



## INTRODUCTION

These are incredibly trying times. We are not epidemiologists, doctors, or medical experts. What we strive to be are fun, compassionate role models and leaders for the next generation of resilient change-makers.

In these challenging times, we are doing our best to provide a joyful connection to nature at Green River Preserve in our loving, nurturing environment to maybe ease the burden of this pandemic on each family's life.

This playbook organizes COVID-19 best practices for summer camp published by the [CDC](#), [American Camp Association](#), the [State of North Carolina](#), as well as multiple discussions we have had with pediatricians, epidemiologists, infectious disease experts, and other camp directors into one place. It is intended to provide camp families and staff with information about how GRP is adapting policies and procedures this summer to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 while at camp. As information changes and evolves, so too, will this playbook to reflect current information. **\*Please check back often.**

While we have worked strongly to adapt programs at GRP to diminish the risk of COVID-19 exposure in camp, it is important to note that there is no way for us to guarantee that COVID-19 will not be present. In fact, we are operating as if the virus *will* enter camp. We intend to run because we believe we can care for campers and staff if they do contract COVID-19, and minimize the risks and spread in our community. That is our commitment to you, our campers, staff, and families. What we need in return is compliance with the safety guidelines. One family or camper not adhering to the guidelines, can jeopardize the safety for all.

Camp will look and feel different this year. But the value of being in a beautiful mountain setting - primarily outdoors - among friends old and new, and participating in fun camp activities are needed more than ever during this challenging year.

**This playbook will outline changes to policies and procedures to help Green River Preserve operate as safely as possible.**

**We ask that all parents/guardians review this playbook with their campers. All staff members must review this playbook prior to staff training.**

## **A NOTE TO OUR GREEN RIVER PRESERVE FAMILIES**

While we are confident in our ability to run camp during a pandemic, it is being done with many changes to camp protocols and to the overall program. Because of those changes, camp may not be appropriate for some individual campers and staff during a pandemic. Each individual and family must decide if camp, modified as detailed in the pages to follow, is the right fit.

## **Green River Preserve Summer 2021 COVID-19 Policies and Procedures**

The following pages outline the intended procedures to be followed by Green River Preserve in order to operate residential summer camp and expeditions for the summer of 2021. These plans are developed with the intention of minimizing risk of exposure to, and outbreak of, COVID-19. It is impossible to know what our world will look like on June 6, 2021, when we open our camp gates; however, we feel confident with these policies and procedures in place we can handle challenges that come our way. This does not serve as a guarantee of the exact implication of the procedures outlined below and may be modified or suspended in part and entirely in response to new information.

At the recommendation of the American Camp Association and the CDC, we have devised a three-part safety protocol: Prevention, Detection, and Response. Our approach will be focused on pre-camp screening and testing, daily symptom screening, extensive use of outdoor spaces, cohorting by cabin groups, doubling our daily cleaning, constant hand-washing and vigilant hygiene, wearing masks in vehicles and indoor spaces, and physically distancing when and where appropriate.

## **Guiding Principles**

Green River Preserve has adopted 10 guiding principles in our approach to COVID-19. They are:

- Outdoors Programming
- Masking
- Cohorting (e.g. cabin “families”)
- Distancing
- Quarantining
- Testing
- Protecting the Bubble
- Sanitizing
- Rethinking and Empowering
- Communicating

## **PREVENTION PROTOCOLS BEFORE CAMP**

In order to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 being brought into camp, we will ask all campers and staff to take additional safety measures in the two weeks prior to their arrival. We may change these procedures at any time as we continue to review the latest data and guidance from public health officials.

### **Self-Quarantine**

In order to ensure no one is arriving at camp carrying the virus, we are requiring the CDC-recommended 10 day [self-quarantine](#) for all campers and staff prior to the start of their travel to camp. For staff, self-quarantine should begin on May 15 (for a May 25 camp arrival). For campers, self-quarantine should begin ten days prior to your session start date. During quarantine, campers and staff should restrict [contact](#) to members of the household only. All household members should adhere to the same rules. We understand that you may not be able to avoid work or grocery shopping, but we would ask for your extra care with masking, washing, etc., during these times. We ask you to plan ahead and minimize interactions with those outside your household: cook meals in advance, grocery store pick up at the curb, etc.

**\*If your camper has any plans that would prevent a thorough quarantine, please contact us. We want to make sure we are on the same page and have all of the information to keep our bubble safe.**

### **Temperature and Symptom Monitoring**

During the 10 day self-quarantine, all camp parents should log daily temperatures of their camper. Campers and staff members should self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms. There will be a Temperature and Symptom Monitoring form available in your CampInTouch account to print out and complete prior to camp that will be reviewed by our camp medical professionals to certify compliance with this policy.

### **Non-Essential travel**

All campers and staff should avoid any [high risk spaces or travel situations](#) including dining at restaurants, traveling in a car with people not in your household, going to large gatherings, etc for the 10 days of self-quarantine. If travel outside of the home is absolutely necessary, a face mask should be worn at all times, as well as safety measures to social distance.

### **What about Flights?**

Campers may fly to and from camp; but, they must remain distant and masked throughout the process. In order to keep interaction with the public to a minimum, we

recommend that you pack food, snacks and a refillable water bottle for your travel. Please wash hands and sanitize whenever possible.

## **COVID-19 Tests**

Approximately 2-5 days prior to departing for camp, all campers and staff must complete a PCR COVID-19 test and submit the results to camp. Campers and staff must provide proof of a negative PCR COVID-19 test from this timeframe in order to travel to camp. Everyone is required to provide proof of a negative test, even if they have previously contracted COVID-19 and recovered.

Campers and staff can get tested via:

- A local health department, health care system, your local Walgreens or CVS, or their primary care provider
- GRP is working on partnering with a lab for testing. Stay tuned for details!

After a test is conducted, the camper or staff should have no contact with anyone outside of their immediate household.

\*Please be aware of the average number of days it takes to receive results from PCR tests in your area. Since test turnaround times can vary by jurisdiction and disease burden, please ensure you plan for your test with enough time to receive your results before the start of your camp session.

If a member of the GRP community exhibits COVID-19 symptoms in the 10 days prior to camp or tests positive for COVID-19 they will not be permitted to join us at camp for that session. We will work with the camper's family to try and accommodate the camper for a later session in the summer. We understand how much campers love camp and we want to share the GRP experience with them; but, it is critical that anyone who exhibits symptoms or tests positive stays home for the safety of the entire GRP community.

## **Pre-Camp Forms**

All camp attendees will be required to submit a medical history form, including Immunization History, ongoing health conditions (ex: allergies, asthma, etc) and notable historical conditions one month prior to camp. This information is required each summer and it is critical we have it on time for 2021.

In addition, a COVID-19 Permission To Treat, COVID Log, and Medical History Forms specific to COVID-19 will be required prior to arrival. All camper forms can be accessed through your CampInTouch account.

## **PREVENTION: DURING CAMP**

All modified camp rules and procedures will be announced to all campers during the first day of camp, including hand washing and sanitizing procedures, ground rules for cabin “families”, when masks will be required, etc. We will also hold Zoom chats before the summer to go over all of these rules and procedures, as well as answer any questions from our campers at that time.

### **Check In/Check Out**

- Check in and check out will follow a staggered arrival pattern. Details and more specifics will be communicated in advance as we get closer to the summer.
- Staff, parents, and campers will all be required to wear masks during the check-in process.
- Parents/guardians will be limited to their vehicle and the parking area during check in. Because covid has shown to have adverse effects on folks 65 and older, please be thoughtful about who you bring to camp.
- Upon parking, parents/guardians will complete a screening form inside the vehicle and the camper’s temperature will be checked while inside the car by camp staff.
  - Campers who have a temperature over 100.4 degrees fahrenheit, show COVID-19 symptoms, or have been exposed to COVID-19 in the previous 10 days will not be permitted to exit the vehicle nor remain at camp.
- Once the initial screening process is complete, campers may exit the vehicle with their 10 day Health Monitoring Form and their Negative PCR test results form. These are the golden tickets to camp, without them your camper cannot stay.
- Parents or guardians will be able to hand off any medications to camp staff. Please have medications labeled clearly with name, prescription, dose amount, and time of delivery (breakfast, lunch, dinner, or evening) sealed in a ziplock bag.
- A staff member will take your child to their cabin to help them unpack and settle in. Parents will not be able to accompany campers to the cabins this year.
- We will facilitate communication between families and camp staff prior to opening day so you have the opportunity to virtually meet your camper’s counselors and communicate with them. Additionally, if you need to speak to our medical staff or our Dining Director about anything, we will facilitate these conversations.
- Staff who assist campers in moving their luggage and other materials will wash their hands before and after touching camper belongings.

We know how much you want to meet your child’s counselors and cabinmates, or perhaps just get a camp tour, and we are so sorry that we will not be able to do these

things this summer. But rest assured, we will make them feel welcomed and at home; and, you can count on us to give you a call if there are any concerns.

## **What Will Daily Life Look Like?**

Camp will look different this summer, but our target will be the heart of our mission: a joyful connection to nature.

- Cabin Families: A cabin family is an entire cabin building, usually with 4 staff and 12-14 campers. These will operate pretty much the same as they always have. Cabins will be our campers' primary family with unstructured interaction and relaxed social distancing. During meal times, shower times and bedtime, campers and staff will interact with their cabin family only.
- Neighborhoods: A Neighborhood is a group of cabins with about fifty people. Neighborhoods will interact with each other throughout the day, attending larger activities together like free time or group games, etc. There will be more thoughtful distancing in these groups, with face coverings being worn when we do not feel distancing or being outside is realistic.
- Campers will go on mentor hikes throughout the session in their cabin family group. All the highlights will still happen, so get ready to Polar Bear, sit quietly in the cave, and take a deep breath on top of the Balds.
- Campers and staff will travel to and from most mentor hikes on buses. We will limit the number of families per bus, space families out by a minimum of 6 feet, masks will be worn, and windows will be open.
- Campers will attend activities with their cabin family. This is distinct from our regular activity schedule. Rather than each camper having a custom schedule, families will be rotating through a set of activities. For 2 and 3 week campers, families will choose between several options available to their cohort for GLP (group learning project) days. We will also work to help campers with special interests spend more time in those activities.
- We will still have our upper and lower council fires and other traditional evening programs. Families will sit and participate together, appropriately distanced from other families during these events.

## **Expeditions**

Expeditions will operate similarly to base camp, existing in their families. All policies and procedures listed above for base camp apply to expeditions. When traveling to and from trail heads, expeditioners will be masked in vehicles with the windows rolled down.

When preparing food for the group, expeditioners will be masked and gloved and use sanitation guidelines. Gear will be sanitized daily and after each individual use.

Expeditions will operate as their own bubble and will avoid contact with the public while in wilderness areas.

## **Staff**

We see staff as an especially important group to manage. They are an exceptional group of young adults, and they are also very socially engaged. Staff will be at camp 2 weeks prior to our first session. We plan to learn all things camp and quarantine in a fun environment.

- Staff will be tested prior to and upon arrival to camp and test results will be received before campers are on property.
- If a staff member tests positive then they will be removed from property, or not permitted to arrive on property, until they have been quarantined 10 days since their test date and have a letter from a physician stating that they are no longer able to spread COVID.
- With few exceptions, staff will remain on property during their time off. This may change as we move into the later summer but otherwise we want to limit their exposure to the Brevard and Hendersonville communities. Staff will remain socially distant from other staff outside their families and where this is not possible (while driving, etc.), they will wear face coverings.
- Camp will organize supply days and pick-ups for staff.
- Staff have additional policies and procedures tailored to them to keep our community safe.

## **A Closed Community - The Imperfect Bubble**

No one thing we do will protect our campers completely, but each adds a layer of security. We also understand that none of these layers can be done perfectly, which is why having multiple layers is important. A relatively closed community will be an especially important layer, and it is something that will make camp better too. We will avoid camper trips into the public, but we will take trips to wilderness destinations where we are not likely to have public interaction. We will allow no visitors on camp, including families. The only people allowed on property will be food deliveries and other essential service workers, and these will be monitored by our administrative staff.

## **Daily Screening**

We will conduct [daily health screenings](#) for both campers and staff. These will be similar to those you will conduct at home before campers arrive. This will include temperature checks and questions; any campers noting the following will be taken to the infirmary.

- Cough
- Shortness of breath
- Chills
- Muscle pain
- Headache
- Sore Throat
- Loss of taste or smell
- Diarrhea
- Feeling feverish or a measured temperature equal to or greater than 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit

## **Outside, Masked, & Distanced - 2 of 3**

The most important philosophy that we have adopted to mitigate the potential spread of COVID-19 at camp is to be: Outside, Masked, & Distanced. For any cross-family interactions, campers and staff should observe at least two of the three following rules: wear a mask, be outdoors, be socially distanced (at least 6 feet apart). Not all three options are created equal. Being outdoors is the most important when possible and we will try to be outdoors as much as possible. Additionally, all of our camp buildings have screens and open air-flow. We see this as extremely advantageous to creating an outdoor/indoor environment in camp.

### **Mask Use**

There will be times when we will need to wear masks to keep ourselves and our friends safe. We anticipate doing so in the following situations:

- When indoors with anyone outside of our cabin family
- When interacting within six feet of anyone outside our cabin family
- Whenever singing
- Riding on the bus
- While walking into or out of group settings
- While on the Health Hut porch or in the building unless medical staff advise otherwise

Additionally, staff will wear face coverings when interacting within the personal space of a camper outside of their Family (i.e. the camper could easily reach out and touch them) for more than two minutes.

- For example, while placing a harness on a camper, a staff member from a different cabin will wear a mask. Once the staff member is no longer in the camper's personal space, the mask may be removed.

### **Masks will NOT be required when:**

- Campers and/or staff are located inside their own cabins.
- Campers and/or staff are outdoors and more than 6 feet apart from members of other families.
- Campers and/or staff are seated at their table in the lodge and eating.
- Campers and/or staff are taking showers.
- Campers and/or staff are taking part in waterfront activities (swimming, ziplining, canoeing, etc.)

Face coverings will not be as prevalent during outdoor activities but should still be used when social distancing is difficult to maintain.



## **Distancing Protocols**

- Campers and staff within a cabin family will limit interactions with members of other cabin families
- To the extent that they must interact, members of different cabin families will do so with at least 6 feet of separation when possible.
- If members of different cabin families must interact in close proximity (such as staff member instructing campers outside of their cabin family), the following will be one:
  - They will wear a face mask
  - They will consciously minimize the duration of this interaction.

## **Cleaning, Handwashing, and Sanitization Procedures**

GRP will significantly increase its cleaning, handwashing, and sanitization procedures this summer. Every table in the Lodge and picnic tables will have a large pump of hand sanitizer. Door knobs, handles, and other commonly touched areas will be wiped with antibacterial spray frequently. Bathrooms and shared spaces will be cleaned and sanitized multiple times per day.

We will follow the concept of “**sanitize in and sanitize out**”. One counselor per cabin will carry a backpack at all times that contains hand sanitizer and disinfectant spray to sanitize activity equipment before AND after use, especially shared camp equipment like life jackets, canoe paddles, climbing gear, fishing poles, bows and arrows, etc. Campers also will use hand sanitizer to sanitize their hands after using shared camp equipment.

Every building around camp where an activity is held, as well as high use outdoor equipment, will have a spray bottle of disinfectant and/or a hand sanitizer pump. Every camp vehicle will also have spray bottles of sanitizer.

## **Personal Hygiene**

At the beginning of each session, staff members will train campers on behaviors and precautions they should abide by to prevent the spread of COVID-19, including:

- How and when to effectively wash and sanitize hands
- How to practice physical distancing in various settings (Lodge, activity spaces, cabins, etc)
- Face covering policy
- Which symptoms to look out for and when to report them and to whom.
- Coughing etiquette.

## **Hand Hygiene**

- We will add additional hand washing facilities throughout camp.
- We will have hand sanitizer stations near the entrance of each building and activity area. We will ask campers and staff to use these upon entering and exiting.

## **Shower Time**

There will be designated times for the campers to use the wash house to shower.

Campers should not share bathroom supplies (towels, soap, toothbrushes, etc.).

Campers need to bring their own supplies and a container for toiletries to be stored in for the duration of camp.

## **Meals and Food Service**

This summer, there will be a handful of adjustments made to Green River Preserve's meal time procedures. This is one of our biggest areas of concern and one where we are truly re-imagining the wheel. We will continue to develop this area and nail down specifics. As of now, this is what we do know.

We have a lot of beautiful outdoor spaces on our property- both covered and open to the elements. Our hope is to have as many meals outside in camper families as possible. All meals will be prepared and served by trained food service staff. We also anticipate fun additions like picnic breakfasts, fire campout dinners, and of course a healthy supply of s'mores.

When rain or other weather prohibits us from eating outdoors, we will eat safely in our lodge. Campers will remain in their cabin family in the lodge and be spaced out between other cabin families. Campers and staff will enter and exit the lodge through a designated door. The salad bar, rice and bean bar, and additional options will still be available but will be served by trained food staff. Campers will be allowed to remove their masks once they are seated and served at the table and have sanitized their hands.

## **Additional Kitchen and Meal Notes**

- Our Kitchen Manager will screen food service employees and assess their symptoms prior to starting work each day.
- We will encourage diners to maintain physical distancing between themselves and others while in line for their meals.
- All campers and staff will wash their hands prior to entering the lodge or eating outside. In addition to proper hand washing prior to every meal, we will have hand sanitizer on each table.

- All campers and staff will bring their own water bottle to all meals.

## **Testing at Camp**

It is our sincere hope that we will be able to conduct rapid tests at camp. We foresee this as advantageous if a camper or staff member is symptomatic and it will provide another layer of protection for our community. If we secure testing, we may also ask campers and staff who fly to camp to test a few days into the session. We will keep you posted on this section as we learn more.

## **RESPONSE**

### **Emergency Procedures**

Procedures will be modified as much as possible to allow for social distancing of groups. However, the immediate health and safety of all campers and staff will be prioritized in situations of a missing camper, lost swimmer, fire, severe weather, or other critical emergency.

### **Response for Suspected Case or Probable Case**

In addition to standard health procedures, the following additions and modifications will be made to minimize COVID-19 risk.

The Health Hut will have three distinct areas for camper rest and treatment.

1. The Health Hut porch and daybeds for campers that are clearly non-viral. This will include individuals exhibiting symptoms that are consistent with existing medical history (ex. Rash from skin reaction).
2. A room for campers exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 that are not consistent with existing medical history but could have alternative diagnosis (ex. strep throat).
3. A room for campers with convincing symptoms of COVID-19 and who are therefore scheduled to leave camp.

If a camper or staff member is suspected to have COVID-19 symptoms, they will be immediately taken to the designated quarantine room and the medical staff will be notified.

If a camper has convincing symptoms

- GRP medical staff will determine the need for testing
  - If testing is necessary, the individual will be quarantined away from others

- Contract tracing will begin by camp leadership staff and anyone who that individual may have been in close contact with may also need to quarantine, pending a negative COVID-19 test
- If a camper is tested for COVID-19 and their test comes back positive, parents will be notified and asked to pick up the child within twelve hours.
- We will begin evaluating the others in the camper's cabin three times a day and ask our medical staff to recommend when/if it is safe for them to return to their larger Neighborhood. We will make fun adjustments to these campers daily activities to ensure they are outside and quarantined from others. Parents of these campers will be notified.
- We may also choose to 1) test the campers in that cabin, or 2) send those campers home.

If a staff member has convincing symptoms:

- We will have them isolate or leave the property.
- They will not be permitted to return to work until all three of the following criteria are met:
  - At least 24 hours have passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications) AND
  - Improvement of symptoms (coughing, shortness of breath, etc) AND
  - At least 10 days have passed since the individual first had symptoms
- If the staff member has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and wants to return to work before completing the above isolation period, they must obtain a medical professional's note clearing them for return based on a negative PCR COVID-19 test and an alternative diagnosis.

## **Parent Communication**

### **Pre-Camp**

- We will provide multiple forms of communication (emails, zoom calls, and videos) to break down our protocols and discuss specifics for camp this summer.
- We are committed to revising our protocols and procedures over the next couple of months as we learn more about the virus.

### **During Camp**

- We will keep parents and guardians up to date on COVID-19 as it relates to our camp. We will report confirmed cases as well as the camp's response.
- If we make the decision to dismiss a camper or end camp early due to COVID-19 related concerns, we will communicate these plans with families.

## **After Camp**

While it will be exciting to welcome home campers and staff after camp, we strongly recommend that parents and guardians limit who interacts with the returning camper or staff member for two weeks. This includes anyone in the aforementioned High Risk group and anyone over the age of 65 who is unvaccinated (sorry, grandparents!).

If your camper exhibits COVID-19 symptoms or tests positive within 14 days of returning home, please contact camp immediately so we can take appropriate measures to contact trace and inform other camp families as necessary.

## **RESOURCES**

The following resources were used to compile this playbook:

[American Camp Association](#)

[Center for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

[North Carolina Guidance for Summer Camps](#)

[North Star Camp for Boys](#)

Camp Newaygo

Camp Tannadoonah

Camps Merri-Mac and Timberlake

Camp Alleghany

Outward Bound

NOLS

This book was reviewed by our team and the following:

- Dr. Allison Abramson, Camp Parent and Infectious Disease Epidemiologist at Emory; Director, Emory COVID-19 Response Collaborative
- Dr. Anna Bauer, Camp Parent and Genetic and Reproductive Epidemiologist at UNC Chapel Hill School of Medicine

## **THANKS**

Thank you for taking the threat of COVID-19 seriously.

Thank you for quarantining before camp.

Thank you for sharing the new policies and procedures with your campers and making sure they understand them.

Thank you for reading.

**Yours in Camping,  
GRP**