

Anticipated Questions

We understand there will be questions that we were not able to answer in our letters to you. We have tried to answer any of these that you might have below. If you do not find the answer, please reach out to us by calling the office at (609) 654-8846 or email us at info@campdarkwaters.net

Why was camp cancelled?

While we continued to plan, prepare, and hope for another transformative summer, the risks posed by COVID-19 threatened our most sacred value – the health and well-being of our campers, staff and community. These risks also compromised our ability to provide the excellence in programming, community building and camper care that are characteristic of Camp Dark Waters.

Is there a possibility camp will happen?

While we have cancelled all sessions of camp. There is a small chance we may be in a position to run some limited programs later in the summer, if the situation improves drastically. If we see a way to run our program safely - to allow campers a place to build confidence, make lasting friendships, learn new skills, be a part of a caring community - you will be the first to know. Please know we will not compromise on camper and staff safety and wellbeing to open. We want to be open and honest about our decision-making process but we do not want to get anybody's hopes up.

Can I get a refund?

For payments already made we would like to be as flexible as possible given the current situation. We would like to offer a few options:

- Donate all or part of your tuition credit to help Dark Waters with this summer's financial loss.
- Apply all or part of your tuition credit to next year's tuition.
- Receive a refund of all or part of your tuition from this year.

Please find the link below and let us know how you would like us to handle your tuition credit from this year. If we do not hear from you by June 15th we will assume that you would like your balance returned. Please allow us sometime to process these refunds. If you are in urgent need your refund, please reach out through email and we will try to expedite it for you.

[2020 Tuition Intent Form](#)

Will camp be okay financially?

Financially camp will be able to make it through the year without the income from the summer. From years of growth and prudent financial oversight, along with a large SBA loan, camp has put itself in a financial position to weather this storm.

How can I help camp?

Thank you for your support! Summer camp programming accounts for 80% of our yearly revenue. While we are confident this is the best decision for Camp Dark Waters, it does leave us in a difficult financial

position. While we will be able to continue to operate, we have had to take on a large amount of debt to secure our future. If you are able, you can support camp through this difficult time by:

Making a donation [here](#).

Donating all or a portion of your tuition to camp.

Notifying us of any Grant funding opportunities.

Notifying us of any Foundations you think we should be approaching.

Connecting CDW with donor advised funds that are currently being distributed.

Letting us know you are there for us!

Recent legislation has provided benefits for donating to non-profit organizations like Camp Dark Waters. A new deduction of \$300 is available in 2020 to those who take the standard deduction on their yearly taxes.

Will there be camp next year?

Yes! We will use this summer to continue improving the Camp Dark Waters experience. We cannot wait to welcome you back in 2021!

What about campers graduating out?

Our campers who are graduating out, and our TICs and TACs are at the forefront of our thoughts. With so many disappointments and rites of passage taken away from kids this year, we want to give a proper way for them to say goodbye to camp. Because of this we will be extending our age limit for traditional camp to 15 next year and all our TICs and TACs will be given the opportunity to return for the summer of 2021.

Will you be open for small gatherings or visitors to camp?

This is very unlikely. Camp requires large-scale groups to run economically, which means most of our facilities, such as the Dining Hall, Kitchen and Pool will be closed for the summer. While we love visitors to camp and miss you dearly, we ask that you do not come out to camp at this time for the safety of those that live at camp.

Will you be offering virtual camp?

We will continue to look for ways to connect with our community such as virtual campfires. This is not intended to replace summer camp, but rather help keep campers connected to our community during this period of stay at home directives. Camp Dark Waters does not plan to offer tuition-based virtual summer camp this season, we do not feel that the magic of camp comes through a screen.

How can I stay connected to the community?

We will be exploring new ways to connect with our community on our [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#). You can reach out to your camp friends; call them, text them, connect on social media or write them a letter. We are sure they would love to hear from you.