

## Marin Council Summer Camps

### Marin Sierra and Tamarancho Status Update

**April 17, 2020**

Be Prepared! It's a motto we do our best to live by, even in uncertain times.

The Marin Council is preparing for camp this summer – all camps. We are recruiting and hiring staff; we are planning our program; and we are making camp improvements. We are also preparing for heightened health screenings, reviewing accommodations for distancing, and increasing hygiene stations.

We do recognize that we don't know what the future will bring or what restrictions might be placed on organizations like ours. The situation is fluid and depends on the steps all of us make in controlling the spread of the coronavirus and the directives that public health officials deem necessary at the time. We will, as we always have, coordinate with our local health departments, following their lead in delivering a safe camping program for your children, our Scouts.

Our goal is an enriching and safe summer at camp for your Scout; that's what we are preparing for. We would like you to be prepared as well and feel you should know the following:

1. The situation is evolving: The impact we make in combatting COVID-19 is often measured in two-week increments, making it difficult in April to predict where we will stand in June, July, or August. We will do our best to keep everyone updated regarding our camping programs as we receive guidance from either Marin or Nevada County Health Departments. We do not however want to project a decision on these public health professionals and will not close our camps on speculation of what they may or may not advise.

2. We will be safe: Every decision we make considers safety; it always has and always will. While the novel-coronavirus is particularly virulent, the Marin Council has always had procedures in place related to communicable disease as well as many other aspects of health and safety. We will not relax our standards in our drive to conduct camp because we know that a safe camp and a fun camp are not mutually exclusive. We ask our Scouting families and Scouts to abide by that philosophy and never send an ill Scout to camp. We ask all Scouts to be obedient in their protection of the public health.

3. Camp will be different this year: Physical distancing, limitations of participants, increased health checks, and PPE have become part of our life this spring and these will undoubtedly be a part of camp. You should expect that certain camp programs will be modified to decrease physical proximity. We will sometimes not only need to limit participants in camp but also in some program areas. We will routinely conduct temperature checks including insisting that

those be documented before youth even arrive at camp. Depending on the camp, we will likely modify food service so units are eating in campsites as opposed to central dining and reconfigure assemblies and ceremonies to provide more personal space. For Tamarancho we may need to re-evaluate or limit ridership for bus service.


4. We may ask for you to be even more flexible: It may become necessary that in order to operate camps, we may need to limit the number of campers in any given week. We may need to ask units or campers to switch which sessions of camp they attend. While we will first ask for cooperation for voluntary changes, should that not meet our safety requirements, we will reassign units or campers based on a “first come, first served” basis. For those that are unable to accommodate a mandated change to their schedules, we will offer a credit or refund of fees.

5. We will be fair: If by order of public health officials, we are not able to conduct our camps, we will offer units or campers either a full refund or a future credit for camp with a 2020 price lock; those choosing a credit will be exempt from any 2021 fee increases. For circumstances not related to COVID-19, our standard refund policies will still apply.

6. We will continue to Be Prepared!: Should it be necessary to modify our summer camp program we will endeavor to offer alternatives to Scouts and families. While we know that nothing can replace a week at camp, we will do our best to provide ways to keep Scouts engaged during the summer.

The volunteers and staff that conduct Marin Council summer camp programs continue to hope for the best when it comes to the summer of 2020. Until a final decision is reached on the status of camps this summer, we ask for your patience and commit to keeping you informed. We will continue getting ready for a great 2020 camping season because we know this may be the summer that our kids need camp the most.

Yours in Scouting,



Michael Dybeck  
Scout Executive, CEO  
Marin Council, BSA

P.S. Feel free to reach out to me or a member of the Marin Council staff at anytime when it comes to camp. We are happy to answer your questions and open to your input.