

Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Summer 2020 at Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp

My camper is signed up for camp this summer, will they be able to come?

Well, not in the way you had planned. The FLBC Board of Directors voted on May 26th to cancel our traditional onsite summer youth programs, day camps and offsite programs. This decision did not come easily, but we feel that it is the best way FLBC can adhere to our local and state recommendations regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. The BOD also voted to implement small group style retreating for the summer, which may be something you're interested in- read more to find out what that might look like.

What happens to the payment I made?

FLBC Staff are reaching out to all registered campers to discuss next steps. There are several options, including rolling over your payment to Summer 2021 or a retreat in 2020, donating a portion or all of your payment, or refunding all or part of your payment (or a combination!). If you choose to roll over your payment, that money stays as a credit on your camper's account, and can be applied to any camping or retreat program in 2021.

Will there be onsite programming this year?

Yes! But it will look much different than years past. Instead of traditional youth camping, we will be hosting small group & family style retreats onsite this summer. Family and group retreats can be booked through the FLBC office (406-752-6602). Our office staff will work with you to schedule your time at camp- 2 overnights, or 1 week, it's up to you (minimum one overnight required). Once at camp, groups will be assigned personal cabins & bathrooms, and will be expected to adhere to safe distancing practices & sanitation protocols. Staff will facilitate camp activities such as worship, boating, low ropes, swimming, archery, arts & crafts, etc. and you can choose to do as much or as little as you'd like. Each family or group will have a staff person assigned to them, and will work with you to plan your experience. For example, if you are not interested in going to large group worship, our staff can give you resources or lead one for your family.

What's the difference? People are still onsite, right?

As the FLBC BOD made this decision, they heard opinions and wisdom from dozens of sources, including but not limited to the CDC guidelines on camping, the American Camping Association, EPA recommendations on cleaning practices, our Flathead County Health Dept, etc. We strive to mitigate risk as best we can, understanding that there is no 100% safe practice in this case. We believe that keeping staff and guests at a distance, as well as cutting down on the number of intercommunity contacts will help mitigate risk and keep guests and staff safer this summer. Traditional youth camping means that staff are in cabins with campers, and that campers are coming from many different communities, all in one cabin; the small group/ family retreat model provides an answer to some of those concerns.

Will it be safe to gather at camp?

The novel Coronavirus pandemic is unlike any challenge of our lifetimes. FLBC is committed to listening to, learning from and adhering to safety and cleanliness protocols from our local

Flathead County Health Department, the CDC, the American Camping Association and the state of Montana. FLBC staff will be trained in sanitation and cleaning practices that will occur constantly while staff and guests are at camp. Equipment, surfaces, balls- everything will be sanitized before and after every use. Guests and staff will be asked to self-monitor for any COVID-19 symptoms for two weeks prior to their time at camp and daily checks will take place while onsite. Anyone with ANY illness symptoms will be asked to leave immediately. Meal times will be staggered, if there are over 50 people in camp, and many meals will be eaten outside to eliminate close contact spaces. Distancing practices will be in place for all guests and staff. Guests will be encouraged to help the camp out by bringing their own sanitizer.... (so, you always have some with you) and also to bring a mask, (in case we need to be inside on a rainy day for Bible Study, worship etc. (or you can buy a cool FLBC one in our camp store!) All guests will also be asked to adhere to strict cleanliness routines for the good of the community.

Registration happens 7 days a week from 3:30-5:00pm for pre-registered families and groups. At registration, each person will turn in their pre-screening form, as well as being screened by our medical staff.

Sounds good, I'm in! What's next?

Gather up your group- it could be your family, your Girl Scout troop, your church youth group, women's group etc.- and pick a date that you'd like to arrive at camp. Contact the office at office@flbc.net or 406-752-6602 and our office staff will assist you in booking your dates, keeping track of any allergies or food restrictions, and getting you all the information you might need for your time at camp, including a daily schedule so you can begin thinking about what you'd like to do while you're at FLBC. We look forward to greeting you this summer! Watch for the latest updates, and FAQ updates on our web site at www.flbc.net

Sample Schedule for Summer 2020:

Daily Schedule for Groups and Families (note this is our basic schedule; each group or family will be assigned an FLBC staff person who will assist you in planning your time at camp!)

Summer 2020

7:30 am: Wake Up Bell

8:00 am: Breakfast (may be staggered, depending on # of guests)
(Sundays: 10 am Brunch/ 11 am Worship)

9:15 am: Worship (outdoor, distancing in place)

10:00 am: Program blocks begin- Groups will be pre scheduled for activities such as archery, art barn, canteen, nature center, swimming, boating, bible study, etc.

12:15 pm: Take out Lunch pick up begins

1:00 pm: Program Blocks continue

5:30 pm: Dinner (may be staggered, depending on # of guests)

6:30 pm: Evening Activity (with your staff person, or distanced in groups)

8:00 pm: Evening Campfire (outdoor, distancing in place)

8:30 pm: Evening snack and free time