

EVANS LAKE SUMMER CAMP 2020 UPDATE

This year would have been Evans Lake's 60th year of summer camp—a milestone we are quite proud of and were really excited to celebrate. Unfortunately, COVID-19 had other plans. **It is with a heavy heart that I announce that Evans Lake's Overnight Summer Camp is cancelled for the 2020 season.** Please rest assured that this decision was not made lightly -- it was made after extensive research was done, on all possible options for operating overnight camp safely.

For the past few months, our team has worked diligently exploring every which way to make summer camp happen due to the pandemic. Along with the BC Camps Association, we created a robust re-opening plan for overnight camps, following guidelines provided by WorkSafe BC, the Ministry of Health and various industry sectors related to camps. We shared our proposal with Dr. Bonnie Henry, via the team at the BC Centre for Disease Control.

Last week, the decision was reached that "***the risk to public health this summer of overnight camps is too great to endorse...***" and that "***...day camps be considered as a safer alternative under the current circumstances.***" Unfortunately, this wasn't the answer we were hoping for, but we respect our Public Health Officer's decision, as our campers' and staff's wellbeing is our top priority.

These have been very challenging times at Evans Lake and our team has met each and every challenge with creativity, a positive attitude, and a determination to try to make camp happen for your kids. Thank you for your patience and support as we worked to find answers. Thank you to our summer staff team who patiently stood by while we came to this decision. They too love their summers at Evans Lake and will feel the loss of not being immersed in this joyful experience. A huge thank you to our onsite team who has worked hard to prepare camp for the upcoming season, completing so much on a very restricted budget. And of course, a thank you to Conor and Mollie, our Program Team leaders who seamlessly shifted gears with each new announcement over the past 10 weeks, rolling with the constant changes and creating new paths forward.

Having a summer at Evans Lake without overnight camp is so hard to imagine and truly heartbreaking for us all. We will miss seeing all our returning campers, and the joy in meeting all the new ones. **Please let your kids know that we tried very hard and we will miss them very much.** But to reiterate what Dr. Bonnie Henry often says, "***Remember, this is not forever. We're going to get through this***".

Detailed instructions to cancel are noted below.

Sending you all warm wishes for a safe and healthy summer.

Sincerely,



Lauren Marghetti, Executive Director
Evans Lake Forest Education Society

P.S. Based on the recommendation by Dr. Henry and her team, we are now **exploring a Day Camp program for summer 2020. This would be a modified version of our awesome overnight camp experience.** More details will be communicated in the coming week.

CAMP IS CANCELLED, WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR REQUEST TO REFUND, DEFER, OR DONATE YOUR CAMP FEES

In order for us to manage these requests from over 700 families, we need to utilize our camp registration software.

Please log back into your account to complete a "SUMMER 2020 CANCELLATION FORM" for each child registered for camp. Completing this form is the best way to communicate how you would like to move forward with your current registration. We ask that you submit this form online to us by June 05, 2020 so our team can process the request accordingly.

If your child is waitlisted for a session, no further action is required.

OPTIONS FOR YOUR CAMP FEES

Families who have paid a deposit or full camp fees for 2020 may choose from the following options:

1) FULL CREDIT TOWARDS A FUTURE CAMP SESSION

Keep the fees you have paid in your family account to be used towards future camp programs, including 2020 Day Camp. Credits do not expire and can be transferred between immediate family members. *Families who choose this option will have access to priority registration for the 2021 season.*

2) PARTIAL CREDIT TOWARDS A FUTURE CAMP SESSION

Keep 50% of the fees you have paid to date in your family account to be used towards future camp programs, including 2020 Day Camp AND have the remainder either refunded OR choose to make a donation back to camp. Credits do not expire and can be transferred between immediate family members. *Families who choose this option will have access to early registration for the 2021 season.*

3) FULL REFUND

Receive a full refund of fees paid to date.

4) DONATE FEES TO EVANS LAKE

As Evans Lake is a not-for-profit charity, these times have been difficult for us. Many families in our community, recognizing our charitable status, have generously reached out asking how they can help, and this option definitely helps. Our work for summer camp began back in September of last year. By donating to camp you help offset much of the expenditures that have already been incurred preparing for the season, including \$12,000 in credit card fees that are not recoverable. All families who do donate will receive a tax receipt for the full amount. *Families who choose this option will have access to priority registration for the 2021 season.*

If you would like to donate outside of these options, please go to evanslake.campbraingiving.com.

Note: All refunds will be processed in the coming months as we have 800 campers to process cancellations for. We hope families can understand that we are operating at reduced staffing levels and we will need time to process all these requests.

HOW TO LOG BACK INTO YOUR ACCOUNT TO COMPLETE THIS FORM

Here are the steps to complete this required form:

- 1) go to [our registration portal](#) or <http://evanslake.campbrainregistration.com>;

- 2) log in using your user name and password;
- 3) under “*View My Registrations;*”
- 4) click on “*View Details*” for 2020 Summer Camp;
- 5) a page will open up that shows a “*Summary*” of your account on the left side of the screen, and “*Forms*” on the right side of the screen;
- 6) under the “*Forms*” section, for each child registered, click on “*SUMMER CAMP CANCELLATION REQUEST FORM;*”
- 7) complete all the information required in this form; and
- 8) finally, click on “*Complete this Form*” to submit it.

If you forgot your password, on the home screen, under the “Login” button is a “Reset password” link. Click this link and we will send you an email to reset your password.

WINTER CAMP 2020

For now, we do not know the status of our winter camp program. As we move into the fall season, we will be able to analyze how schools are operating, and know what restrictions are in place to determine whether winter camp is feasible. We will update you in late September, as we gather more information.

CONTACT US

Our head office remains closed at this time, with our team working remotely. If you have questions, please call and leave us a voicemail, or [email us](#). We typically respond within 1-2 business days. We do anticipate an increased volume of inquiries, so we ask for your patience at this time.

Office hours: Monday to Friday, 9:00 am – 4:30 pm PST

Office phone: (604) 294-2267

Email: info@evanslake.com

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

We want to thank you for your patience over the past two months as we worked through this. Your support and kind words have really resonated and propelled us through these challenging times. We look forward to the day we can welcome your family back to Evans Lake. Until then, do follow us on social media ([Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) & [Instagram](#)), as we will be reminiscing of summers past, and sharing snaps of an Evans Lake summer without our overnight campers.

With Appreciation,

Your Evans Lake Team
Evans Lake Team