



Hidden Pines Ranch 2021 Returning Families Parent/Guardian Information Sessions

January 19th, 2021

Q & A

Hidden Pines Ranch is committed to following the Minnesota Department of Health [COVID-19 Prevention Guidance for Youth and Student Programming](#). These guidelines were updated on 1/7/21. We are hopeful that they will be updated again as we approach summer. All questions were answered based on the current guidance as of 1/19/21.

Q: Do the kids have to wear masks throughout the day?

A: We are hoping that it changes but the current Minnesota Health Department guidelines for youth programming ask all kids to wear a mask even outside. We are hopeful the requirement for masks outdoors will change before camp starts.

Q: Will you have before and after care?

A: We plan to open sign up for extended care in April, once we have a better understand on what the guidance will look like for summer regards to in cohorts and the mixing of groups.

Q: For those of us who are delinquent in reading about the "2 week shift" can Kelly describe....I suspect it means we can sign up for 2 weeks at a time instead of the entire summer

A (Part 1): First the "why" behind our decision to pivot to 2-week session offerings: We have adapted our sessions for this summer, being mindful of the current COVID restrictions and that they may remain in place, in some capacity for 2021. By pivoting to two week sessions, this allows us to keep camper groups consistent. The consistency this provides will allow us to keep our programming as similar as it has been in the past, while meeting COVID best practices and protocols. Our hope is that by having campers here consistently throughout the week it will allow us to more easily add in field trips, volunteering and overnights should the guidance change close to the opening of camp or during the camp season. We understand that this is a big change for our returning families and thank you in advance for your flexibility and understanding as we keep the health and safety of our camp community at the forefront of our decisions.

A (Part 2): Campers can sign up for as many 2-week sessions as they'd like (2,4,6 or 8 weeks of camp). We are also offering our 3-day Mini Camp, as well, that is Wednesday to Friday, June 9th to June 11th, 2021.

Q: How are you handling kids that have medical issues that make them exempt from wearing a mask. i.e., Asthma?

A: Campers with a medical exemption to the mask mandate must provide a signed note from their Doctor. They will then not be required to wear a mask at camp.



Q: Will there be overnights or off-site excursions?

A: Our hope it to be able to include overnights and offsite programming this summer. The current guidance does not allow for it at this time (concern with bringing large groups into community spaces and transportation restrictions). We are monitoring the guidance for any changes. If the current guidance remains in place, we are prepared to get creative with our programming, such as more bike trips, "late night HPR" (campers can be at camp for the evening for all the parts of an overnight except sleeping in the tent), etc.

Q: With the COVID changes, are "spots" at camp going to be less? Or do you expect to be able to register the same number of families/kids?

A: Our guidance doesn't include capacity restrictions. We are therefore planning to have the same number of "spots" at camp this summer as we have in the past.

Q: If kids have had COVID and have antibodies, will they not have to miss camp.

A: We will be using the resources at the Minnesota Department of Health to determine the specifics for each person as we encounter this issue. At this time, similar to how the schools are handling students with COVID antibodies, if campers have documentation of a positive COVID test with date, they will not have to quarantine from camp if they are exposed within a 90-day window of their positive test. We will update this policy if guidance changes.

Q: I would wonder....if wearing mask...is that considered "close contact"

A: The current guidance states that even when wearing a mask, if you are within 6 ft of another person, for more than 15 minutes, this is considered "close contact".

Q: Kelly you mentioned that if a kid got exposed at the camp you are hoping to figure out a way to compensate. Question: do you think you will figure out this plan before registration day in a week? Knowing the plan would help to decide how to go forward with registration

A: COVID related absences:

- 1) Parent informs camp of child's close contact results from outside of camp
 - No refund or credit will be provided
- 2) Hidden Pines Ranch informs camper/family of need to quarantine
 - 1, 2, or 3 days: We will provide a credit for our 2022 camp season for the per day cost of the days missed
 - 4 or more days missed
 - Option 1: If there is room in your campers' group, in an upcoming session that they are not already signed up for, they can be enrolled in that session to make up their missed camp days.



- Option 2: If there isn't room in their group, in an upcoming session OR they are unable to attend another session for any reason, we will provide a credit for our 2022 camper season for the per day cost of all missed days. This credit stays with the family account, not the specific camper.
- In extenuating circumstances, such as a graduating LIT without younger siblings to utilize a 2022 credit, considerations of a shared cost refund will be considered on a per case basis.

Q: For those of us working and the staggering of drop off- can there be flexibility? i.e. I can drop off at 8:15 but not 8:45

A: If we move to an assigned drop off model, as a result of cohort numbers and the mixing of groups, families will be assigned a drop off time/group. If families need an accommodation for their drop off time, we will do our best to be flexible in changing their group assignment. A drop off model would look something like this (please keep in mind this is an example – actual pickup/drop off times will be determined once we have our final enrollment numbers in the spring):

1. Example Drop Off Assignments

- a. 8:10-8:25
- b. 8:25-8:40
- c. 8:40-8:55
- d. 8:55-9:10

2. Example Pick Up Assignments

- a. 3:30-3:45
- b. 3:45-4:00
- c. 4:00-4:15
- d. 4:15-4:30

Q: Will campers have lockers and baskets this summer to leave their belongings during their camp session?

A: If the guidance remains in place for cohort numbers and non-mixing of groups, we will not assign lockers and baskets to campers to keep their belongings in during their sessions as we have in the past. We will ask campers to bring a backpack each day with their essential items that they will bring to their groups "basecamp" each morning and bring home each night.

Q: Are the 7th graders together and the 8th graders together or are they mixed grades?

A: One of the great things about our mixed age programs (Ciqala, Middle School and LIT) is that our older campers have an opportunity to be leaders and role models in their group during their 2nd year in that age group/program. If we are limited to small cohorts and group sizes, we will group 7th graders together and 8th graders in a separate group as we understand campers have same age peers they often want to be with if grouping allows.



Q: Can my 2nd and 4th graders be together in the same cohort?

A: Typically, we group our 2nd – 5th graders by age/grade. We encourage parents to reach out to us regarding this request to understand more about their request.

Q: What age do you need to be LIT?

A: Entering 9th or 10th grade

Q: Will you be having LIT interviews.

A: Our LIT program is a unique opportunity for campers to continue on at HPR while growing as leaders in a new role that positively contributes to our camp community. Our goal of the application and FaceTime/Phone interview is to provide potential LITs with an opportunity to reflect on why they want to be a part of our LIT program, how they want to grow as a leader, learn what they hope to gain from the experience and provide valuable interview experience in a familiar environment.

Q: Will you have the waterslide on the last day (submitted by Annie, camper age 9)

A: Best question we had all night. The answer is ABSOLUTELY Annie!