

June 1, 2020

Hello Camp Families,

We are writing with the disappointing news that we are not able to run any of our in person camps this summer.

After reviewing the newly released guidelines from the state regarding day camps and thinking carefully about the types of camps we offer and the available options to modify our programs in order to meet the expected critical public health safety guidelines from the State, we have come to the conclusion that we aren't able to operate our summer day camps this summer.

This cancellation is for all of Newton's Parks, Recreation and Culture camps including Acres in the Falls, Albemarle Acres, Auburndale Station, Centre Acres, all CIT programs, Kids Korner, Outdoor Adventure, Specialty Camps, The Next Stop, Thundercat Sports, T-ville Trails, and Wilderness Survival as well as Golf lessons. We announced earlier the cancellation of Camp Echo Bridge, Camp Extreme and our Summer Vacation Camps.

We know this is bad news for so many families who rely on our programs to provide safe and stimulating activities for your children which is especially needed at this time. For many, our camps also allow parents to work.

We have some resources for you to consider for this summer:

- **Virtual Camp Echo Bridge** Newton's Camp Echo Bridge has gone virtual this summer and is offering a fun and exciting half-day morning program that will keep campers active and connected to their friends and the community. The mornings will include a mix of live and off-line camp programs that will be offered in blocks between 9 am and noon. These morning blocks include plenty of time to be in the great outdoors. On Wednesday and Friday, camp will host fantastic special events from 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm. Camp Echo Bridge will run July 6 – Aug 14. Families can sign up for any number of weeks they choose. To guarantee your camper's spot, you must register by Wednesday, June 10. To register, go to www.newtonmarec.com or contact Mark Kelly at mkelly@newtonma.gov with any questions.
- **Babysitters** Hundreds of camp staff are now available for babysitting this summer. If you are looking for a babysitter feel free to connect with other families and staff on:
 - **Newton Babysitting Group on Facebook** - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/NewtonBabysitting/>
 - **Newton Parents Group on Facebook** - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/NewtonMAParents/>
 - **Indeed.com** – www.indeed.com
 - **Care.com** - <https://www.care.com> This site requires a fee for services
 - **Sittercity.com** - <https://www.sittercity.com> this site requires a fee for services
- **Camps/Programs Later in the Summer** We are hoping to be able to offer some in person programming this summer as the guidelines evolve. These programs might include short hour long classes or activities, or half-day or longer day programs depending on what is safe as the summer progresses. Any future programs that we are able to offer will be listed online for registration at www.newtonmarec.com

We will be doing the paperwork related to the cancellations and refund requests for all of our summer camps over the next few weeks. With the number of refunds we will be processing, please expect an extended turn around time to receive your refund.

Below are the emails and contact numbers if you would like to contact the manager in charge of your child's camp program.

We appreciate your understanding and patience as we navigate through these difficult times. Please know that this was a very difficult decision and we share your disappointment. We hope you have a safe and healthy summer and we hope to see you a year from now.

Sincerely,

Newton Parks, Recreation and Culture Staff

Channon Ames DiCiurcio comes@newtonma.gov 617-796-1529

Acres in the Falls, Albemarle Acres, Specialty Camps at Peirce, Summer Vacation at Newton Centre Hut

Judy Dore jdore@newtonma.gov 617-796-1525

Camp Extreme, Golf, Outdoor Adventure

Mark Kelly mkelly@newtonma.gov and **Karen Peirce** kpeirce@newtonma.gov 617-796-1527

Camp Echo Bridge

Stephanie Lapham slapham@newtonma.gov 617-796-1528

Kids Korner, Thundercats Sports, Summer Vacation at Burr Park, Wilderness Survival

Ricky Paglia rnickp@newtonma.gov 617-796-1523

Centre Acres, T-ville Trails, Summer Vacation at Emerson

Alissa Whitten awhitten@newtonma.gov 617-796-1522

Auburndale Station, The Next Stop