



Small Group Size Summer Camp and COVID 19 Impact FAQ

Due to the unprecedented impact COVID 19 is having on the Thorne community, Thorne is making significant changes to its summer camp program for 2020 in order to as best as possible ensure the safety of our campers and alleviate some of the fears and uncertainty that our camp parents are experiencing. Below are answers to frequently asked questions related to our shift to a small group size camp model and the efforts we will be taking to provide a safe and joyous camp experience during these challenging times. If you have questions that are not specifically related to the small group camps or COVID 19 impacts, please be sure to read our regular [Summer Camp FAQ's](#). And, if you are not finding the answers that you need, please contact us at info@thornenature.org and we will do our best to respond in a timely fashion.

Last Updated 5/12/2020

Do you still have space available for the new camp options for this summer?

Registration for Summer 2020 is full. We do have a free waitlist that you can join by completing the Interest Form for the camp option you are most interested in: [Small Group Nature Camp Interest Form](#) or [Choose Your Own Adventure Nature Camp Interest Form](#). Families will be contacted immediately if a space opens for their child/ren on the waitlist.

Has my existing camp registration been impacted? Is my child still enrolled in Thorne Summer Camp?

Due to COVID-19, Thorne is cancelling all of its traditional camps in order to switch to a safer small group size camp model. All registrations made prior to April 20, 2020, are no longer valid. Thorne will now be offering 2 camp programs this summer: Choose Your Own Adventure Nature Camp and the Small Group Nature Camp. Campers who were already enrolled in Thorne Summer Camp 2020 will be given priority to register for one of the new camps.

How do I transfer my original registration or request a refund?

To transfer a registration made prior to 4/20/2020 to one of our new camp offerings or request a refund, please complete the applicable form:

[Small Group Nature Camp Interest Form](#)

[Choose Your Own Adventure Nature Camp Interest Form Refund Request Form](#)

Where do I get more information on the small group size camps, and how do I register?

We have created flyers for both of our small group size nature camps and you can access them from the links provided below:

[Small Group Nature Camp Flyer](#)

[Small Group Nature Camp Interest Form](#)

If you are ready to begin the registration process, please use the links below to complete the interest form for the camp you would like your child/re to attend:

[Choose Your Own Adventure Nature Camp Flyer](#)

[Choose Your Own Adventure Nature Camp Interest Form](#)

What extra precautions are you taking to ensure the health and safety of campers?

The health and safety of our campers and staff continues to be Thorne's top priority. First and foremost, to reduce the potential for transmission of COVID 19 we have switched to a small group size camp model of 5 or less (50% of the current state childcare licensing recommendation) and will not allow groups to intermingle. In addition, instructors will have 9 days of no camper contact between working with different groups of campers. Thorne is in frequent contact with the Boulder County Public Health and is monitoring best practices being released by the American Camp Association. Rest assured we will be following all public health guidelines for day care centers and camps, and taking extra precautions whenever possible. Thorne has already drafted a COVID-19 health policy based on current guidelines and best practices. This policy includes detailed information related to: daily camper and staff health screenings that include temperature checks; what to do if a staff member or camper becomes sick; protocols for duration and frequency of hand washing; protocols for cleaning and sanitizing surfaces and supplies; protocols for snacks and lunch; and the availability and use of protective equipment. Because this is an evolving and dynamic situation, we will continue to update our COVID-19 health policy throughout the summer and a copy of the current policy based on the most up to date guidelines and best practices will be provided to parents one week prior to the start of their child/ren's camp. Thorne has been safely managing the risks associated with running an outdoor based nature camp for more than six decades and our organization has proven itself exceptional at creating and operationalizing policies to keep participants and staff healthy and safe. Thorne will be applying this expertise with extra vigilance this coming summer to minimize the potential for the spread of COVID 19.

What camps are you offering this summer?

Thorne will be offer the following two-week long small group size camps:

Small Group Nature Camp:

- Best for individual campers who want to join an "open group" of new friends (siblings will be placed together unless otherwise requested by the parent). Thorne will do its best to honor friend requests made in advance.
- Max of 5 campers
- Ages 6-11
- Sliding scale tuition \$369-\$549 per week for a two week session
- Times: 8:30a-2:30p

- Focus on nature play and exploration. Tailored to meet the unique needs and interests of the students participating.
- Possible meeting locations: Traditional Thorne meeting locations like Sombrero Marsh, Chautauqua, Mt Sanitas, or the Coal Creek corridor (Lafayette)

Choose Your Own Adventure Nature Camp:

- Best for families and friends who want to be part of a private camp where they will know all of the groups' participants and be allowed to choose the daily location of the camp and customize camp activities
- Max of 4 campers
- Ages 6-11 (exceptions for 5 year old campers and campers older than 11 may be allowed on a case by case basis in order to enable siblings to attend camp together)
- Sliding scale tuition \$459-549 per week for a two week session
- Times: 8:30a-2:30p (variations may be possible within the limits of a 6-hour camp day)
- Custom tailored camp experience - choose daily activities which could include nature exploration & connection, nature art, fairies & gnomes, magic of nature, survival skills, birding, biking, fly fishing, and more.
- Meet at your home or at a nearby park, trail, or open space with option to vary the meeting locations daily

What dates will Thorne Summer Camp be offered?

Each camp offering will be Monday-Friday for 2-week sessions:

- June 1-12
- June 22-July 3
- July 13-24
- August 3-14

Is there an Extended Care option?

We will not be offering Extended Care as an option this Summer to minimize cross contact between instructors and children.

Do you think your small group size camps will sell out? Should I register now, or is it ok to wait a few weeks?

Due to all the changes we are implementing to keep our campers safe and offer a high quality camp experience, we will only have space for 200 to 250 campers this summer as compared to more than 2,000 in a typical summer. For this reason, we expect that the new small group size camps will sell out quickly. If you or your child have your heart set on attending Thorne camp this summer, we suggest that you register as soon as possible.

My camper was REALLY looking forward to participating in a specialty camp (biking, birding, fishing, Jeff & Paige). Will you offer these in a smaller style camp?

We are doing our best to determine if there is anything we can do to accommodate parent's requests for Thorne to offer specialty camps, which includes understanding and complying with local, state, and federal regulations and the availability of facilities and specialized staffing. We will be reaching out directly to folks that were enrolled in specialized Thorne programs in the coming days and weeks to let you know if we have any flexibility in serving your needs.

My child is under the age of six, why can't they participate in a Small Group Nature Camp?

Thorne currently plans to operate its Small Group Nature Camp under CO State Childcare licenses for mobile and outdoor camps. In accordance with our mobile and outdoor licenses, we are not allowed to accept campers under the age of 6. In the event it is possible for Thorne to operate camp out of the Sombrero Marsh Environmental Education Center, which is a licensed childcare facility, we may be able to lower the minimum age requirement for campers to 5 years old. In the event this is possible, we will contact parents of all previously enrolled 5 year olds to inform them of this change in our 2020 camp offerings. If you are the parent of a previously enrolled 5 year old who has an older sibling, please contact info@thornenature.org if you are interested in enrolling both children in Thorne's Choose Your Own Adventure Nature Camp. Our staff will be happy to discuss this option with you to see if it might be a fit for your family.

My child is older than 11, why can't they attend camp this summer?

Due to the limited capacity available as a result of Thorne switching to a small group size camp model, we wanted to offer available spaces to younger campers for whom parents face a greater childcare need. We are sad that we won't be able to explore in nature with some of the older campers who have been coming to camp for years, but feel this is the right decision to be of the greatest service to our community at this time.

Why aren't you offering camp in Littleton this year?

For its small group size nature camps, Thorne is only employing full-time staff and returning camp instructors. Due to this policy and the limited number of returning camp instructors available to teach in Littleton, we are not able to offer camp in Littleton at this time. We are still in the process of communicating with some of our past Littleton instructors about their availability this summer. In the event that we end up with enough available instructors, we will reach out directly to all of our Littleton parents to let them know that we can offer camp to at our Waterton Canyon site this summer.

Why did you not wait longer before cancelling your traditional summer camp?

The timing of our decision was based on two criteria: 1. Providing parents with certainty during this uncertain time; and, 2. ensuring that we allowed our staff enough time to design the new camps so that they can provide the same high quality experience parents have come to expect from Thorne.

What happens if stay at home orders are extended?

The small group size program model as designed is allowed to operate as an essential service under the current Colorado stay at home order. We specifically designed the new offerings to minimize the potential that we would have to cancel programs once we enter the summer season. In the event that the local, state, or federal government implement any future orders that would require Thorne to cancel camp, we will provide a 100% refund to families.

What happens if social distancing orders remain in place?

Thorne staff will operate camp in compliance with all guidelines set forth by Boulder County Public Health, including any rules related to social distancing. Our staff are already working hard to develop ideas on how we can offer an engaging and fun camp experience while operating under a social distancing order. Rest assured, if social distancing or wearing masks is required for the safety of our campers and our staff, we will ensure these policies are complied with.

When will the exact locations for the Small Group Nature Camps be made available?

During this dynamic and challenging time, Thorne's land management partners have not yet been able to approve our 2020 permits. As soon as permits are approved, we will assign camp locations. Our intention at this time is to operate out of traditional Thorne camp locations like Chautauqua, Sombrero Marsh, Mt. Sanitas, and the Coal Creek Corridor (Lafayette). We are already working on contingency plans in the event that some or all of these locations will not be available to Thorne this coming summer.

What happens if I do not like the location that my child is assigned to go to camp?

If for some reason you are unhappy with your assigned camp location and we cannot offer you a spot in a camp at a different location that you do approve of, then we will issue your family a 100% refund.

Why does it cost more for Choose your Own Adventure camp?

The weekly cost of the Choose Your Own Adventure Nature Camp is \$90 more per week than a traditional week-long Thorne summer camp and the new Small Group Nature Camp. The reason for the increased cost is that the Choose Your Own Adventure Nature Camp is limited by state childcare laws to four participants, whereas five children can participate in the Small Group Nature Camp. Please know, our decision to offer the Choose Your Own Adventure Camp and charge more for these camps is not driven by profit, but rather is a way for Thorne to recoup the revenue lost by registering one less camper, while still being responsive to parents that have requested a customizable camp that is exclusive to their children and the children of other families that they know and trust.

What is your cancellation policy, and what if Thorne needs to cancel camp for a reason related to COVID 19?

Due to COVID-19, Thorne has updated its standard cancellation policy to include:

Thorne Cancellation: If Thorne needs to cancel a camp prior to the start of a camp, families will receive a 100% refund. This includes any instances under which a COVID 19 related change in local, state, or federal regulations makes it impossible for Thorne to deliver camp. In the event that Thorne has to cancel a portion of a camp that has already started in accordance with Boulder County Public Health guidelines due to a camper's suspected or actual COVID-19 illness, families will receive a 100% credit for the unused portion of the camp to be used through Summer 2021 or a 50% refund.

COVID-19 Health Cancellation: If a camper is diagnosed with COVID-19 or has any symptoms as defined within current Boulder County Public Health guidelines pertaining to COVID-19 for day care centers or camps that require the camper not attend camp, families will receive a 100% credit for the unused portion of the camp to be used through Summer 2021 or a 50% refund.

In all other instances, Thorne's standard cancellation policy remains in effect:

Transfers – To make a transfer, please e-mail info@thornenature.org with your child's name, and the names and dates of the "Camp Experiences" you desire to transfer to and from. Prior to April 30: All "Camp Experiences" can be transferred at no cost. *After April 30 and up to 21 days prior to the "Camp Experience" start date:* Full Day "Camp Experiences" can be transferred for a \$10 fee; and, Extended Care and Parent and Child "Camp Experiences" can be transferred at no cost. *Within 20 days of the start of a "Camp Experience":* Full Day "Camp Experiences" can be transferred for a \$45 fee, depending on availability; and, Extended Care and Parent and Child "Camp Experiences" can be transferred at no cost. *Within 7 days of the start of a "Camp Experience":* Transfers will not be made; refer to the cancellation

policy. All transfers are dependent on availability. If desired "Camp Experiences" are not available within the current year, refer to cancellation policy.

Cancellation - If you must cancel, please e-mail info@thornenature.org as soon as possible. *Prior to April 30:* Full Day "Camp Experiences" will receive a full refund less a \$45 administrative fee per program; and, Extended Care will receive a full refund less a \$10 cancellation fee per program; and, Parent and Child "Camp Experiences" will not be refunded, but are transferrable at no charge. *After April 30 and up to 21 days prior to the "Camp Experience" start date:* Full Day "Camp Experience" will receive a full refund less a \$45 administrative fee per program if we can fill the spot, or a 50% refund if we cannot fill the spot; and, Extended Care will receive a full refund less a \$10 cancellation fee; and, Parent and Child "Camp Experiences" will not be refunded, but are transferrable at no charge. *Within 20 days of the start of a "Camp Experience":* Refunds will not be given.

Last-Minute Medical Transfer/Credit - In the event of illness or injury prior to the start of a "Camp Experience," please e-mail info@thornenature.org as soon as possible. Thorne will transfer the camper to another available "Camp Experience" or issue a credit good for up to 1 year for a future "Camp Experience" for the same camper for a \$45 administrative fee (free for Parent and Child "Camp Experiences"). A doctor's note stating the camper's inability to participate will be required. Requests for a medical cancellation will not be granted after a "Camp Experience" has ended.