



January 2021

May I have your attention, please?

We are so looking forward to welcoming you home to the Lair of the Golden Bear in 2021! Reflecting on 2020, I'm looking more forward to camp in 2021 than any of the previous 25 years I've worked and lived in Pinecrest during the summer. As we move forward and onward from this past year, the Lair is committed to providing a familiar camping experience this summer that is both safe and fun. Everything we have planned has been done with camper and staff safety at the top of our minds. We've been in contact with other alumni camps, local health officials, and our own medical team to help share ideas and work on plans to keep people healthy and happy when visiting the Lair this summer. With your help, we know that we can all enjoy a fantastic summer in Pinecrest!

Here is an update on what our plans are as you consider joining us for camp in 2021.

Six Night Camping Week (Saturday — Friday):

In order to have enough time between sessions to thoroughly clean the property, we have decided to give ourselves 24 hours (as opposed to four hours with a seven night stay) to make sure that every building and tent gets cleaned properly. Your camper week will now run from Saturday afternoon through Friday at 2:00 pm. We have new cleaning equipment in all camps that we will use to thoroughly clean the property from Friday afternoon until 2:00 pm on Saturday. We'll also be using the cleaning equipment to clean bathrooms and common spaces throughout each day during your stay.

Capacity and Reservations:

With safety in mind, we are limiting capacity in each camp this summer and are going to open camp at approximately 50% capacity. This is being done in order to provide more opportunities for social distancing and to ensure that we can accommodate people safely in our common areas. As we learn more, and vaccinations and testing are more readily available, we may increase that percentage as the summer progresses.

Reservations will be fairly similar to a normal year, using a priority based system to determine each week's camper base. If you've camped previously and wish to return to your usual tent, we'll do our best to accommodate your request if you get a spot in camp. We hope newer campers can be flexible on specific tent assignments and open to camping in other sessions this summer in case we are unable to get you a tent in your first-week choice. We expect to have openings in Weeks 2, 10, and 11. If you choose not to camp with us this year, your priority will not be impacted for a 2022 reservation.

Programs:

Our goal is to provide as much of a safe and 'normal' Lair experience as we can this summer with your friends and families, with many of our programs still available. Our camper surveys strongly showed that campers want to see the evening entertainment continue. So, we will be having our shows and guest speaker program and are working on a responsible way to hold Disco Bingo in an outdoor, socially distanced way. In addition, we will have Art, Pool, Store, and Burger Shack hours and we'll be leading hikes and yoga classes. We'll have safety procedures and policies in each area, and masks will be required indoors and when social distancing isn't possible, but these traditional Lair activities will continue in 2021.

We plan to suspend some of our close-contact organized sporting events (like camper vs. staff basketball), but will have sports courts and the softball field available for camper use. Whether we have organized softball and volleyball games will be determined as we get closer to camp using Tuolumne County guidelines to help make our decisions.

Unfortunately, we don't see how we can safely have age group programming and keep campers and staff safely apart. As part of our ongoing communications with other alumni family camps, we've discussed this at length and we are not alone in making this decision. We know how important age group programming is and this is not a decision we are making lightly. We plan to provide family based activities to supplement our schedule and will be sharing details on those programs as we get closer to camp. Examples of these are family scavenger hunts, sing-a-longs, tie dye, and family s'mores to name a few.

Student Staff:

Staff will receive additional training and direction by our health care provider on best practices before the start of camp. We will have fewer staff in each tent to allow more room per person in the staff area, and we will be providing plenty of cleaning supplies and PPE for work and for the staff area.

With limited capacity in the camper area, we will be hiring fewer staff in 2021. Our goal is to get our staff vaccinated, but time will tell if that will be possible. In the meantime, we will require staff to provide proof of a negative Covid test prior to arriving and we will conduct weekly testing throughout the summer to monitor their health. Additionally, staff will be encouraged to stay in camp on their days off or to engage in low risk activities such as hiking and camping.

Covid Protocols:

In order to camp this summer, campers will either have to provide proof of vaccination or a negative Covid test received within 72 hours of arrival. Our medical team will have rapid tests available in camp for testing those who may develop symptoms after they arrive. We will have protocols in place to quarantine and isolate anyone who shows symptoms so they can remain a safe distance from other campers and their own family tent. If someone tests positive, they will be required to leave camp along with everyone in their tent. We will follow Tuolumne County protocols for contact tracing in the event of a positive test in camp. Because of the uncertainty around the pandemic, we encourage you to consider looking into your trip insurance options.

Tent Pricing:

In Camps Blue and Gold we are changing our pricing from a per person model to a per tent model and will be charging your fees based on the size of the tent you book. This means the closer your tent is to capacity (2, 4, and 6 person tents), the lower the cost is per person. This new pricing model encourages using the tent space at the Lair effectively, and is consistent with industry standards.

Camp Oski will remain on per person pricing because most tents in camp are large tents.

We're all in this together!

By now we've all grown accustomed to the changes in our everyday lives as we deal with the global pandemic and the Lair is not immune to those changes. We want the Lair to remain a safe and healthy environment and it's important that we all take this seriously and work together to ensure that the Lair can open safely and remain open all season. Campers will be asked to adhere to the policies and procedures, but individual camper and family responsibility is paramount as we all work together to maintain the legacy of the Lair of the Golden Bear. Our goal is to have a fantastic, albeit different, Lair experience this summer and we look forward to working with all of our wonderful campers to achieve this end.

We can't wait to say "Welcome Home" this summer and we will, as always, be ready with bug juice and a smile when you drive into camp this summer!

Go Lair and Go Bears!

Michael W. Yaley
Lair Director
General Manager, Pinecrest Operations