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2020 Summer Programs Update and Details – May 21, 2020

We have been working hard to figure out our options are for this summer. Please know that the health and safety of our participants, families, staff, and community are our biggest concerns. We strongly believe that kids need to be outside in the fresh air and interacting with nature and other children now more than ever. We have been doing various virtual outreach efforts and hope you have been able to participate in some of these activities (which will continue during the summer months). **The big question on everyone's minds has been, "What is FIT doing this summer?"** Our discussions and decisions have been framed within the guidelines issued by the State of New Mexico (which we are required to follow) as well as driven by our deep concern for the wellbeing of all participants.

SOME BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Our 2020 registration opened on March 1. By March 10, we had about 140 kids registered, some for multiple sessions. Of those, 47 are not full time local residents.

The health and safety of our participants, staff, and community is our number one priority. We are committed to taking all necessary precautions to limit exposure and transmission in our programs. On May 15, the New Mexico Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham issued updated guidelines of requirements for summer youth programs. FIT operations will proceed in a manner consistent to these guidelines:

- Staff will be tested prior to the start of programming.
- Group size will be restricted to 5 children with one adult.
- We will have multiple groups but the groups will not mix at all.
- Groups must stay together for one-week minimum.
- We will do daily temperature checks of all children and staff.
- We will maintain social/physical distancing at all times and wear masks (adults and children) when indoors (including vans).
- We will regularly clean and disinfect "high touch" surfaces.
- We will limit participation to "local community youth" only. This means we will only serve children who live in Taos full time and attend local schools. We understand that this policy will prevent many campers from attending, but we hope you will understand that this restriction is critical in protecting our small community.

SUMMER 2020 PROGRAMMING

We know this is so incredibly hard for every child, parent, and staff member. After much thought and many discussions with our Board of Directors, staff, and medical professionals, we have decided to offer very limited programming this summer.

- **We have canceled all out of town sessions.**
- **No overnights will be happening (no camping or backpacking) as the closeness of the group simply cannot be mitigated in these situations.**
- **FIT Neighborhood will not be open this summer.**
- **Children who do not live in Taos full time cannot attend.**

We **WILL** be offering several weeks of Mountain Camp sessions to our local community. These will be for children entering 1st through 4th grades and 4th through 7th grades. No overnights. We will offer our spring after school mountain bike club in a condensed version. Some dates have changed. The updated Summer 2020 schedule can be found [HERE](#).

THE NEXT STEPS

If you signed up for a session but it has been canceled or your child does not live full time in Taos, your child has been removed from session lists. We would like to hear from you about how you would like us to proceed with any payment you have already made (see below).

If your child is a full time Taos resident and is signed up for a session that is still on the schedule, we will be contacting you this week to see if you plan to have your child attend. **If you applied for a scholarship**, we will do our best to award those, once we know you would like your child to attend.

- Initially, we will let those who already signed up choose up to 2 weeks per child.
- If there are additional spaces, we will let people who registered their child(ren) but did not select a session sign up.
- If there are still spaces available, we will open it up to additional children.

If you are a Taos resident and are not able to attend any session this summer (either by choice or out of necessity), please let us know so we can remove your child from the list.

FIT PAYMENT ALLOCATION/REFUND OPTIONS

Here are the options for any payments you made during 2020 registration:

1. Payments can be used for any FIT programs this summer (open to children who are Taos full time residents only).
2. Payments can be rolled over to 2021 FIT programs.
3. You are invited to consider making your payment a donation to FIT (a 501c3 nonprofit). As a small nonprofit, we have been hit very hard by lack of tuition and greatly decreased donations, grants, and fundraising opportunities.
4. If none of the first 3 options work for you, please contact Susie via email to request a refund. We understand that for some, this money is greatly needed at this time and we want to support those who are dealing with real financial struggles.

If you decide to turn your payment into a donation, please let us know so we can be sure to allocate it and thank you properly.

If we do not hear from you, we will assume you will be using your payment towards camp this year or for next year.

PLEASE BE AWARE THAT THINGS COULD CHANGE AT ANY POINT DURING THE SUMMER AND WE WILL RESPOND ACCORDINGLY WITH THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF OUR PARTICIPANTS AND STAFF AS OUR TOP PRIORITY. THANK YOU FOR BEING FLEXIBLE.

We are so grateful for you, our FIT families, and we appreciate your understanding and patience in these challenging times. Please remember that we miss you all and would love to see your photos of your family getting outside. Let's keep inspiring each other and make the most of summer because, no matter what, summer is awesome!

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