



*Updated 5/20/2020*

## **Special Camp Session: June 8-26 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

### **How will the new camp session be structured?**

This special camp session will run from June 8-26. Families are required to commit to the entire three-weeks of the session, and campers will remain in the same pod of children with the same staff throughout the entire session. We are offering an array of options in hopes of meeting the varying needs of our community, including full-day and half-day City-Run and Specialty options for all grades.

### **What is a "Pod"?**

A pod refers to a group of 12 or less campers who will remain together for the entire three-week session, and do not intermix with other pods of campers. Each pod will be led by staff or instructors dedicated specifically to that group. Pods can be thought of as your camp "household." Children should only participate in one pod during this time including non-El Cerrito programs.

### **Who is eligible to register for the special camp session?**

The County has clarified that in a household where at least one parent/guardian is allowed to work, including from home, the child is eligible to attend camp.

### **I want my child and their friend/sibling to be in the same camp. How do I do that?**

For siblings or friends to be together, they must be enrolled in the same pod, for the same time slot. Please coordinate directly with family/friends to ensure you are enrolling in the same pod. We will not be able to accommodate transfer or special requests. A mixed age K-6 camp that will keep siblings together is offered and highly recommended where feasible to keep households contained as much as possible. Keep in mind that space in pods is limited due to the 12-camper allowed maximum.

### **I don't want to register for the special session, I just want to cancel my camp registration.**

No problem! Administrative staff have credited everyone's household for weeks 1-3 this week. You do not have to register for the special summer camp session, just leave the credit on your account to use for any other program the Recreation Department offers. If this presents a financial hardship, please contact us for a refund.

### **When can I register for these camps?**

Registration for this special camp session opens Tuesday, May 19, 2020 at 5pm. This program is currently intended for families who were previously enrolled for a City of El Cerrito camp during weeks 1-3, and we ask that on the honor system, the general public refrain from enrolling until **Thursday, May 21, 2020**. Prior to registration, please carefully review the Parent Handbook.

**Where will camp be offered?**

Camps will be offered at different locations throughout the City to maximize physical distancing. Most camps will spend the majority of time outside in nature with the same group of friends and staff that will be both physically and socially distant and enable greater building of friendships. Locations will be assigned based on enrollment.

**How do I register for the special summer camp session?**

Registration will be available online at [el-cerrito.org/onlineereg](http://el-cerrito.org/onlineereg) beginning Tuesday May 19, 2020 at 5pm. Camp names and activity numbers are in the attached schedule.

**What if I register then need to cancel?**

Because of the strict guidelines with the County and State health orders, once you register for camp, we will not allow any cancellations or transfers except for medical reasons.

**How much will this new camp cost?**

City run camps are \$705 for Residents and \$881 for Non-Residents for the special 3-week session. The partial days for the age groups are \$450 for Residents and \$506 for Non-Residents for all three weeks. Specialty Camp prices vary and can be found listed with the camp description on the camp schedule. These prices generally reflect the 10% discount that was offered in February.

**Can I register for more than one camp?**

Current health directives and programming guidelines, along with County and State orders, require that children be in the same camp (with the same fixed pod of 12 children or less) and not switch camps every week. Therefore, each child will only be allowed to register for one camp, even if it is a partial day camp.

**I had extended care for my child, which I still need. What can I do?**

Everything that you originally registered for during weeks 1-3, including extended care, has been cancelled and credited back to your account. Because of County and State orders, all camps will have to adhere to strict drop-off and pick-up times to stagger congregation and maintain physical distance. Unfortunately, Early Bird and Late Bird options are no longer available.

**What will my kid do if they aren't able to swim or go on field trips during camp? Won't they be bored?**

Don't worry, we are still making camp F.U.N.! Each day will be filled with physically distanced games, crafts and projects, plus there will be time for learning camp-style! It is sad that the pool will not be open during the special camp session, and field trips not offered, but your kids will still get a great camp experience!

**What if the guidelines and orders change between now and June 8<sup>th</sup>?**

While we are very hopeful that restrictions and limitations will ease over time, we had to make an official decision about camps. The safest decision we could make was to proceed based on current guidelines (*as of May 11, 2020*). If the guidelines or orders do change, we will still run the special camp session as planned and described, but we will evaluate our July and August programs to accommodate any changes that can be made.

**What about the rest of the summer?**

Because this crisis is ever changing, we are not able to predict what the remainder of the summer will look like. We are only making decisions about June 8<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> at this time. We will be continually evaluating if later weeks will be able to run as originally scheduled or if they will need to be modified into special sessions.