



QUESTIONS YOU MIGHT HAVE REGARDING SUMMER CANCELLATIONS

I have already paid my child's summer camp tuition. What are my options?

Please be sure to complete [THIS ONLINE FORM](#) at your earliest convenience to indicate your preference:

- REQUEST A FULL REFUND.
- REQUEST A PARTIAL REFUND: Donate a portion of your tuition as a tax deductible donation to support the current planning and future programming while having a portion of your payment .
- TRANSFER THE PAYMENT TO A TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATION.

I had not made a payment for my child's tuition yet. How can I financially support Camp Encourage during this unexpected season?

Well, my goodness. That is awfully generous of you and we sincerely appreciate it. Gifts can be made as follows:

- To make a general donation, visit <https://campencourage.org/donate/>.
- To make a donation for future scholarship needs and have your gift matched, visit <https://campencourage.org/match/>.

Will you have any opportunities for my camper to gain skills or connect with others over the summer?

Until it is safe for us to gather in person, we will be providing virtual opportunities for our campers. This will involve:

- Weekly videos (showcasing activities and messages we embed at camp--think campfire songs, outdoor education, art, and self-esteem enhancing activities).
- Secondly, we intend to have Connections through Zoom for our campers, volunteers, and adults with ASD (current volunteers and prior campers). These will be beautiful opportunities for our camp family to stay connected during these season until we can meet in person.

For details about these opportunities, please visit [THIS PAGE](#).

Additionally, when it is safe to gather in smaller groups, we will keep you updated as we will likely provide opportunities for our camp family to come together. We certainly long for those moments!





Do you think there is a chance you might be able to reschedule?

We are hoping to find opportunities to reschedule at Tall Oaks before 2020 comes to a close. However, we will not finalize and open registration for any new dates until we feel more confident about gathering a large group together. We already have an Overnight camp scheduled for early August and mid October and are looking at dates in September, November, and/or December. Please be watching for updates.

Should we add additional camps in 2020 (and when we open registration for the already-scheduled October Overnight), **those campers that were planning to attend in the summer will be given the chance to register during an early registration period** before it is announced or open to anyone in the community.

This would have been the last summer for my camper to attend (as he or she will be 19 next summer).

If your camper will turn 19 before the 2021 summer camps, he or she will still be eligible to attend since not able to attend this summer. We would be happy to welcome him or her.

Can my child's slot be held for 2021?

Absolutely. As long as your camper continues to qualify (as outlined [HERE](#)), a slot will be held for your camper. You will still need to apply online when the form is ready (for camp and for a scholarship) but that should be an easy updating process as much of the information will transfer from year to year. Should you indicate interest in having your child attend camp next summer, he or she will be offered a slot at one of the summer camps in 2021. Remaining slots available would then be offered to others, likely through a lottery.

Can our scholarship funding be reserved for a future overnight camp?

If you were eligible for scholarship funding this year and were interested in attending an Overnight camp in 2020, you will still be eligible for a scholarship or scholarships this year as long as scholarship funding remains available at that time. The exact amount will not likely transfer due to the varying costs of each camp session. For example, if Betty White was given a scholarship of \$900 for a summer camp (a 75% decrease of the actual tuition of \$1200), Betty would most likely be awarded a scholarship of the same percentage off the tuition. Thus, if she registers to attend an Overnight camp (which is \$560), she would likely be awarded a scholarship of roughly \$420.





Scholarships depend greatly on the success and generosity of our supporters during the [Camps For Kids campaign](#), An Evening with the 'Rents, S'Mores and Pours, and our Year End Campaign.

What does this mean for your current Camps For Kids matching campaign?

We will continue to hold the campaign with the intention of raising scholarship support for future sessions of Camp Encourage. We know that these days may bring job losses and additional financial hardships for our families. When we are able to gather with our campers, we hope to do all we can to meet each family's scholarship needs.

Please be sure to follow us on social media (Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram) and spread the word of the current campaign. It lasts through September 15th and every dollar that is donated in support of Camp Encourage gets matched through Camps For Kids.

What other tools might you have that can help me explain this to my camper?

Please feel free to call or email us (contact information below). We are happy to talk with your camper and/or you to assist in understanding this difficult change.

Further, we have created a story to assist in explaining this to your camper as we know that change is often very difficult. Click [HERE](#) to access it.

Why did Tall Oaks Camp and Conference Center make this decision so early?

Preparing a campground for summer camp takes a great deal of preparation, staff, and funding. To proceed with summer camp at Tall Oaks, the following would need to be initiated now: recruiting, interviewing, and hiring summer staff; preparing the pool (cleaning, repairing, and filling), and preparing all cabins and meeting spaces (including deep, deep cleanings). It was likely difficult for Tall Oaks to justify such efforts with the pending uncertainty of whether large groups can gather come June 1st.

I heard about your Connections Programming (or my camper has already participated). Will you be continuing this program?

Presently, the in-person Connections Programming has halted until it is announced that groups can safely gather. In the meantime, we'll be providing virtual Connections opportunities through Zoom and will absolutely do our best to make the best of each shared moment. Click [HERE](#) for details and to sign up. Once we are able to gather in-person, registration and outings will be posted [HERE](#).





This is likely a hardship on Camp Encourage. What can I do to help?

If you are interested in giving the gift of your time from home, there may be tasks our staff could use support with. These may include:

- *writing a note to a volunteer, camper, or peer model camper*
- *writing a note to show your support of Camp Encourage (we often use letters of support when submitting grants and it is extremely helpful and meaningful)*
- *assisting with online research*
- *editing*

If interested in volunteering your time during this unexpected season, please contact us at info@campencourage.org. We truly appreciate your consideration.

Should you have further questions,

please, please, please don't hesitate to reach out to us.

For questions regarding refunds and/or scholarships, contact Kelly Lee: klee@campencourage.org

For all other questions, contact Aimee Gorrow at agorow@campencourage.org.

