



# SUMMER CAMP ORIENTATION PACKET

Summer 2021

We are so glad to be running in-person summer camp again! We've missed the joy of having campers around and seeing the mission of GLLM in action. We have created this document so that you can be informed and confident about the things we've put in place to keep campers and staff safe while at our GLLM sites. We ask that you read through it and reach out with questions! We know it's long and quite a bit of information, but we want to make sure we're all working together so the summer can be great!

We wanted to note here that recent relaxing of state guidance is something we are all excited about. It feels good that many things are feeling a bit more normal! However, the state of MN does still have guidance in place for safe summer camp operations. Because the vast majority of our campers will be unvaccinated throughout the summer, we will continue to follow that guidance, which still relies on a few key mitigation strategies. We're committed to balancing a safe experience with the impactful and fun experiences that make camp such a great place!

## GLLM Program Team



The following protocols and procedures have been developed based on the latest information from the American Camp Association, the Minnesota Department of Health, and the Centers for Disease Control. We have done everything possible to plan and will train our staff the best we can to carry out these plans. It is important to note, however, that there is no way to guarantee that COVID-19 will not make its way onto our sites. The plan we've put in place is set up to mitigate the risk, but also to react quickly and efficiently so that we can isolate and stop the spread of the virus if it does enter camp.

### This document will cover the following:

**Pre-screening Expectations**

**Camper Check-in and Registration**

**Camper Pick-up**

**Pod Structure**

**Health Care During Camp**

**7 Layers - Mitigation strategies during the camp week**

**Special Guests at Camp**

**Staff Responsibility**

**Packing for Camp**

**Sample Pre-Screening Form**

## Pre-screening Expectations

A key part to having a healthy and safe week of summer camp is making sure, to the best of our ability, that when campers come to camp they are COVID free. This is something that requires help from home! If your camper has any pre-existing conditions or risk factors, you should carefully consider if attending camp is the best option for you this summer.

Two weeks prior to camp, you will be required to record a daily symptom check on a GLLM supplied form. We understand that it is uncommon for children to display symptoms of COVID, but this practice is an important step for checking in with your child. If at any time during this 14-day check, they exhibit signs of being unwell or symptoms of COVID-19, they should NOT come to camp. It is so important that families are honest about this process to eliminate as much risk as possible.

In addition, campers shall not have travelled internationally or have been in close contact with a person who has been diagnosed with, tested for, or quarantined as a result of COVID-19. Any one of these situations will result in the camper not being allowed to attend camp. **We understand that contact with a COVID case may sometimes be out of your control, and we will be generous with refunds should this come up for you.** However, limiting risky activities prior to camp is expected!

**Upon arrival, this symptom checking form must be turned in to our camp staff. Campers without the form will not be admitted into camp.**

**Should you become aware of a situation AFTER you have dropped off your camper that requires them to be quarantined, please contact us immediately so that we can make plans for how to proceed. You will need to pick up your camper as soon as possible if this is the case.**

## Camper Check-in and Registration

Camper drop-off and registration will look different this summer. **To keep exposure levels low, we will be utilizing a drive-up method of drop-off.** You will receive a scheduled window of time to arrive at camp on Sunday. Upon arrival, all members of your party should stay inside your vehicle. Before registration can begin, we must see the pre-screen form. Without this form, the camper will not be admitted into camp. *If you are planning to carpool with a camper that is not from your household unit, please only do so if you have confirmed that the campers in your vehicle are going to be in the same cabin while at camp.*

*Tentative times for check-in and pick-up. You will receive an email with final times prior to your camper's week!*

Shores of St. Andrew Bible Camp		
Program	Sunday Drop off	Friday pick-up
Trailblazers	1:15 - 2:00	10:45 - 11:15
Families with campers in more than one program	2:00 - 2:30	10:30 - 10:45
Andy's Gang & Fishing Camp	2:30 - 3:15	10:00 - 10:30
Half Blast	3:15 - 4:00	7:00 pm TUESDAY

Green Lake Bible Camp		
Program	Sunday Drop off	Friday pick-up
Stargazers <i>*drop off and pick up in GLBC Chapel Parking Lot</i>	2:30 - 3:30	11:15 - 12:00
SIT <i>*drop off and pick up in GLBC Chapel Parking Lot</i>	3:30 - 4:00	11:15 - 12:00
Family Camp <i>*registration in Chrysalis House</i>	4:30 - 5:30	n/a

Camp House <i>Drop off and pick up in Green Lake Bible Camp Chapel parking lot!</i>		
Program	Sunday Drop off	Friday pick-up
Confirmation North (June 20-25)	11:30 am - 12:15 pm	4:00 pm
MS Servant Adventure & High School Up North (June 27 - July 2)	GLBC: 11:30am-12:15pm	GLBC: 3:15 pm
	Cities: 2:00 - 2:30 pm	Cities: 1:30 pm
MS Servant Adventure (July 4-9)	11:30 am - 12:15 pm	4:00 pm
<i>A special note about Camp House transportation: In order to begin and maintain the "pod" structure for the week, all campers will travel to and from Camp House in their cabin group for the week. 12 passenger vans will be utilized for this purpose.</i>		

**Upon arrival at camp, there will be 4 stops to make:**

First, a staff member will gather your pre-screening form and take the temperature of the camper you are dropping off. This will be done without exiting the vehicle. A temperature under 100.4 is considered safe.

All documents that can be completed online should be completed prior to arrival, specifically health forms, permission forms, and payments. If any documents have not been completed ahead of time, they will be given to you to complete in your vehicle at this first stop.

Next, you can park your vehicle and proceed with your camper and their luggage to the second stop. Please minimize the number of people getting out of your car. At this second stop, you can turn in any late forms, and your camper will receive a nametag and cabin assignment. You may also turn in money for the canteen at this time. Campers typically spend between \$5 and \$20 at the canteen during the week. The canteen has a variety of snacks, treats, and non-caffeinated beverages as well as clothing and other camp attire. If you'd like to put money in your camper's account, please put cash or check (written to GLLM) in a labeled envelope. We will enter it into a spreadsheet for the week so no cash is being exchanged. Remaining money will be returned to you at the end of the week.

Parents have often purchased camp attire upon arrival or pick-up, which will not be possible this year. Our canteen will be available online, though! If you order something during your camper's week, we will make every effort to have it ready for pick-up by Friday! The online canteen can be found here at [www.gllm.org/online-canteen](http://www.gllm.org/online-canteen)

Then, you will be directed to check in with the Health Aide. The Health Aide will do a general welcome of your camper, and you will be able to discuss any health concerns for the week. This is also where you will turn in and talk about any medication that will be needed for the week. Please remember that ALL medications need to be in their original containers. Please put all of your camper's medications in a quart or gallon-sized Ziplock bag, labeled with the camper's name and dosage instructions.

Finally, we'll ask you to let us know who will be picking up your camper on Tuesday (Half Blast program only) or Friday. After we have this information, your camper will be fully checked in and ready for a great week of camp. We will have an area for good-byes, and then campers will bring their luggage to a staging area for their cabin. No parents will be allowed past this point as our "pod" structure will be in place at this juncture. Your camper's counselor will take extra care to make sure they get settled in and comfortable.

### **Camper Pick-up**

As with drop-off earlier in the week, we will be minimizing the number of people onsite at one time. Please refer to the pick-up schedule above and make every effort to arrive during the designated time. Pick-up should be a bit of a faster process. We will have campers organized by cabin. Campers will have all medication, canteen items, remaining canteen money, and their belongings with them. Upon arrival, we'll find your camper and they will head to your vehicle. We will make every effort to streamline this process, and we ask that parents stay in their vehicles during pick-up. In the past, parents have joined the camp in a closing worship at pick-up time. This will not be an option this year, but we look forward to that tradition starting up again in the future!!

***A note about bringing your camper home:*** We will have made every effort to keep your camper safe from COVID-19 while at camp. Due to asymptomatic spread and the delayed appearance of symptoms, please take care with your camper's interactions in the 14 days post-camp. If any concerns arise with your camper's health in the 14 days after camp, please communicate to GLLM, including and especially if there is a positive COVID test involved.

### **Pod Structure**

One of the key things that camps who ran in 2020 learned was that using a pod structure was key to controlling the spread of COVID-19. **Pre-screening is the best thing we can do ahead of time to ensure a healthy camp.** However, we cannot guarantee that COVID-19 will not show up. If it does, the strict use of pods is extremely important. Each cabin group at camp will be considered a "pod." While in their pod, campers can function like a family. When in the cabin or outside your child will not need to act different from a normal summer. Cabin-mates and their counselor can be unmasked around each other. There will be extra layers of caution that are new within the cabin - kids will need to sleep head-to-toe in their bunks, the cabin will be cleaned and disinfected each day, windows will be open as much as possible, nobody outside of the cabin group will be allowed in the cabin, and we will not do extremely close activities. Outside of the cabin, the group can stay together, sit together, eat together, etc.

Throughout the day, it will be the case that other cabin groups of the same program will do things together. Our staff will use discretion in these moments. If campers from multiple cabins will be in prolonged close proximity to each other, then distancing, masking, and other layers of protection will be expected. If a game is being played outdoors, there is lots of space between campers, and any interactions between campers are brief, we will likely allow the activity to go on without masks or distancing. If in doubt, we'll lean on the side of being

Careful. Keeping these measures in place allows us to be confident in our response if a case of COVID surfaces. Rather than needing to scramble to figure out who the camper or staff has been in contact with, we can quickly narrow down a potential group of people who may need to isolate themselves, allowing the rest of the camp to continue their camp experience.

We will have an orientation for campers on Sunday so they feel comfortable and informed about the ways we can interact at camp.

### Health Care During the Camp Week

As always, the safety and care of your camper during the camp week is our top priority! We will continue to take care of daily medication administration, care for the minor bumps and scrapes that can come up when kids are playing, and other common health situations. If any concerns come up during the week, we will communicate with you on an as needed basis. **Campers will be encouraged to be honest and upfront if they are not feeling well.** Our Health Aide will have a shaded outdoor station to allow for safe interactions throughout the week. The indoor health station will be reserved as an isolation room for any camper or staff who exhibits symptoms of COVID-19.

There will be added measures taken to make sure that we are being extra vigilant for any signs of COVID-19. Each day campers will go through a symptom check. At least once during the week, or if a fever is suspected, the campers will have their temperature taken. A temperature over 100.4 will cause the camper to be isolated from their cabin in the Health Aide station. Our staff will keep an eye out for any other symptoms that may be cause for concern. The Minnesota Department of Health has developed some guidance for schools, youth, and child care programs that is clear and easy to follow - it's likely your child's own school has used this same guidance this year. Following their guidance, we will take great care to isolate any campers or staff who are exhibiting COVID symptoms.

Depending on the symptoms, options may range from monitoring the camper (if the symptom is less common and there is only one symptom) to requiring that the camper returns home as soon as possible. The action that is taken with that camper will determine what action needs to be taken with the cabin group. It is possible that an entire cabin could be asked to return home. We will work with county health officials to make that determination. The pod structure we will implement, along with the other layers of precautions, should greatly minimize the potential of spread in the cabin group and to the rest of the camp. You can view the decision tree recommended by the Minnesota Department of Health here:

[www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/exguide.pdf](http://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/exguide.pdf)

It is expected that if you are contacted to pick up your child due to COVID symptoms, you will make arrangements to get to camp as soon as you are able. We will err on the side of caution, and ask for your understanding as we navigate this challenging situation.

## 7 Layers - Mitigation strategies during the camp week

While campers are interacting during the camp week, there are several things we can do to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19. We're using a strategy promoted by the American Camp Association that uses 7 layers of strategies to reduce risk. When done together, the risk of transmitting COVID is very low. There will, of course, be times when it isn't possible for all 7 layers to be in place. Research shows, however, that when even 3-4 of these are in practice at any one time, the risk of COVID-19 is drastically reduced. We'd like to note that we may change these procedures if new data or guidance is given from public health officials.

These 7 layers are: pre-screening, cohorting, sanitizing, masking, being outdoors as much as possible, physical distancing, and hand hygiene.

Here is an idea of what these will look like during the camp week:

### Pre-screening:

- Symptom monitoring prior to arrival
- Commitment to not being in high exposure situations prior to arrival
- Temperature and symptom check upon arrival

### Cohorting: *This term refers to the pod structure we will implement*

- Cabin groups will function as "family units"
- Interactions with campers and staff outside of the cabin group will require distancing and masking if prolonged close proximity will occur.

### Sanitizing:

- Frequently used surfaces will be cleaned and sanitized after heavy use
- Cabins will be cleaned and sanitized (as surfaces allow) once each day
- Routine cleaning of the camp will continue as normal
- Shared equipment will be sanitized between use (we will minimize opportunities for shared equipment!)
- Hand sanitizer will be located in many places around camp, including in cabins.

### Masking:

- Masks will be required if campers will be interacting indoors with others outside of their cabin group.
- If more than 6 feet of distancing can be maintained outdoors, masks will not be required. If an activity is closer together, we'll ask kids to mask.
- Masks will be required when singing.

### Being outdoors as much as possible

- We have such beautiful outdoor space to use -- this is an easy layer to implement!
- Program groups will rotate usage of the site, getting a variety of experiences throughout the day.
- We will eat meals, worship, and do as many other typically "indoor" activities outside as possible.
- In the event of rain, we will utilize our cabins in conjunction with other indoor spaces, using careful scheduling and distancing to provide a variety of fun activities until outdoor space is available again.



### **Physically Distancing**

- Key to our “pod” structure, physical distancing will be expected when campers and staff are outside of their cabin groups.
- This will require some schedule adjustments, especially in shared spaces that are needed. Bathroom schedules will be created for morning and evening, and care will be taken during meal time to distribute food in a safe manner.
- We will utilize many tools from staff encouragement to physical reminders of distance!

### **Hand Hygiene**

- Hand washing will be encouraged frequently throughout the day, especially before and after activities that require commonly touched equipment and surfaces.
- Hand sanitizer will be plentiful around the camp, including in cabins

### **Special Guests at Camp**

Pastors and youth workers will be allowed to visit for DAY visits only. In order to maintain the integrity of the pods that are key to reducing and tracking spread, we have to be very careful about any ways that germs might be transferred from group to group. Church staff are encouraged to be vaccinated if possible, and will be asked to follow protocols such as masking and distancing when interacting with cabins at camp.

There may be exceptions to this, if the pastors are a prime part of programming (Confirmation Camp) or have otherwise been asked to be present for the camp week. In this situation, church staff will be asked to symptom check and follow pre-screening protocols just as campers would prior to their arrival.

Other visitors to camp, such as food vendors or maintenance workers will be required to follow all protocols, including masking indoors. They will not be in contact with campers!

### **Staff Responsibility**

All hired summer staff have been communicated with about how important our safety protocols will be this summer. They are ready to be helpful and to model behavior that will be needed for a safe experience!

All staff are encouraged to get their COVID vaccine and we expect to be a fully vaccinated staff. In addition, we will be training our staff on the latest guidance during their two-week staff training prior to the start of summer. They will understand and be ready to implement the layers of safety we are prepared for.

## Packing for Camp

There are a few additions to the camp packing list that will help with COVID mitigation. They are highlighted below. Remember to label all items!

- Bible
- Pillow
- Sleeping Bag or bed roll (fitted twin sheet, flat sheet, blanket)
- Shirts, pants, shorts
- **6 masks for use during the week** (masks are required. If, for medical reasons, a mask cannot be worn, please contact us)
- White, cotton t-shirt for tie-dye (also available for sale in our canteen or during online registration)
- Socks and underwear
- Outdoor shoes
- Water shoes (especially at Green Lake Bible Camp)
- Sandals
- Jacket or Sweatshirt
- Pajamas
- Non-revealing swimwear
- Beach Towel
- Bath towel, wash cloth
- Toothbrush and toothpaste
- Shampoo and soap
- Comb or hairbrush
- **Bathroom caddy for transporting and storing bathroom supplies (rather than setting on a bare counter/sink)**
- Flashlight or headlamp with batteries
- Sunscreen
- Bug Spray
- **Water Bottle that can be refilled throughout the week**
- Canteen Money **in a labeled envelope**
- Prescription medications in original container
- Completed Health Form (if you did not register online)
- Fan (optional)
- Book to read at night (optional)
- **Lifejacket (*lifejackets are required for boating of all kinds at camp, and they are difficult to share due to COVID-19. If you are able to bring your own, we highly encourage it! We will have lifejackets available if this is not an option for you.*)**

Please leave the following items at home: **Cell phones**, iPods, game systems, knives, non-prescription medications, inappropriate clothing, food, candy, and snacks. Your child's safety and welfare are important to us. We have a zero tolerance policy for controlled substances or firearms.