

Dear Siebert Park Day Camp Parents,

This COVID-19 situation is changing daily. Recreation departments everywhere have been agonizing over activity decisions, and summer camps is one of the top issues for many. In an effort to learn as much as possible, we have continued to participate in numerous webinars and Zoom roundtable meetings with parks & recreation professionals and camp directors from around the state. We have also continued Zoom meetings with many local recreation departments once or twice a week. Some have already cancelled for the entire summer, while some are trying to hold out for a glimmer of hope as they know summer camp is important to their communities.

The impact of Pennsylvania's county-based color code status and related directives severely impacts camps and public recreation departments as a whole. We have been following all updates from the CDC which changes daily and waiting for direction from the PA Department of Health based on what the CDC guidelines are. My point in telling you all of this is just to assure you that any decisions regarding the status of summer camp are not taken lightly.

It is important for residents to remember that Siebert Park Day Camp is a recreational day camp, not a licensed child care. The overwhelming majority of licensed child care facilities are year round operations. Under the Governor's color codes, child care facilities may re-open when their county is in the "yellow" following State guidance. Recreational day camps, structured like Siebert Park Day Camp, must wait for the area to be "green" before any possible reopening can occur.

Based on Cumberland County turning yellow on May 22nd, it does not seem at all likely we will reach "green" prior to June 8. Therefore, a decision has been made to cancel Weeks 1 thru 6 of Siebert Park Day Camp. At this point, we are keeping Weeks 7 thru 10 open in case those weeks can actually be held. The Recreation Department will continue to monitor updates provided by Governor's Office and will try to make a decision regarding weeks 7 thru 10 in early July.

Borough Council and staff are aware that residents utilize Siebert Park Day Camp as a child care option. The decision to close camp for the first 6 weeks was not made lightly and the Borough is hopeful that residents can find other child care options). We realize this is not a situation any one expected to be in when registration began back at the end of February, but Camp Hill Recreation needs to follow current government mandates and guidelines. If we are able open camps for weeks 7 thru 10, we will only do so following the strict adherence to group size limits and social distancing.

The Borough continues to try to find ways to provide recreation during times of closures and social distancing. The Borough Recreation Department are going to be offering some online science and art classes for kids and working on activity boxes that can be purchased and information will be available on our site very soon.

Please read through the options below and decide what is best for your family. **We need**

a response from you indicating the option you selected by **May 27th**.

Option A: REMAIN enrolled in Weeks 7 thru 10

If selecting this option, we will keep your child(ren) enrolled in any of your registered weeks from 7 thru 10 (July 20-August 14). We will also withdraw your child(ren) from Weeks 1 thru 6 and apply all of your first payment made at time of registration toward the remaining balance for Weeks 7 thru 10. After that, any additional remaining balance that is still owed, will not be required until we have clarity that we can actually have Siebert Park Day Camp for Weeks 7 thru 10. If your account has already been paid in full, an appropriate refund check will be issued.

Option B: REFUND from all Siebert Park Day Camp weeks

With this option, we will withdraw your child(ren) from any and all registered weeks throughout the entire 2020 Siebert Park Day Camp program. We will process FULL refunds to you without incurring any of the regular refund fees. All refunds will be by "check" payable to the payee on record and mailed to that same address. It may take a few weeks to get all of the refunds processed.

We ask that you please respond directly to this e-mail by simply hitting the "reply" button on your e-mail program. Please add your family's last name to the subject line in your reply. In your reply, be sure to clearly indicate the name of your child(ren) and the "Option" you are selecting. Again, we need a response from you indicating the option you selected by May 27th.

This was to be the 25th summer of Siebert Park Day Camp and I never imagined I would be writing this type of email to parents. I know how important a summer camp can be in a child's development. It seems like the memories made at camp stick with you throughout life. I am consistently reminded of this when I run into or receive emails from former campers that were in the program 10, 15, 20+ years ago. I really enjoy hearing those stories and I am truly sorry those memory making opportunities for your child are being thrown for a loop this summer. Stay healthy and thank you for your support of Siebert Park Day Camp and Camp Hill Recreation!

***Sincerely,
Audrey Logar
Recreation Director***