Each site maintains a Communicable Disease Plan and practices for the uniqueness of their facilities and programs. Our camp guidelines will adjust and change as new information warrants.

- **What should I be aware of before camp?**

Creating a safe and healthy camp experience starts well before camp and you can help. First, we ask that you take the time to become familiar with health and safety protocols in place at camp, to ensure camp is the right fit for you. Please reach out to us if you have questions. We want to be partners with you as you consider and prepare for camp.

Before coming to camp, please take precautions at home in efforts to contribute to a healthy and safe environment at camp. We encourage you to be vaccinated, if eligible, to optimize your personal protection while being in a group setting. Please also avoid possible exposures, especially the two weeks prior to camp (wear masks when in contact with others, practice physical distancing, avoid unnecessary outings or group events). Camp guidelines define a close contact with a confirmed or suspected case to be exposed within 6 feet or less for a cumulative 15 minutes over the course of a 24- hour period. We also ask that you self-monitor all household members for any possible Covid-19 symptoms or possible exposure (camp will provide tools for your use). Any campers or staff that may be ill or may have been exposed to the virus should stay home. More information will be included in your preparations for camp.

- **I don't have the financial ability to send our camper this year. Is there help available?**

We understand that the Covid-19 crisis has created deep struggles in our communities and among our families. As part of our dedication to providing Christian hospitality and learning to all persons, we believe no one should be turned away from camp due to financial need. The Camp and Retreat Ministries' campership fund is available to those facing financial stress. To find out more or to request a campership, please visit <https://www.gocamping.org/campership> or contact us directly, registrar@gocamping.org

- **What precautions will be in place at camp?**

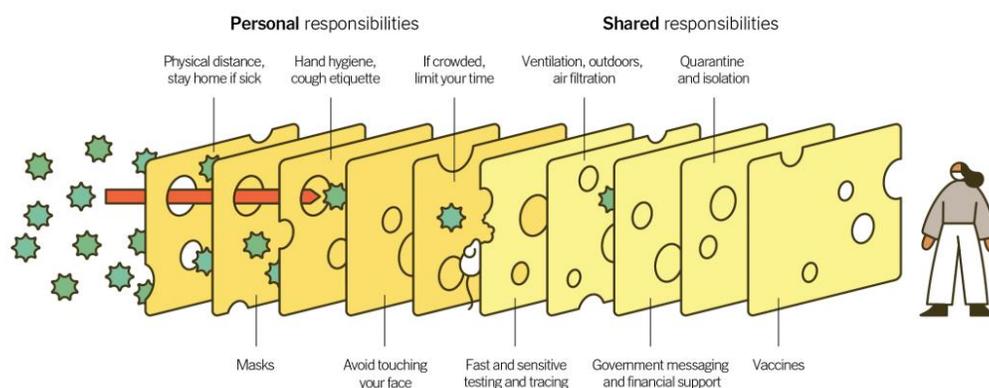
At camp we plan to use a multi-layer approach. Think of it like swiss cheese. On it's own one slice of cheese has holes that could allow something to fall through, but when you layer multiple slices together there are fewer holes and less opportunity for something to fall through. There are many

non-pharmaceutical interventions that have proved helpful in minimizing the spread of Covid-19, the strongest approach is to use a combination of different precautions rather than just to rely on one.

Handwashing is one of our best tools to prevent the spread of viruses of all kinds. We will also be utilizing screening protocols, physical distancing, continued sanitation, and masks. Many activities will be outside, while ventilation has been optimized in indoor settings. We've reduced our capacity to avoid large group activities, and we are following recommendations to use cohorts (a stable group of campers). All eligible staff and campers are highly encouraged to be fully vaccinated before coming to camp. Our camp staff have been trained in ways to help create a safe and meaningful camp environment, as well as how to respond if anyone develops possible symptoms. We have working relationships with our local health authorities to guide our decisions and respond to cases, if needed.

Multiple Layers Improve Success

The Swiss Cheese Respiratory Pandemic Defense recognizes that no single intervention is perfect at preventing the spread of the coronavirus. Each intervention (layer) has holes.



Source: Adapted from Ian M. Mackay (virologydownunder.com) and James T. Reason. Illustration by Rose Wong

- **Will I need to wear a mask while at camp?**

Yes, campers and staff will wear masks when inside, and outside when within 6 feet of others. We understand that it's not possible to eat, shower, brush your teeth or swim while wearing a mask, so we'll designate extra space to minimize the risk of these activities unmasked. We also understand that it's not safe or reasonable to sleep while wearing a mask, so housing assignments will be made to allow for more options of private sleeping rooms/cabins or space between beds if rooms or cabins are shared. Cabins/sleeping rooms will be well ventilated. We also recognize that campers of all ages will need some mask free time during the week, so safe space and activities will allow for this too.

Please plan to pack plenty of clean masks for your time at camp. We recommend that you pack enough for each day of camp plus 50% if packing disposable masks or at least four washable cloth masks. When selecting which masks to pack, please be mindful that not all masks are equally effective in preventing disease spread. The CDC recommends masks be a minimum of two layers of a tightly woven fabric and fit snugly over the nose and mouth. Please leave neck gaiters at home as they typically don't have the fabric weave necessary to be effective. We will have extra masks at camp knowing that masks may be forgotten, break, get lost, or be soiled.

- **Will camp still be camp?**

Our camp staff are flexible and creative. That means that while some things require changes, we have remained true to our values and commitment to create a fun, meaningful experience for your camper grounded in Christian learning. Please remember that while camp may be different, our staff have been mindful in our preparations to maintain the important aspects of each event. Together we'll deepen relationships with new and old friends, the natural world, and God.

- **Will there be singing or communion?**

For many campers, a big part of camp is singing as part of worship or around the campfire. Recent guidance allows for singing with appropriate precautions like distancing, masks, and an outdoor setting.

Communion is an important part of some of the worship experiences at camp. Much like in our church settings, we will be creative in providing this meaning sacrament even while precautions like distance and individual servings may be required.

- **How will meals happen this year?**

While meals will look different, our camp staff are committed to providing quality, nutritious meals. There will be an emphasis on handwashing before meals. Physical distancing will also be an important aspect of meals, since masks are removed for eating. Tables will be spaced in the dining hall to allow for the recommended distance and outdoor areas will also be available when weather permits. Buffet lines are currently not allowed, so our staff has developed delicious menus that lend themselves to either cafeteria service or boxed to go meals. To help us with our preparations, please reach out to us a couple weeks before your event to share any dietary needs.

- **Will on-site check-in be different?**

Yes, we are developing systems to create a safe and efficient arrival experience specific to each event. Our health screening at check-in has been expanded and will include a temperature check and questions to identify possible symptoms of Covid-19. You will also be asked to complete a health screening the two weeks prior to camp, in efforts to help catch any developing symptoms before you arrive.

- **What happens if I (or a close contact) become ill while at camp?**

While we are making vigilant efforts to minimize chances of exposure to Covid-19 and other viruses, any activity carries some risk. Camp staff will work with local health authorities if a case is identified or suspected at camp and follow their recommendations on how to proceed. Campers who develop symptoms or are suspected to have been in close contact with a confirmed or probable case of Covid-19 will be quarantined from others to reduce the opportunity for the virus to continue to spread. Camp guidelines define a close contact with a confirmed or suspected case to be exposed within 6 feet or less for a cumulative 15 minutes over the course of a 24- hour period. You may be asked to leave camp if you are requiring quarantine and/or testing or are unable to participate in activities due to exposure. If you are too ill to care for yourself or travel home, we will use your completed health form to contact your emergency contact and physician for assistance as needed.

- **What about cancellations and/or refunds?**

If we cancel a session, you will have the following options: 1) you can request a full refund of any monies paid; 2) you can make a donation to Camp and Retreat Ministries with some or all of the payment; or 3) you can transfer the payment to another event this year or hold it as a credit for next year.

If you cancel your registration to an event more than one week prior to the start of the event, you will receive your money back, less the deposit. Full refunds for cancellations within one week of the start of camp are generally not granted. In the case of extenuating circumstances, contact the registrar at registrar@gocamping.org

- **I have a credit from last year; how do I use that?**

If you register using the same email as last year, your credit balance will appear on the payment screen. Please contact the registrar if you have questions: registrar@gocamping.org

- **I still have questions, now what?**

Please know that our camp staff are available as you prepare for camp. Please feel free to drop us an email or give us a call if you have specific questions or concerns about the camp experience or want to share information unique to you. We also will be sure to reach out with additional information when helpful.

We look forward to sharing a meaningful camp experience with you soon!

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