

Dear Families and Friends of Camp Stella Maris,

We hope this email finds you well. We'd hoped that by now we might have something new to share with you, but at this point we are still waiting on guidance.

A bit of perspective

Governor Cuomo has just extended the stay at home order for another 30 days, to May 15th. A lot has changed in the past 30 days, and 30 days from now, we expect things will look very different from today. We know that New York State has been working on a plan to slowly reopen businesses and loosen stay at home restrictions, and we hope that this happens in time for CSM to operate safely.

Change

We know that childcare will be at the top of the list for the decision-makers guiding the potential reopening of New York State. We also know that any summer camp program in 2020 will look different, and must look different, to how we have operated in the past. We are blessed to have hardworking professional staff as well as a strong network of expert connections to provide guidance as we move forward.

Here at CSM, registration for summer 2020 is still open. While we are all working from home, we are still available to take your calls and answer any questions you may have. Please feel free to call our office at (585) 346-2243 during regular working hours.

What about the 2020 camp season?

We know that your campers need what CSM provides, and we're working hard to prepare for every contingency. We also know that once New York is reopened, childcare will be vital to parents returning to work. At this point, nothing has changed, and we are continuing to work hard to prepare for the summer.

Please remember we have revised our payment options and can work out a plan for anyone. We've also revised our term and conditions to answer some of the questions you have had should we have to cancel any sessions. We are grateful that we have had very few cancellations in the past two weeks and are registering new campers. If your family is being challenged financially during this crisis, please reach out to us so that we can help in getting your camper to camp this summer.

Going forward

Our accrediting organization, the American Camp Association (ACA), has had the opportunity to connect with the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as they develop COVID-19 guidance for day and overnight camps for this summer. ACA has also engaged an independent team of public health experts, pediatricians, epidemiologists, and camp health experts to develop educational and operational resources for camps to assist us in adhering to CDC COVID-19 guidance.

We expect the results of these efforts to be available in the coming weeks. We will review guidance documents, educational resources, and best practices with the Livingston County Department of Health and our team and determine the best way forward for our program.

How can you help?

We are grateful to so many of you who have reached out to us to see how you can help. Everyone is struggling financially right now and CSM is no different. Over the past two months we have had to cancel our after-school program, retreats, and our spring teambuilding program. This crisis will have a substantial financial impact on Camp. While this is a hard time to ask for your financial help, it is what we need the most right now. Funds are needed for ongoing operations and facilities maintenance, staff retention, and what we are sure will be a large increase in Campership need this summer. If you can and would like to donate at this time, please visit our online giving page.

<https://www.paypal.com/us/fundraiser/charity/1384275>

Keeping you in the loop

Look for another update from us at the beginning of May. We are grateful that you are willing and able to exercise emotional patience with us during these uncertain times. Thank you for being a part of our family, and for trusting us as we plan and prepare for the safest possible summer for you and your children.

Don't hesitate to reach out with any questions or comments. Stay safe, relish your time together, and hug those precious kids often.

Yours in camping,

John Quinlivan	Executive Director
Jenn Meyers	Camp Director
Karen Bell	Business Manager
Diane Ackerman	Registrar and Camp Consultant
Samantha Carroll	Marketing Director
Chris Viscardi	Director of Group Services
Laura Panipinto	Office Administrator
Dan Vallone	Facilities Manager
Ryan Ellison	Building and Grounds Supervisor
Tara Allison	Cleaner Extraordinaire

