**COVID-19 Addendum to 2020 Merck Forest and Farmland Summer Camp Registration Packets**

**Parent Information for MFFC Wilderness and Forest Camps**

We believe that getting children outside into the natural world is beneficial for children, and even more so given the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. We have worked diligently to find a way of providing a safe and engaging summer camp experience for your child while keeping the health and safety of campers and MFFC staff foremost in our minds.

The following are the procedures we have put in place, in accordance to the American Camp Association Field Guild for Camps on Implementation of CDC Guidelines. Please read the following policies and procedures that have been put in place and complete the COVID-19 Acknowledgement in the Camp Health and Emergency Care Form (page 6).

**Prior to Camp:**

**Registration Paperwork:**

Please return paperwork no later than 1 week prior to camp beginning.

**Needed items:**

In addition to the list of recommended items to bring to camp, please send your child with the following:

* A comfortable facemask
* 2 2-liters of water to ensure enough water throughout the day.

**Prescreening:**

Please do not send your child if they are exhibiting any symptoms related to COVID-19:

 Fever of 100/4 or greater Cough

 Shortness of breath Diarrhea

 Fatigue Headache

 Muscle aches Nausea

 Loss of taste or smell Sore throat

 Vomiting

**Health Screen:**

* Upon arrival for first day of camp, MFFC staff will conduct an initial health screen to include:
	+ determine if the camper has any symptoms associated with COVID-19
	+ determine if the camper, within the last two weeks, has traveled nationally or internationally.
	+ determine if the camper has been in close contact with a person who has been diagnosed with, tested for, or quarantined as a result of COVID-19.
	+ a non-contact temperature check

Upon arrival at camp each additional day, MFFC staff will conduct a health screening to include:

* + determine if the camper has any symptoms associated with COVID-19
	+ a non-contact temperature check

Prior to the start of each camp day, temperature checks will be given to MFFC camp staff.

**DURING CAMP:**

Drop Off & Pick Up:

* Please park in the parking lot. MFFC staff will be there to meet you.
* Hand sanitizer will be available for campers to use upon arrival at camp.
* MFFC staff will begin meeting campers at 8:50.
* Parents/guardians are encouraged to:
	+ say good-bye either in or near your vehicle.
	+ maintain physical distance with other parents/campers.
	+ wear a face covering if exiting your vehicle.
	+ designate one adult to drop off/pick up camper every day.
* Individuals who are at higher-risk of severe illness for COVID-19 should not drop off or pick up campers.
* If your child has a difficult time saying goodbye, please arrive early to allow time for your goodbyes.
* MFFC staff will bring your child to your car at the end of the day.
* Pick-up time is at 3:00. Staff and campers will meet parents in the parking lot.
* Parents should allow for campers to wash hands or use hand sanitizer upon arrival home.

During Camp:

* Hand sanitizer and handwashing stations will be made available for campers and staff alike.
* Campers will be given instruction on proper handwashing and hand sanitizing methods.
* Social distancing will be maintained whenever possible, and campers will be given guidance on how to help maintain distance.
	+ Campers will be encouraged to social distance from other campers.
	+ MFFC staff will provide guidance to campers to help them maintain social distancing (e.g. spaced out seating, markers to help with visualized spacing, one-way travel in structures).
* One-way traffic patterns will be put in place in buildings.
* Parents/guardians and non-essential visitors are discouraged from coming to the camp areas (the Yurt base camp and the Sap House).
	+ If you need to reach your camper during camp hours, please contact the Visitor Center (802-394-7836), and they will contact camp staff.
* Staff will use disinfectant on surfaces at the end of each day.

Use of Face Coverings:

* It is our goal to minimize the use of face masks whenever possible.
* Activities will take place outside as much as possible, to reduce the need for masks.
* Face masks will be required by campers and staff when social distancing of 6’ cannot be maintained.
* Staff will have their masks available at all times for immediate use.
* Due to the unpredictable weather conditions at Merck Forest and in case of a sudden storm, we may find ourselves needing to shelter in place in a small space for an undetermined length of time. Your child may be expected to wear a face mask for up to an hour. Please help them become accustomed to wearing a face mask for up to that length of time.
* Please have your child bring a mask.
* Additional masks will be available if needed.

Camp Equipment:

* Campers will be provided with their own cache of supplies & equipment for use during the week.
* Equipment that must be shared will be disinfected between users.

**\*\*Parents/Guardians, please share with your camper:**

**To Our Campers:**

* We’ll work to give 6’ of space to care for each other, and we’ll help you do that!
* We’ll wear masks when necessary, and we’ll ask you to wear a mask when needed.
* You’ll have hand sanitizer or soap and water to wash your hands. We’ll help you remember!
* You’ll have your own box of equipment to use while you’re at camp.
* We’re working at limiting how much we have to touch your things, so be ready to handle your own belongings.
* We’re working to keep you safe while you have a fun and enjoyable camp experience at Merck Forest.