



## **Nature Camp Online 2020**

### ***"Bringing Camp Home"***

#### **INFORMED CONSENT TO PARTICIPATE IN ONLINE ACTIVITIES & WAIVER OF LIABILITY**

We are excited to have your camper(s) participate in our online programming this summer, as we seek to bring Nature Camp home to you. The following information explains your responsibilities as a caregiver, your child's responsibilities as a participant, the risks and benefits of participation in our online activities, how our collaboration can minimize risks and maximize benefits, the limits of our liability, and how we can cooperate to support your child in an emergency.

#### **Our Program**

This summer Nature Camp will be offering online programming and content that includes educational classes, discussion groups, games, physical activities, other instruction, and mentoring. We have intentionally designed our activities to include both time *in front of a screen* and time *away from a screen*. For example, a botany class may introduce a topic through a short video, invite participants to look for particular plants near their homes, and conclude with a live online session in which campers may share their findings with one another. A crafts activity might include online group instruction, time offline for participants to work independently, and then additional time online to share progress with the group, ask questions, and brainstorm next steps.

Video, audio, and text content will be available for on-demand viewing, listening, and reading via links on the Nature Camp website; some may also be posted on Nature Camp's social media pages on Facebook and Instagram. Live online sessions will be offered via the Zoom platform, which is a freely available application that runs on a variety of digital devices (computers, tablets, smartphones). *Participants should have both camera and microphone capabilities to use Zoom.* Nature Camp is implementing a number of safeguards and procedures to protect the safety and security of campers in Zoom, including requiring registration for all live events, supervision of all activities by at least two trained staff members, admitting only registered participants for classes and other activities, and locking each Zoom meeting within five minutes after it is scheduled to begin. Zoom meetings may be recorded for supervisory and quality control purposes, but any such recordings will not be shared with anyone

other than Nature Camp staff and will not be available for later viewing by camper participants or their families.

A detailed schedule of programs and activities will be available (and will be updated weekly) at [www.naturecamp.net](http://www.naturecamp.net).

### **Risks**

Although Nature Camp will take safety precautions before, during, and after all online programming, participation in Nature Camp online does entail certain risks. While the Nature Camp staff has worked and will continue to work to mitigate and minimize these risks wherever possible, your cooperation and that of your camper(s) will also help to reduce their likelihood. These include:

- ***Social risks***, such as being treated unkindly by others; feeling disengaged, misunderstood, or excluded, due to staff's imperfect ability to monitor participants' body language and other subtle social cues that indicate lack of engagement; exposure to unwholesome content, due to the absence of effective parental guidelines and monitoring, or of parental control software, during the time a child is online; infiltration of videoconference or virtual classroom platforms by an unknown and unwelcome person, due to the malfunction of a "waiting room" for young participants to wait, sequestered, before each activity begins; and becoming distracted, due to access to other Internet activities, games, websites, courses, messaging, and other online endeavors.
- ***Damage*** to equipment, such as a smartphone, computer, tablet, internet access, headset, earphones, microphone, or digital camera. Any such damage is the sole responsibility of the owner of said equipment; Nature Camp will not be responsible for any damage that may happen during camp.
- ***Risks associated with offline activities***, such as cooking, outdoor exploration, and working with tools and materials for arts and crafts activities.
- ***Other risks of online activity***, including data mining, phishing, viruses, malware, data breach of online information, cyberbullying, exploitation, victimization, cyber stalking, online grooming, cyber predators, digital footprint, reputation loss, compliance violations, brand hijacking, and image replication.

Nature Camp will not and cannot provide full supervision for your camper(s). Your camper's participation in Nature Camp online may lead to additional risks not described above.

### **Parent/Guardian's Responsibilities**

To maximize the benefits of our online programming for your child, and to minimize the risks inherent to online activities, you, the parent or guardian, agree to:

- Educate yourself about safe use of the Internet by minors and discuss your family's rules for appropriate content.
- Monitor your camper's use of the Internet and discuss any difficulties that your camper has following your age-appropriate content guidelines.
- Remain nearby (or designate another adult to do so) during the hours of Nature Camp online if my camper(s) is/are under the age of 13.
- Position the device from which my child(ren) is/are participating in a place at home where I can easily walk by and see what is going on, in a place other than his/her/bedroom, and be aware of his/her background and what/who is visible
- Recognize that the camp staff can provide only limited, visual supervision, and only while your child is in front of their webcam. You remain your camper's primary caregiver and are ultimately responsible for her/him/them at all times, including during online activities. Nature Camp staff do not function *in loco parentis*, as they would if activities were on-site.
- Report to us any concerns you have about your camper's behavior or that of other participants or staff.

### **Camper's Responsibilities**

To maximize the benefits of our online programming for your camper, and to minimize the risks inherent to online activities, all campers are expected to understand and comply with the **Nature Camp 2020 Camper Participation Agreement**. In addition participants shall agree to:

- Prepare for online activities by using the restroom, gathering any necessary equipment, and dressing appropriately.
- Focus and be present for activities by turning off or at least silencing electronic devices not needed for the activity, closing tabs and programs, silencing notifications, and otherwise reducing distractions.
- Arrive on-time for the online activities for which they are registered.
- Behave kindly toward others and otherwise set a good example for others to follow in their language, participation, and attitude.
- Listen carefully to directions, rules, and instruction so that all participants may learn from and enjoy the online activity.

### **Nature Camp's Responsibilities**

To maximize the benefits of our online programming for your camper, and to minimize the risks inherent to online activities, Nature Camp agrees to:

- Safeguard youth participants by providing wholesome online activities that embody our core values and by conducting these activities on a reasonably secure online platform.

- Encourage participation, learning, and friendship by employing and supervising staff who set a good example, exude enthusiasm, and seek the joy all aspects of Nature Camp online.
- Train our staff to observe professional youth-adult boundaries, include and attend to the needs of all participants, respond promptly and effectively to misbehavior, and implement emergency action procedures when needed.
- Follow best practices for online supervision and leadership, such as having two or more adults present in every virtual “room” or observing the legal and ethical obligation to communicate promptly any concerns about a participant’s welfare or safety.
- Listen carefully to feedback from participants and their parent(s)/guardian(s), recognizing that online activities may, in some cases, be less well developed than their on-site counterparts.

Furthermore, I acknowledge and understand that any violation of the rules of Nature Camp by my child(ren) or any behavior that puts my camper(s) or others at physical or emotional risk may result in immediate dismissal from Nature Camp online or permanent expulsion from Nature Camp at the discretion of Nature Camp management and staff.

### **Release and Indemnification**

By submitting this registration form, I, on my behalf and on behalf of my participating child(ren), hereby release, waive, discharge, and covenant not to sue Nature Camp Inc. and its owners, directors, and staff (the “Indemnified Parties”) in connection with any accident, injury, or unpleasant experience arising from or related to using or participating in Nature Camp’s online activities and services.

I further agree to indemnify and hold harmless the Indemnified Parties from any loss, liability, damages, or costs the Indemnified Parties may incur, whether caused by negligence, active or passive, or otherwise, in connection with the undersigned’s and/or any participating child(ren)’s participation in the Indemnified Parties’ online activities and services.

### **Consent**

By submitting this registration form, I hereby indicate my agreement with all of the following:

- I understand and agree that online programming can be fun, educational, and includes risks.
- I have carefully read and I fully understand this Informed Consent to Participate in Online Activities & Waiver of Liability.
- I voluntarily consent to having my child(ren), named below, participate in all of the online activities and events offered by Nature Camp Inc.
- I voluntarily assume the associated risks on behalf of my minor child and agree to this waiver of liability and indemnity agreement concerning Nature Camp Inc.
- I voluntarily consent to having my child(ren)’s image, voice, and actions recorded solely for Nature Camp’s internal supervisory and quality control purposes. Any such recordings shall be and remain the sole and exclusive property of Nature Camp Inc.