



Hello camper and family,

We are excited to welcome your camper to Zenger Farm next week starting at 8:45am, July 6th. We are looking forward to spending the week exploring the farm, tasting fresh fruits and vegetables, playing with the chickens and so much more. Please read the following information in its entirety and to prepare your camper for their week at the farm.

As you prepare for your week of camp, we wanted to offer some details and mutual expectations so we all know what we are getting into as we traverse into this unusual summer. This email will address our response to COVID-19 as well as current events related to the Black Lives Matter Movement. We are excited to see your camper at the farm and feel confident that the guidelines and changes we are implementing will help protect us all so we can be together while minimizing risk and maximizing fun. If you have additional concerns or questions, do not hesitate to reach out but please read through this document first to make sure your answer isn't here. Thank you!

You can view our regular [Camp Information page by clicking here](#). This includes what to bring, what to wear, our policies and directions to the farm. Thank you!

Black Lives Matter:

First and foremost, I wanted to express our support for the health and wealth of Black Lives and Black Liberation in our community and worldwide. We are an actively anti-racist space, working toward racial justice as part of food justice. You can read more about that in [this full statement from our Co-Executive Directors](#). Our staff is willing and prepared to talk with kids about race and policing as well as other current events, as they come up. We have no doubt you are already having these conversations with them but we know kids are active processors so we will be ready if/when they want to continue these conversations with other trusted adults. We care about the safety and wellbeing of Black children and are committed to creating a space for them to thrive at the farm. Feel free to reach out if you have any questions.

Virus Reduction Practices you can Expect from us:

- We will disinfect surfaces, door handles, materials, etc several times a day
- We will limit shared materials by setting up kits for campers for the week.

- We'll be washing hands and using hand sanitizer frequently throughout the day including before and after eating, bathroom use, coughing, sneezing and any passing of materials.
- There will be no cross-contact among camp groups or contact with farmers or other staff. Campers will remain in a stable cohort with the same leaders.
- Any float or supporting staff will wear masks and wash hands before and after visiting a group.
- We will maintain social distancing throughout the day with the cohort and will provide each camper with their own space in our camp homebase and will teach them some ways to make sure they are keeping their distance while still staying with the group.
- We will offer a masked, distanced, sanitized sign in and out procedure.
- We will check the temperatures of every staff member and camper each morning with a no-touch digital thermometer.
- We will not have anyone on site who has a known exposure to COVID19 or is experiencing any symptoms. Anyone who begins displaying symptoms will be isolated (children will stay with an adult) until they can safely leave the farm.
- We will keep a log of all people on the farm for contact tracing.
- We will be following all of the guidelines listed here:
<https://sharedsystems.dhsoha.state.or.us/DHSForms/Served/le2357.pdf>

Virus Reduction Practices we ask of you:

- Please do not send your child to camp if they have been exhibiting ANY symptoms of COVID19 including fever, cough, shortness of breath, and diarrhea or if they have been exposed to someone with COVID19 (that you know of). Individuals should stay and remain home for at least 10 days after illness onset and until 72 hours after fever is gone, without use of fever reducing medicine, and COVID-19 symptoms are improving.
- Staff or campers who have a cough that is not a new onset cough (e.g. asthma, allergies, etc.), do not need to be excluded from camp. Please let us know if that is true for your camper.
- Please send them with all the food they will need for the day including snacks. We will be snacking on veggies but will not be cooking this year. If you need help providing enough food for your camper, let us know and we can supplement.
- It's extra important that you apply sunscreen at home before they come. We will not apply it for campers but will encourage them to reapply midday.
- Please send your child with a mask and help them practice wearing it ahead of time. We will not wear masks all day but will do so whenever we need to be in closer proximity. If you do not have access to masks, let us know and we will provide them.
- Practice the suggested tips below with your campers prior to camp, if you can!

Behavior Expectations, Tips and Practice

We are excited to have your campers all in a group together! This year will be pretty different because they will need to maintain distance from each other AND they haven't been around many other kids for a few months now. It might be challenging for your camper to acclimate back to a group environment after lots of time away from other kids. They might be really EXCITED to see each other or there may be social awkwardness or a lack of body awareness, etc. We are expecting a mix of all of the above and we want to help campers ease into the skill of fun-but-distanced interactions with each other. We will do lots of team building, community agreements and setting expectations along with gentle reminders and firm boundaries when needed.

We wanted to ask for your help in this process. Please help prepare your camper for these social skills. Here are some things you might want to talk out and/or practice together before coming to camp:

1. Talk about how to make new friends when you can't be very close to them. (You can still share your name, things you like to do, ask them questions about themselves, ask if they want to do something with you)
2. Practice doing activities alongside another person while being at least 6 feet apart while also not sharing any materials. Maybe think about games, art projects and walks that you do with another person but not close to them.
3. Ask if your camper feels nervous about coming to camp. There is a lot of fear in the air right now and I'm sure you all have been helping your kids process that. Ask how they feel about being near people and if there is anything that would help them feel safe or more comfortable. Consider practicing basic meditation or breathing techniques with them that they can use if they feel stressed. Feel free to share any relevant info with us so we can help your camper when they come to the farm.
4. Practice wearing a mask while being active. Children are encouraged but not required to wear masks. But we would really like everyone to have a mask with them for times when distancing is more difficult and of course they can wear it all the time if they want to. We suggest having them wear it for an hour or so at a time while also playing outside or doing some other activity so they can get used to it.
5. Let them put on their own sunscreen at home so you can supervise and give feedback. That way, they can reapply it themselves at the farm. Think about any other skills like that where your child normally might need help (tying shoes, hand washing, etc) and give them a chance to practice if you can (of course we will always help a child when needed).

Important Notice about Behavior:

If your camper has consistent trouble with social distancing, we will speak to you both about how we might improve that together. If it continues to be difficult for them, they might be asked to leave for everyone's safety.

Again, here is the link to our regular [Camp Information page by clicking here](#). This includes what to bring, what to wear, our policies and directions to the farm.

We can't wait to welcome you and your camper to the farm next week!

See you then!

Warmly,

Andy McGee
she/her/hers
Education Program Manager
Zenger Farm
andy@zengerfarm.org