



Marin Council, Boy Scouts of America

Summer Camp Status for Marin Sierra and Tamarancho

Updated – May 27, 2020

First and foremost, we hope that you and your family are well. It goes without saying that we are living through an unprecedented and concerning time that is impacting nearly every facet of our lives.

The safety of all our members, volunteers, and staff is the Marin Council's top priority. That priority has always been central in our careful and informed approach to evaluating whether to run summer camp programs this year. For the last two and a half months, we have been continually monitoring the situation and consulting with health experts, government officials, and other camping professionals to determine if we can run a high-quality camp that safely meets the needs of our campers in light of the current pandemic.

Sadly, we must inform you that, after a thorough review, the council has decided to cancel our resident camp programs at Camp Marin Sierra for the 2020 summer season as well as our day camp programs at Camp Tamarancho. We know camp is an important part of every Scout's summer and this decision was not made lightly.

Our council board, camp leadership, and staff are saddened that we are not able to serve a traditional outdoor summer program at our camps. This is an extraordinarily challenging time unlike anything we have ever experienced. Our hope is we all emerge from this challenging moment stronger than before.

This extremely difficult decision was made by a dedicated group of volunteers, professionals, and camp leadership. We all agreed that we would like to hold summer camp, but the restrictions and uncertainty are too difficult to overcome. Even if we were allowed by government agencies to operate camp, we believe that the changes that would need to be made for this year would greatly jeopardize the high-quality Scout guided open program Scouts have loved or be unworkable for families.

As this is a matter beyond any of our control, we will of course not penalize our campers. If you have already signed up for camp, we have two options regarding paid fees:

- Units currently registered for Camp Marin Sierra or individuals registered for Camp Tamarancho can rollover their paid fees to 2021 and lock in their 2020 pricing for those paid campers. (This would also be applicable for initial Marin Sierra deposits.)

-OR-

- Receive a 100% refund.

We will be sending a separate email to all units and/or individuals that have made payments for the 2020 camp season. That email will contain a form that will detail the refund process and allow you to notify us of your refund preference. If we do not hear from a unit / individual by August 3rd, we will assume you would like a full refund.

As restrictions are lifted and our state and counties allow, we hope to be able to communicate different opportunities for Marin Council Scout families that might allow camping at Marin Sierra as well as Tamarancho. We are exploring the idea of small council programs, as well as unit, family, or individual camping. We know that getting outdoors and camping with your family, friends, and fellow Scouts is a great way to continue our mission of developing citizenship, fitness, character, and leadership.

We recognize that nothing can replace a week at camp but do know we are working on various online program options for Scouts during the summer. We invite you to continue to check the council website or monthly newsletter for updates. Additionally, Marin Council Executive Staff will be reaching out to individual units to offer support through additional program resources.

We hope all our Scouting families stay healthy and positive in our current environment. We have already begun planning camp programs beyond this summer and are proceeding with improvements at our properties that we know you will enjoy when you next visit. We hope you will continue to support us in those efforts and invite you to contribute to the Marin Council so we can be assured we enter the next camping season in a position of financial strength.

Be well. Be Safe. Be Prepared. We will see you soon.

Yours in Scouting,



Michael Dybeck
Scout Executive, CEO
Marin Council, BSA

P.S. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to reach out to me directly at mdybeck@boyscouts-marin.org or 415-454-1081.

