



CARRIE MURRAY  
NATURE CENTER

## Summer Nature Camp Parent/Caregiver Handbook



**BALTIMORE CITY**  
RECREATION & PARKS

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## SUMMARY OF SAFETY PROTOCOLS

### OVERVIEW

Carrie Murray Summer Nature Camp will be taking precautions that follow COVID-19 guidelines developed by the CDC, Health Department, and American Camp Association. That being said, it is our commitment to provide a fun and active environment where children are engaged with nature.

There are ample opportunities for kids to comfortably play and learn in a small group. We will be hiking and exploring trails under the beautiful forest canopy of Gwynns Falls Park. Being outdoors in nature provides so many health benefits and our campers will experience these benefits every day!

#### **In sending your child to Summer Nature Camp you acknowledge and understand:**

- That if a child, caregiver, or staff member tests positive for COVID-19 or has a suspected case of COVID-19 while participating in the program, Summer Camp will close for 2-5 days while determining the possibility of the continued closure of 14 days or more, depending on the site's exposure.
- The information provided in the Baltimore City Recreation and Parks COVID-19 Waiver.
- That a family's exposure risk is increased by simply expanding its social circle. Camp families should continue to follow CDC guidelines of social distancing and wearing masks in public spaces in order to minimize the likelihood of an outbreak at Carrie Murray Nature Camp and to keep ourselves and the community as safe as possible.

*Parents/guardians and children must have a mask/facial covering in order to participate in the program, unless the requirement has been relaxed due to the social distancing policy in effect at the time. During the camp day, there will likely be times when children, not counselors, are allowed to pull down their masks to breathe fresh air, i.e. during socially distant hiking/exploring and when children are stationary in their individual campsites doing a skill building, art or other craft activity. In other words, during these relaxed requirements for mask wearing, social distancing in the outdoors will be the main prevention for keeping safe.*

### SPACES FOR LEARNING & ATTENDANCE

We will program outdoors as much as possible, with Carrie Murray Nature Center as our home base for handwashing and bathrooms along with a safe, socially distant indoor space if there is severe weather.

There are between 16-17 campers and 4 counselors per week of camp. Campers will be in groups of 8 so that each group has 2 counselors thus a camper to counselor ratio of 8:2.

**Indoors:** During inclement weather, we will use two large spaces in the center that allow social distancing.

- CMNC Lodge: 8 children|2 counselors
- CMNC Large Classroom: 8 children|2 counselors

### SAFETY ROUTINES

#### **Drop-off and Pick-up Routines**

- Parents will be asked to follow a screening method before their child is dropped off.

- Children will be asked to wash their hands at a hygiene station before entering the program. (In inclement weather, children will wash hands in the bathroom upon arrival).
- Counselor will place the child's gear in her/his own designated spot.
- in order to maintain appropriate group size, families may not remain on location at the program for any reason. *Please refer to the Drop-off and Pick-up Procedures Document for a more thorough explanation of these routines including more information on the screening method, location logistics, and what to do in inclement weather.*

### **Bathroom Routines**

- One child is allowed in the bathroom at a time.
- Counselors may assist with high-touch areas (faucet, paper towel dispenser).
- Children must wash hands for at least 20 seconds with counselor supervision after use.
- A counselor will sanitize high-contact surfaces (toilet, sink, etc.) between each child's use.
- One CMNC bathroom is designated for Summer Camp only during program hours.
- Port-a-pots will be available throughout the park.

### **Mealtime Routines**

- Child brings in a lunch with ice pack. Lunches are kept separated in cubbies.
- When serving snacks, counselors wash hands before wearing disposable gloves. If any contaminated food is touched, gloves are changed.
- Children must wash hands for at least 20 seconds with counselor supervision before and after eating.
- No sharing of food is allowed.
- Counselors fill up water bottles at a water station for children to minimize hand contact of this shared drinking source.
- When eating at the picnic tables, two children will be placed per table, with one on each end. We might also lunch on the trail at sites where we can picnic near a handwashing station.

### **Rest & Individual Activity Routines**

- The outdoor campsites will be utilized when possible, with one child per site. This ensures the space for children to maintain 6 feet of distance while having their own area to explore and move around in.
- When indoors during severe weather, stand-alone camping tents will be utilized in the classroom and lodge, with one child per tent. Social distance made fun is the intent! The tents will face each other across the room so kids can see and talk to each other.

### **SAFETY SURROUNDING ILLNESS**

- Parents and counselors must be vigilant in noticing signs of illness in children. A child may not attend the program if they exhibit any of the following symptoms
  - fever
  - cough
  - shortness of breath
  - difficulty breathing
  - chills
  - repeated shaking with chills
  - muscle pain
  - headache
  - sore throat
  - new loss of taste or smell

- If symptoms present themselves while at school, parents/emergency contact are immediately notified and must come to pick up within 30 minutes. The child will be removed from the group and be with a counselor until the parent/emergency contact arrives.
- If a child is sent home sick, it is likely our program will have to close for 10-14 days as a preventative measure.

*Please refer to the [Illness Policy](#) for a thorough explanation of requirements and procedures that must be taken surrounding illness. This includes information on illness in family members, how Carrie Murray Nature Center will respond (closings), when it is safe to return back, etc.*

### HEALTHY HYGIENE PRACTICES

- Handwashing will be frequent and thorough. Hand washing will occur:
  - Upon arrival
  - Before and after meals
  - Before and after using the restroom
  - After handling animals
- Alternatives to physical contact are encouraged by counselors and parents. ***Children will never be shamed for coming into friendly contact with a fellow camper or counselor. Frequent handwashing is mandatory. It is imperative children stay home if sick.***
- Families should apply sunscreen/bug spray before coming to camp.

### CLEANING PROCEDURES & ACCOMMODATIONS

- Counselors sanitize high-contact surfaces after each child uses the bathroom.
- Only materials that can be sanitized after each use will be shared.
- Art packets and backpacks will be provided for each child to have their own set of materials for the week.
- Invitations to play will be set up in a manner for individual exploration.
- Children's gear will be stored in ways that will not touch one another.
- Counselors sanitize high-contact surfaces after each use of classroom space.

### TRAIL SAFETY

- Counselors carry hand sanitizer and water wipes for contaminated hands.
- Counselors carry a supply of first aid materials and PPE.
- Counselors carry spare water to fill up water bottles for children.
- Contact with park visitors is limited. If there is a group of park visitors in the area, counselors will detour to an alternate trail or area. Gwynns Falls Park has ample trails and areas to explore!

### SKETCH OF THE DAY

Routines help kids feel safe and know what to expect as we move through each day. While routines guide our days, we do not strictly follow time frames other than summer camp start and end times. The pace of our day is based on observations counselors make as kids engage.

9:00 - 9:45 am | **SIGN-IN AND OPENING ACTIVITIES**

Children will be signed-in and have their temperature taken. They will wash their hands and report to their campsite accompanied by their counselors. Children will be invited to decorate, build, engage in loose parts play, and explore and investigate their individual areas.

9:45 - 10:00 am | **FIRST GATHERING**

Gathering circle with discussions, activities and songs. This will be held in a space with ample room for each child to 6-foot distance comfortably.

10:00 – 11:30 am | **FOREST INQUIRY**

Hiking, exploration, and trail activities.

11:30 am - 12 pm | **BATHROOM**

Bathroom visits will have one child in the bathroom at a time, with counselors to sanitize high touch surfaces between each child.

12:00 - 12:30pm | **LUNCH**

Families will pack lunch for their child. Lunch boxes should have an ice pack.

12:30 - 1:30 pm | **REST & INDIVIDUAL INQUIRY**

Children will return to their campsite and have the option of naps and/or quiet time with books, journaling, puzzles, or coloring. They will also be able to engage in exploration, games, fort building and free play. Each child will be given a backpack with supplies to keep for the week (ie. binoculars, magnifying glass, journal, art supplies, etc.) to minimize cross-contamination. Shared supplies and games will be sanitized in between use. Natural objects will be collected on the trail.

1:30 - 2:30 pm | **DAILY ACTIVITY**

Children will be prompted with activities such as creative art, investigations, or skill building. We have a WIDE variety of fun nature activities ready this year!

2:30 - 2:50 pm | **SHARING CIRCLE**

Children will have the opportunity to share their art, journaling, and/or observations. This provides the opportunity for small group discussion and reflection.

2:50 - 3:00 pm | **SIGN-OUT AND CLEAN UP**

Children will reset their campsites. Supplies will be kept separate for each child.

## DROP OFF & PICK UP ROUTINES

- ☐ Families meet counselors in the designated area, maintaining a 6 foot distance.
- ☐ Parents/guardians and children must have a mask/facial covering in order to participate in the program, unless the requirement has been relaxed due to the social distancing policy in effect at the time.

### DROP-OFF PROCEDURE – Between 8:30-9:00 am

#### Nice Weather

1. Families park in the first parking lot before the gazebo.
2. Families walk to designated outdoor drop-off site (back parking lot/garage).
3. Counselor greets families with sign-in sheet, maintaining a 6-foot distance.
4. The child's temperature will be taken utilizing a temporal thermometer. If their temperature is above 101.4, access will be denied and the parent/guardian will be asked to take the child home.
5. Children wash hands at Outdoor Hygiene Station with soap and water.
6. Families drop off children with counselors. Families communicate relevant information for the day directly to counselor
7. Families sign the child in on the clipboard (with counselor). There is a separate clipboard and pen for each child that is kept in the child's cubby.
8. Families leave lunch boxes, backpacks, and other supplies in their designated cubby in the basement.

#### Poor Weather (very rainy, extreme temperatures, winds 25+ mph)

1. Families pull down to lower parking area in front of Carrie Murray Nature Center.
2. Families approach the back porch one at a time.
3. Counselor greets families on the back porch door with sign-in sheet, maintaining a 6 foot distance.
4. The child's temperature will be taken utilizing a temporal thermometer. If their temperature is above 101.4, access will be denied and the parent/guardian will be asked to take the child home.
5. Children wash hands at Outdoor Hygiene Station with soap and water. If not available, children may use alcohol-based hand sanitizer (supervised by adults to prevent ingestion).
6. Counselor admits children into the classroom with another counselor.
7. Children carry lunch boxes & backpacks in with help of a counselor if necessary.
8. Families sign the child in on the clipboard without entering the classroom. and sanitize the pen after use.

### PICK-UP PROCEDURE – 3:00 PM with no aftercare so that counselors can clean & sanitize

#### Nice Weather

1. Families park in the first parking lot before the gazebo.
2. Families walk to designated pick-up spot (back parking lot/garage).
3. Families meet counselors and children in the designated area, maintaining a 6 foot distance.
4. Counselors communicate to all families about highlights from the day. If families have further questions, they should write the counselor an email.
5. Families sign the child out on their individual clipboard (with counselor)
6. Families pick up gear outside (lunch boxes, backpacks, etc.)

7. Families leave with children and gear in a prompt manner to encourage staggering the group.

**Poor Weather** (very rainy, extreme temperatures, winds 25+ mph)

1. Families pull down to lower parking area in front of Carrie Murray Nature Center.
2. Families approach the back porch one at a time.
3. Counselor brings child out of the classroom with all their gear (lunch boxes, backpacks, etc.) one at a time.
4. Families communicate with the counselor about the child's day, maintaining a 6 foot distance.
5. Families sign out their child on the clipboard, sanitizing pen after use.
6. Families leave with child and gear in a prompt manner to encourage staggering the group.

## SUMMER NATURE CAMP SOCIAL DISTANCING

### OVERVIEW

Social distancing is a key factor in preventing the transmission of COVID-19. That being said, working with young children presents an unusual challenge as children learn, explore, and play most successfully in close proximity to one another. At Carrie Murray Nature Camp, we will implement social distancing using creative measures, but will never admonish children for trying to play with each other.

1. We will keep standards consistent by having the same children in each group everyday.
2. Each group will be between 8-9 children with 2 counselors.
3. We will not be holding any special or family events until further notice.
4. Visitors, guests, and parents will not be allowed to enter the Carrie Murray Nature Camp.
5. Parents will be asked to leave the pick-up and drop-off areas after signing in their child.
6. Parents/guardians and children must have a mask/facial covering in order to participate in the program, unless the requirement has been relaxed due to the social distancing policy in effect at the time. During times with strong social distancing, hiking, or individual activities, children may not be required to wear masks.

### INDOOR INCLEMENT WEATHER PLAN

Camp is held outdoors in park spaces that provide ample room for children to spread out. When children are required to be inside due to inclement weather (extreme temperatures, heavy rain, winds 25+ mph), counselors will follow these guidelines:

- A free-standing camping tent will be set up for each child with their own set of materials and activities.
- Children are seated 6-feet apart if sitting at a table.
- Visitors, tours, and guests are not invited into the building.
- Groups include the same children each day with the same counselors.
- Drop-off/pick-up takes place outside the classroom.
- The mixing of groups is limited.

### ON THE TRAILS

Camp is outdoors whenever possible. Strategies for maintaining social distance outdoors include:

- Limiting contact with other park visitors. If there is a large group of visitors in the area Summer Camp had planned to use, counselors will choose an alternate area to ensure trail routes and play areas with ample space for exploration and fun.



- Engaging children in solo exploration, such as sit spots, nature journaling, sound mapping, fort building, and other activities and games where they are not required to share materials – hide and seek, free play, etc.
- Promoting alternatives to physical contact. ***Note: children will never be shamed for displays of friendly affection.***
- Providing art materials for each child that are kept in separate containers

#### IN THE BATHROOM

- Only one child is allowed in the bathroom at a time.
- Port-a-pots will be available throughout the park with hand sanitizers for hand cleaning.
- Counselors may assist with high-touch areas (faucet, paper towel dispenser).
- Children must wash hands for at least 20 seconds with counselor supervision after use.
- A counselor will sanitize high-contact surfaces (toilet, sink, etc.) between each child's use.

#### DURING REST & INDIVIDUAL ACTIVITY TIME

The outdoor campsites will be utilized when possible, with one child per site. This ensures the space for children to maintain 6 feet of distance while having their own area to explore and move around while still being able to see and communicate with campmates.

When indoors, free-standing tents will be utilized in the classroom and lodge, with one child per tent.

### SUMMER CAMP ILLNESS POLICY

#### SCREENING CHILDREN

It is of the utmost importance that we screen children for illness before they enter the building. This is for their safety as well as the safety of other children and staff.

#### Screening and Temperature Check Procedure

- Parents/guardians and children must have a mask/facial covering in order to participate in the program unless the requirement has been relaxed due to the social distancing policy in effect at the time.
- Upon arrival, stand at least 6 feet away from counselors/administrators.
- Upon check-in, the children's temperature will be taken utilizing a temporal thermometer. If their temperature is above 100.1 degrees, access will be denied and the parent/guardian will be asked to take the child home.
- Parents/guardians will be asked to confirm that the child is not currently (or in the last 14 days) exhibiting any symptoms of COVID-19 (listed below). If the answer is yes, they will be asked to take the child home.
  - fever
  - cough
  - shortness of breath
  - difficulty breathing
  - chills
  - repeated shaking with chills
  - muscle pain
  - headache
  - sore throat
  - new loss of taste or smell
- Counselors will make a visual inspection of the child for signs of illness which could include flushed cheeks, rapid breathing or difficulty breathing (without recent physical activity), fatigue, or extreme fussiness.



*If children are exhibiting any of the symptoms above, they will be asked to not enter the program and the family will need to monitor symptoms and talk to their pediatrician.*

### WHAT HAPPENS IF A CHILD GETS SICK AT SUMMER CAMP?

- If any of the symptoms listed above are exhibited while in care, the counselor will immediately contact the child's family. If the family cannot be reached the counselor will contact the Emergency Contact designated to that child. counselors will alert administrators of this news.
- The child will be removed from the group until they are picked up. Parents/Emergency Contact must pick up within 30 minutes. The child will be isolated with a counselor until the parent/emergency contact arrives.
- The child waits in an isolation area
- We will disinfect surfaces in the isolation area after the sick child has gone home.
- Items/spaces the child came in contact with throughout the day will be thoroughly cleaned and sanitized.

### IF A CHILD OR STAFF MEMBER IS CONFIRMED TO HAVE COVID-19, WHAT WILL CARRIE MURRAY NATURE CENTER DO?

If a person working in or attending summer camp is a confirmed case of COVID-19, the program should follow CDC and MDH/MSDE guidance:

1. Contact the local health department immediately.
2. **Close for 2-5 days while determining possible continued closure of 14 days or more.**
3. Communicate with staff and parents regarding the confirmed case and exposure.
4. Clean and disinfect the childcare facility as recommended by the CDC (A.2).
5. Determine duration of program closure based on guidance from the local health department.

Everyone potentially exposed to the person who tested positive for COVID-19 should monitor carefully for symptoms. Individuals who had close, prolonged contact with the person who tested positive should quarantine at home for 14 days after the last day of exposure.

### HOW SOON CAN A CHILD/STAFF MEMBER RETURN TO SUMMER CAMP AFTER BEING SICK, EXHIBITING SYMPTOMS, OR BEING EXPOSED TO SOMEONE SICK OR EXHIBITING SYMPTOMS?

#### **I think or know I had COVID-19, and I had symptoms:**

The child or staff member with confirmed COVID-19 or probable COVID-19 may return to the childcare program when they have met the CDC criteria for discontinuation of home isolation:

- 3 days (72 hours) with no fever (without the use of fever reducing medicines) **and**
- Symptoms improved **and**
- 10 days since symptoms first appeared

*Depending on your healthcare provider's advice and availability of testing, you might get tested to see if you still have COVID-19. If you will be tested, you can be around others when you have no fever, symptoms have improved, and you receive two negative test results in a row, at least 24 hours apart.*

**I tested positive for COVID-19 but had no symptoms:**

If you continue to have no symptoms, you can be with others after 10 days have passed since the test.

*Depending on your healthcare provider's advice and availability of testing, you might get tested to see if you still have COVID-19. If you will be tested, you can be around others after you receive two negative test results in a row, at least 24 hours apart.*

*If you develop symptoms after testing positive, follow the guidance above for "I think or know I had COVID, and I had symptoms."*

**For anyone who has been around a person confirmed with COVID-19 or someone with a probable case of COVID-19**

It is important to remember that anyone who has close contact with someone with COVID-19/ a probable case of COVID-19 should stay home for 14 days **after exposure** based on the time it takes to develop illness.

If a household member was confirmed with COVID-19 or a probable case of COVID-19, the parent/staff member should provide evidence (e.g., a note from a health care provider) that the household contact has been released from isolation at the time the child/staff member returns to childcare.

**IN WHAT OTHER CIRCUMSTANCE WOULD CARRIE MURRAY NATURE CAMP CONSIDER CLOSING DUE TO COVID-19?**

**If a child, staff member or anyone working in the building becomes ill with COVID-19 and has been present in the facility within 48 hours of becoming symptomatic or while symptomatic Carrie Murray Nature Center WILL close.**

In many cases, people with mild or moderate symptoms may be presumed to have COVID-19 and never be tested. Regardless of whether the person is tested, if someone has symptoms that appear to be related to COVID-19, the site should close and take the following steps:

1. Safely isolate the person (if they are still on site) and place a mask on them if one is available.
2. Clean and disinfect the site as recommended by the CDC.
3. Notify parents and staff that someone became ill and has symptoms that may be due to COVID-19 and encourage daily monitoring for symptoms.
4. Consult with the local health department for guidance on the duration of closure based on level of contact and potential exposure to persons in the building.

**If a person is in quarantine due to possible exposure to a person that tested positive for COVID-19 and was inside Carrie Murray Nature Center's facility prior to the start of quarantine, Carrie Murray Nature Center will CONSIDER closing.**

If the person was without symptoms, there would likely be little known risk to the occupants of the building, but recommendations may depend on the level and duration of contact with others. Please consult with the local health department for guidance.

When consulting with the local health department, Carrie Murray Nature Center will be prepared to provide detailed information about:

1. The identity of the person with COVID-19 or probable COVID-19 (i.e. staff, child in care, household member, another person).
2. The date the person with COVID-19 or probable COVID-19 was last in the building
3. The date the person developed symptoms.
4. What types of interactions the person may have had with other persons in the building and in what locations?
5. How long their interactions were with other persons in the building
6. If the person is now symptomatic.
7. Any other information to assist with the determination of next steps.

#### WHEN WILL CARRIE MURRAY NATURE CAMP REOPEN AFTER A CLOSURE DUE TO COVID-19?

Initial closing is to allow time for thorough cleaning and sanitizing the entire area, contact assessment and communication. **The total center closure could last for 14 days or more depending on several factors** including the identity of the person with COVID-19 or probable COVID-19 (i.e., staff, child in care, household member), number of persons or classrooms exposed, when the person with COVID-19 or probable COVID-19 was last at the child care center, and symptoms in other persons exposed. The local health department should be consulted for guidance about reopening.

When consulting with the local health department about reopening, Carrie Murray Nature Center will be prepared to provide detailed information about:

1. The identity of the person with COVID-19 or probable COVID-19 (i.e. staff, child in camp, household member)
2. The date the person with COVID-19 or probable COVID-19 was last in the building
3. The date the person developed symptoms
4. What types of interactions the person may have had with other persons in the building and in what locations?
5. How long their interactions were with other persons in the building
6. If other persons in the camp have developed any symptoms
7. Any other information to assist with the determination of next steps

**NOTE:** Program Closure may be shorter than 14 days, and the program may be able to reopen, if a person with symptoms of COVID-19 is tested for COVID-19 and results are negative. Reopening decisions and approvals are made on a case by case basis.

#### WILL CARRIE MURRAY NATURE CAMP LET FAMILIES KNOW IF A CHILD OR STAFF MEMBER TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19 OR IS ABSENT DUE TO COVID-19 SYMPTOMS?

Yes. After consulting with the local health department, the program should inform families of the situation and the recommendations given by the local health department and the actions to be taken, including closing the program. No names of COVID-19 ill persons will be shared with families to respect privacy.