

April 9, 2020

Dear Camp Families,

It is with a very heavy heart and great sadness that I share the news that The Barton Center camps will not operate this summer. This was not an easy decision but one we all feel is in the best interest of our campers, staff, volunteers, families and friends.

Safety is always the top consideration at The Barton Center. Families trust us with their most precious possessions – their children. Our campers attend from across the country and international locations. Many of you have already reached out to express concern on how we will social distance in a camp environment; some have already chosen to cancel and take the summer off and some are waiting to see where things may be as it gets closer to summer. The truth is, we do not know how prevalent COVID-19 will be by the time summer comes, but based on what we know today, it still has not peaked in many areas of the country, including Massachusetts.

This decision impacts the organization financially as well. In spite of reducing expenses as best we can which includes furloughing staff, The Barton Center expects a significant financial loss of over \$600,000. All donations to camp at this time are greatly appreciated.

Please feel free to reach out to us for additional information or questions. Additionally, please check our social media sites and website for updates and virtual program activities that we hope to continue throughout the summer.

This was a devastating decision but one I hope you realize was made with the safety of everyone in mind. Thank you in advance for your understanding, and please feel free to call me with any concerns. We hope to see you all at one of our year-round programs and/or next summer.

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