

WLD Ranch COVID-19 Response Plan for Summer 2020

At WLD Ranch this summer, we have made the following changes to summer camp based on the guidelines and recommendations of the PA Department of Health and the Center for Disease Control (CDC). Please remember that attending summer camp is an optional activity. If you are not comfortable sending your camper to WLD Ranch this summer and have already registered for camp, please contact our office for options. Parents choosing to send their campers to WLD Ranch this summer do so at their own risk.

Program Changes

Campers will participate in most aspects of camp life within their cabin groups, or “herds,” this summer, minimizing the mixing between camper groups. Each herd will be kept to a small size – no more than 25 people (campers and staff members). In instances when campers are not within their herds, such as during Skill Tracks, we’ll limit the number of people in any active zone to no more than 25 (campers and staff members). During any activities taking place inside, campers and staff will remain within their herds. During any activities taking place outside, campers will either remain within their herds or numbers will be monitored based on zones.

Campers are not required to wear masks while at camp, as per the PA Department of Health regulations. Any campers who prefer to wear a mask while at camp may do so, except when it poses a threat to their health (while swimming, etc.) Staff members will wear masks when in close proximity to campers (helping a camper on a horse, helping with shooting archery or riflery, etc.). We recognize that not every person can wear a mask due to health situations (asthma, shortness of breath, etc.) and will work with those people to encourage social distancing and appropriate interactions with others.

The numbers of campers each week will be limited based on the social distancing requirements in place. Day camp will not exceed 60 campers. Overnight camp will not exceed 48 campers overnight (8 campers per cabin, allowing for appropriate distancing and maximum ventilation while sleeping) and up to 12 additional day campers. We are minimizing the number of staff members here each week as well, to ensure we stay within the guidelines we’ve been given for numbers of people in particular areas. Most of our camp schedule will take place outside, as usual. When camp programming takes place inside, campers will be seated within their herds and each herd will be an appropriate distance away from other herds. As typical, we’ll open doors and windows and run fans when activities are inside in order to give the best ventilation possible.

Monitoring Health of Staff and Campers

As staff and campers arrive on the property at the beginning of a camp week, we will take temperatures and complete surveys of potential exposure to COVID-19 to more accurately monitor symptoms. Temperature checks and symptom monitoring will be done daily for staff and for campers whether they are day campers or overnight campers. Those staff or campers who have a fever above 100.4°F or other COVID-19 symptoms will be isolated and sent home for continued monitoring and WLD Ranch will follow the guidelines given for increased sanitization of the property and symptom monitoring of those remaining at camp.

In order to best monitor the health of staff and campers on the property, we are limiting the number of visitors to WLD Ranch this summer (case workers, staff parents, staff alumni, etc.). All visitors must call the office ahead of time to schedule their visit and must follow the screening given to staff and campers upon arrival.

Campers and staff will be encouraged to wash hands often. Each counselor will have access to hand sanitizer to pass out to his or her campers before activities with shared items. Campers are welcome to bring their own hand sanitizer as well.

Increased Cleaning and Sanitization

We will continue cleaning and sanitizing bathrooms on the property daily, as has been our regular practice. Contact points within bathrooms (door handles, faucets, toilet handles, stall handles, soap dispensers, etc.) will be sanitized more frequently, after high use times (meals, meetings, etc.).

Dining room sanitization (whether eating indoors or outdoors) will continue with the regular practice of sanitizing each table after every meal. This sanitization will also include sanitizing chairs after meals. Increased sanitization will include sanitizing light switches and door handles of all buildings being used after high use times (meals, free time, etc.).

While we are limiting the use of shared items at camp this year, we recognize there will be shared items. Those shared items (saddles/bridles of horses, bows/arrows, rifles, balls, life jackets, etc.) will be sanitized each time between camper use.

If we are in green phase and hosting overnight camps, all mattresses and bunk beds will continue to be sanitized after each camper use, as has been our regular practice.

Food Preparation and Service

The kitchen staff will continue to prepare each meal using the Food Safety guidelines given by the Erie County Health Department. The staff will also be using gloves and face shields when preparing foods and handling dishes each day.

During mealtimes, we will shift our serving to individually plated meals cafeteria-style, instead of serving family style or using buffet lines. Meals will be served by staff members wearing gloves and face shields and standing behind plexiglass barriers. Drinks will be managed by staff members to minimize shared contact of pitchers. Campers will clear their own place settings to the dishroom to avoid touching another person's dishes.

Campers will be seated within their herds, keeping those groups together throughout mealtime. We'll be seating fewer people at each table to allow for more social distancing options.

Please contact WLD Ranch if you have any questions about our COVID-19 Response Plan.