



Navigating the Path to 2021

Information surrounding COVID-19 is constantly changing and evolving. This document uses the latest COVID-19 best practices for summer camp published by the CDC and American Camp Association. As information changes and evolves, so too will our plans for the summer to reflect current information.

A Healthy Camp Begins at Home:

Campers will be asked to follow a set of CDC recommended behaviors prior to arrival at camp. This includes good handwashing, wearing face coverings while around others, daily monitoring of health, and avoiding close contact with people outside of your household. While we have not fully settled on the expectations for campers and families prior to arrival, expect it to include precamp-testing, a daily healthy screening, and behaviors consistent with mitigating the spread of Covid-19.

- **Precamp Preparation**

We are asking all staff and campers to utilize appropriate protectionary precautions in the two weeks prior to camp (e.g., wearing a mask in public, avoiding large gatherings, etc.). We are also asking that all staff and campers monitor their symptoms on a daily basis the 14-days prior to camp. You will be required to complete SOAR's COVID-19 14-Day Pre-Camp Symptom Monitoring document and will submit that document upon arrival at camp.

- **Testing**

We are requiring all staff and campers to have testing (PCR test, not antigen test) done prior to arrival at camp. We will continue to monitor testing options and will adjust accordingly.

- **Who Should Not Come?**

We understand this might not be the right summer for your camper to attend camp. If a camper or staff member is at higher risk for COVID-19 complications, we highly recommend they consult their medical provider to assess the risk of attending camp.



- **Arriving to Camp:**

Camp is going to look different this year. When you arrive to camp you will be asked to stay in your vehicles. While we understand that you and your camper may be a little anxious about the fun they are about to experience, we want to assure you that our staff are prepared to help our campers transition into camp. Let's embrace that first step of independence! This will also apply to picking up campers.

- **Inbriefs/Debriefs:**

In order to limit exposure for staff and campers, we will be conducting all in briefs and debriefs via phone the day prior to arrival. This will allow us to have a more detailed conversation during the inbrief and focus on safety during arrival.

- **Travel to Camp**

It is preferred that campers will travel to camp by personal vehicle. If a camper is planning to fly to camp they must wear a face covering and maintain social distancing at all times during travel. In the event of a Covid exposure, families should be able to pick their child up immediately. Please utilize these considerations when traveling to camp.

- Limit your stops
- Make sure you bring all of your required gear
- Wash your hands frequently
- Always wear your mask in public

What is different during camp?:

Creating an environment that fosters personal growth, independence, responsibility, and fun is still our mission. Our typical camp environment will look a little different this year.

Programming

- **Small Group Cohorts**

SOAR's model has always been centered around the use of small group cohorts. For example, Llama Trek Group 1 & Group 2. We will continue to operate in those cohorts as much as possible. When interacting with anyone outside of their cohort (e.g., rafting vendor, activity staff, other courses, etc.), two of the three requirements must be met

- Outside or Open Air Setting
- Wearing Face Coverings
- Distancing Protocols: Six feet of separation minimum



- **Face Coverings**

Campers and Staff will be required to wear face coverings when they are interacting with anyone that is not outside or in an open air setting and six feet of distance cannot be maintained. Here are some face covering policies.

- Face Coverings are required when indoors with and/or interacting with anyone outside of their cohort. Except when seated and eating as long as six feet distance is maintained between cohorts.
- When walking into or out of a group setting like the dining hall.
- Face Coverings are not required within a cohort.

- **Hand Washing/Sanitizing**

SOAR will continue to emphasize regular and thorough handwashing. Handsanitizer will be used when hand washing is not feasible (e.g., some backcountry experiences).

- **Social Distancing**

Small group cohorts will be assigned use areas to avoid interacting with other small groups. When social distancing cannot be maintained between cohorts (e.g., walking through the dining area), masks will be worn. We are creating markers and signs to help our community socially distance from one another.

- **Daily Health Checks**

In addition to our pre camp screening and first day health check, all staff and campers will undergo daily symptom checks to ensure that we are closely monitoring camper and staff health and wellness.

- **Cleaning**

SOAR already utilizes a thorough cleaning schedule which will be increased as needed if there is overlap between group use of areas. We are currently utilizing CDC approved cleaners with an emphasis on those that are the safest for both children and the environment. These include but are not limited to Bathrooms, Activity equipment between groups, group gear between courses, high use areas such as dining hall and other common areas.



- **Hand Washing**

We have created additional handwashing stations separate from bathrooms to allow for proper handwashing of all campers and staff. Campers and staff will be instructed on proper handwashing techniques as well as provided with informative posters regarding hand washing throughout the camp. Each camper will carry their own hand sanitizer in addition to hand sanitizer placed throughout the camp. Hand washing/ sanitizing will happen: before eating, upon entering their cabin, after touching frequently touched surfaces, after using the restroom, after sneezing, coughing, or nose blowing, and after using any shared equipment.

- **Dining Hall**

SOAR is able to utilize outside individual eating areas for the majority of our camp. Our dining halls are currently open air which aids in prevention of Covid -19. When groups utilizing our dining halls or other communal eating areas they will be instructed on the following:

- Washing hands before entering and exiting the space. Hand sanitizer will also be placed at each table.
- Face Coverings will be worn unless seated at their table and eating.
- There will be no self serve areas. Staff members will be serving all food.
- Tables will only be shared among members of a household.

- **Staff**

Staff interviews for 2021 have additional questions regarding Covid-19. All staff must commit to following SOAR's additional guidelines as well as ensuring our campers are also following guidelines. Staff will have additional training where your campers health and safety is our first priority.

- **Response Management of Case or Probable Case**

If a camper or staff becomes ill they will be removed from the group and we will work with local medical professionals to determine the best response. If the person tests positive or is suspected to have COVID-19, we will contact their parent or guardian and ask for them to be picked up immediately.



- **Parent Communication**

SOAR strives to have transparent communication with all parents. We will continue this effort in a thoughtful and thorough manner. Our Director and Course Directors are committed to open communication before, during, and after camp. In addition to our current communication policy found in the parent handbook we will also keep all parents informed throughout each course in regards to COVID testing, isolation, and quarantine measures of their campers and the group. If a camper or staff tests positive for COVID while in our care, we will notify all families and address all additional measures taken to address the situation.

This is not our final operations manual for 2021. As we prepare for the start of camp, we will continue to closely monitor all information and guidance from the CDC and the American Camp Association. Modifications will be based on current and relevant scientific research, CDC, state, and local guidelines. Please let us know if you have any questions regarding any of these protocols or others not listed. Thank you in advance for your cooperation!