



COVID-19 and Summer Camp Information / FAQs

Office of Early Childhood (OEC) Summer Camp Guidelines:

At multiple points in the document, we refer to the following document: <https://www.ctoec.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/COVID-19-Memo-18-Youth-Camp-Guidance-Revised-2020.06.03.pdf>

When will New Canaan Nature Center Summer Camp be open?

Following the state of Connecticut's current guidelines for summer camp, our camp will open on June 1st. Should the state or other public health guidelines change our plan, we will alert families and refund if necessary. Registration opens to the public via our website on March 1st, 2021.

What are the hours of operation?

- 9:00 am to 3:30 pm – Full Day Groups
- 9:00 am to 12:00 pm – Half-day Groups – with the chance to add on until 1 pm for Lunch Bunch

Will the Teacher Naturalist in Training (TNT) program operate this summer?

No. In order to implement social distancing policies and to ensure the safety of our campers and staff, we have canceled the TNT program.

Should I enroll my child in camp at this point?

We recognize the need that children have to be outdoors, to interact socially, and to have enriching hands-on experiences. NCNC has ample space indoors and outdoors to follow social distancing recommendations, and we have highly trained and professional staff members who will implement our plan. We will follow all state health guidelines for each program to mitigate the risk of infection.

Group Sizes/ Dynamics

- Group size will have a maximum of 16 children with 2 staff per group.
- Campers will not interact with children in other groups, either indoors or outdoors.
- Each group has an assigned bathroom.

When Outside:

- As always, campers and staff will be outside as much as possible. Weather permitting we will be limiting indoor time, even more, this summer.
- The Children's Garden Playground area use will be limited.
- Groups will be roaming our 40 acres of grounds. Each group will stop to play and explore in various areas of our campus while in communication with other groups to maintain distance on our campus.
- The New Canaan Nature Center is a public park. Camp staff has been trained to adhere to social distancing guidelines with respect to members of the public.



When Inside:

- Every group will have a dedicated classroom with its own outside entrance. Only the assigned staff will be in the classroom, and all toys and crafts will stay within the group.
- Children's belongings will be kept separate at all times, whether in cubbies or on separated hooks.
- Children will be required to wear masks at all times, except when eating while distanced from other children.
- High touch surfaces will be disinfected per Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the state Office of Early Childhood (OEC) guidelines. Any shared items between camp groups will be disinfected after each use to the extent possible or designated to each group for their use only each week.

Please note that during inclement weather we are more likely to spend extended amounts of time indoors.

Food:

- We will be providing a snack for all campers as per usual. Staff will be wearing gloves while serving.
- As usual, all lunches for Full Day and Lunch Bunch children are to be brought from home.

COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS

Social Distancing

Appropriate social distancing strategies shall be implemented. Social distancing will take many forms, including wearing masks, reduced group sizes, and staggered drop-off and pick-up times.

Personal Protective Equipment (Masks)

Masks for children are recommended by OEC and are required when indoors.

It is requested that all adults dropping off are wearing a mask. We also ask that there are no social gatherings taking place in the parking lot before or immediately following drop off/pick-up of campers.

Enhanced Cleaning and Disinfection Precautions

Our program spaces will be sanitized and disinfected daily in accordance with the OEC, CDC, the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), and the American Association of Pediatrics (AAP) guidelines. Campers will maintain good hand hygiene by washing hands frequently throughout the day, when hand washing is not available hand sanitizer will be used.

What will happen if there is a suspected case of COVID-19 in the camp program?

We will contact the New Canaan Health Department immediately and will follow their instructions. In addition, we will:

- Perform contact tracing to the best of our abilities, including identifying the dates of symptom onset and with whom the child/staff member had contact at the program during those days (staff and other children).
- Affected children and staff may be asked to self-isolate for 14 days before returning to camp.
- Conduct appropriate cleaning and disinfection per OEC and CDC guidelines.



Will I be refunded if summer camp is canceled or shut down due to COVID-19?

In the event of a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the program, depending on the number of people affected, closure of a particular room in the program or the entire program might need to be considered.

If your child is unable to attend summer camp due to a decision by NCNC in its sole discretion, or because of guidance from a local, state, or federal government agency, you may choose from the following options:

- **Receive a refund** for any unused portion.
- **Donate the funds** already paid and receive our sincerest thanks!

Will there be any new forms to complete?

Informed Consent

We are required by OEC to obtain a signed consent from all staff and the parent(s) of all children enrolled that they have received notice of the following:

People who are 65 years and older and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions or are at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19 are recommended to stay at home. A list of medical conditions associated with a higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19 can be found in the CDC's guidance. 1 Individual and families should consult their healthcare providers to determine whether they have medical conditions that place them at risk.

Staff and children living in households with individuals who are 65 years and older OR have a higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19 are recommended to stay home.

Enhanced Health and Wellness Policy, Signature Page & Liability Waiver

To attend camp, every child must have a signed "COVID-19 Compliance, Liability Waiver, and Assumption of the Risk" form submitted on their behalf.

How can I help NCNC during this trying time?

We are so grateful to the members of the NCNC community including alumni, preschool families, camper families, volunteers, staff, and guests who have recognized the challenges that crises like this pose to a nonprofit organization. For those who can contribute to our vital role in this community and ongoing mission, please make a gift on our website. We consider it an honor and a privilege to serve you.

THANK YOU for your support during these uncertain times. We greatly look forward to having fun in the forest with you this summer!

Jane Piselli
Summer Camp Director
jpiselli@newcanaanature.org

