



## Summer Camp 2020 FAQ

### **Why is summer camp moving online?**

As with most community organizations and businesses, we are complying with directives from the Governor of Nebraska and local health agencies, and will continue to follow whatever guidelines are issued. Our goal is to keep your family and our community safe, and right now we can do that by learning and playing in an online format.

### **Are all Fontenelle Forest summer camp programs moving online?**

We are currently planning on having our first four weeks of summer camp, from June 1 – June 26, available in a virtual format.

While we are optimistic about reopening with live camps on June 29, we are still assessing guidelines and recommendations from the CDC and local health officials. Stay tuned for more information on this and feel free to contact Visitor Services with questions at 402.731.3140

### **How will this work?**

Your child will participate in two live, virtual sessions per day. Each session will be about an hour long and will take place over Zoom. Each parent will receive a link and password emailed to them for these sessions at the beginning of the week, and each session will use the same link and password. These sessions will be at 10:00 am and 2:00 pm. We will provide most of the materials needed throughout the week in our “camp bags” that will be available for pickup before your child starts camp. Any other materials needed for the week will be sent to parents via email before the camp begins.

### **What do you need in order to participate?**

Participants need a laptop or mobile device with internet access and working sound and video. They will also need access to a camera phone to send pictures/videos to our camp counselors.

### **What kind of space does my child need?**

We encourage our campers to seek outdoor spaces during this camp – this can be your backyard or a nearby park, or even something as simple as a tree or the potted plant on your balcony!

### **Who will teach the sessions?**

The same camp counselors and naturalists that would have taught in-person camps will be teaching the virtual camp sessions.

### **Will my child be sitting in front of a screen all day?**

No! We encourage supervised outdoor exploration and creativity in our camps – they’ll be dancing to camp songs in front of their screen or searching the nearest green space for an insect to study!

**How will you make these sessions safe for our children?**

Each camp will have an individual Zoom link and password that is only sent to the parents/guardians of campers.

**Is there structure to these sessions?**

We maintain basic rules for campers to follow – be safe, be respectful, be responsible.

**Will there be any monitoring of the online camps?**

The online camps are done live via Zoom, so a camp counselor will be actively talking to and interacting with your child during these sessions.

**Can my child do this on their own or do they require supervision?**

The activities during our sessions can be done independently, but we do encourage children to go outside during our sessions. We do not recommend leaving children outside unsupervised.

**How long will these sessions be?**

We will have an hour-long session two times per day, at 10:00 am and 2:00 pm.

**What's the content going to look like?**

We're trying to incorporate as much nature camp material as possible, including our favorite traditional camp songs and activities. We'll have a daily theme for each of our camps!

**How will I know if I have all the materials you need for activities? Will you send out a list?**

A part of our camp price will include a Fontenelle Forest camp-on-the-go bag! It will include a "welcome to camp" sheet, camp song lyrics, daily craft materials, a camp t-shirt, a magnifying glass, a bug box, colored pencils and more! We'll send out an email to parents the week before with a list of any extra or perishable materials that your campers might need.

**What is the price of the virtual camp?****Register before May 30:**

Members: \$150/child and non-members: \$175/child

**Register after May 30:**

Members and non-members \$175/child

**What's your cancellation policy?**

For all camps, cancellations prior to the camp start date will receive a full refund. Once camp has started, refunds are not provided. If you need to cancel your child's place in one of our camps, please contact Visitor Services at 402.731.3140. **NOTE: For refunds on June in-person camps canceled due to COVID-19 please see below.**

**Will I receive a refund if I had a child signed up for a June in-person camp that was canceled due to COVID-19 and don't want to participate in virtual camps?**

If you would like to transfer your child to virtual camp, or request a refund, please contact Visitor Services at 402.731.3140 and ask to be connected to Heidi Seals in our education department. **We are**

encouraging parents to contact us as soon as possible, so that we can either transfer your child to a virtual camp, or provide a refund. **Refunds for cancelled June in-person camps will be provided until June 15.** After June 15, we can transfer your child to another camp option, but will no longer provide a refund. We set a June 15 deadline for two reasons: 1) to ensure all parents can secure a spot for their child in virtual camp (if preferred) and 2) to provide all refunds back to parents in a timely manner.

**What'll happen after June 26?**

Fontenelle Forest staff are hard at work assessing guidelines and recommendations from the CDC and local health officials. Even though in-person camps in June have been canceled, we are optimistic about reopening with live camps beginning June 29. Please stay tuned for more information and feel free to contact Visitor Services with questions at 402.731.3140.

**Will your online camps still collaborate with the Omaha Zoo and Lauritzen Gardens for the “A Bug’s Life” and “Predator and Prey” camps?**

As the Zoo is closed indefinitely, we will not be able to partner with them for the “Predator and Prey” camp this year. We are also unable to partner with Lauritzen Gardens for “A Bug’s Life” camp in June. If your child is signed up for one of our partner camps, we encourage you to sign up one of our virtual camps, or if you prefer, request a refund via the instructions above.