



Summer Camp COVID-19 FAQ

Safety continues to be our top priority as we run camps during the COVID-19 pandemic. Below are answers to frequently asked questions related to COVID-19 and the efforts we will be taking to provide a safe and joyful camp experience. If you have questions that are not specifically related to COVID-19 impacts, please be sure to read our regular [Summer Camp FAQ's](#). If you are not finding the answers that you need, please contact us at info@thornenature.org.

Last Updated 1/14/2021

Are Thorne's "Camp Experiences" going to be fun during a pandemic?

Absolutely! More than ever, this is an important time for kids to get outside and have magical experiences in nature with friends. We can't wait to take your child on fun adventures!

Have there been any changes to camp for 2021?

Thorne has taken the following actions to minimize the risks of COVID-19 and as best as possible ensure our camps remain open throughout the summer:

- Switching to a two week camp model, reducing the total number of campers at each site during each two-week session, and reducing group sizes (our current plan is for 8 campers per group but this could be increased to 10 in the event that Thorne and its partners at Boulder County Public Health believe it is safe to do so - traditional group size is 12), to minimize the number of individuals each camper and staff member is exposed to throughout the summer.
- Shifted to a site based camp model to minimize the close contact of participants which occurs when transporting campers between sites.

What are the benefits of the 2021 camp model?

We designed this camp model with COVID safety in mind, but quickly recognized that there were additional benefits as well. We had great success with this modified camp model in 2020 and saw our camper's connections with nature grow by leaps and bounds. A two-week program means that kids get more immersion into nature and have the ability to dig deeper into their passions for the natural world. They also

have more time to build lasting relationships with fellow campers and their Instructor. Site-based programs that don't use buses allow for a deeper connection to the land and build a strong sense of place in campers. By having repeat visits to the same open spaces, campers get to observe daily patterns and changes in nature, visit their favorite spots many times, and take more of a lead in their outdoor adventures. On top of all of that, having smaller group sizes leads to an experience that is tailored to each group's unique interests.

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

Due to the changes we are implementing to keep our campers safe and offer a high quality camp experience, we will only have space for about 25% of our typical number of campers this summer. For this reason, we expect that 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.

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. Being in nature is not only a great venue for learning, exploration, and play, but it is also the safest place to be during COVID-19. Fortunately, we did not have any cancelled camps or cases of COVID-19 during our 2020 camp season and strive to continue this track record! We will be following all public health guidelines for child care centers and camps, and taking extra precautions whenever possible. Thorne is in frequent contact with Boulder County Public Health and is monitoring best practices to ensure that we are running the safest camps possible. To see our current COVID-19 Health Policies and Procedures, follow this [link](#). This document 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 disinfecting 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 policies and procedures at least monthly throughout the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic. A copy of the current policies and procedures 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 campers 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.

Will you require campers and staff to wear face coverings?

We will continue to follow the Boulder County Public Health Department's recommendations and regulations on the use of face coverings. We currently require campers and staff to wear face coverings during camp when a distance of six feet from others cannot be maintained and require face coverings anytime groups are

indoors. We will adjust this policy as needed to remain in compliance with the Boulder County Public Health Department's standards. To see our current COVID-19 Health Policies and Procedures, follow this [link](#).

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 2022 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 child 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 2022 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.

What happens if the COVID-19 situation gets worse and a stay at home order is put in place?

Current state COVID-19 policies prioritize keeping child care centers open, specifically small outdoor camp programs like Thorne. We have specifically re-designed our 2021 summer offerings to minimize the possibility that we could have to cancel programs. In the event that the local, state, or federal government implement any future orders that would inhibit Thorne’s ability to run its camp, we will provide a 100% refund to families.

Where do I get more information on 2021 camps and how do I register?

We are returning to our traditional format for registration, which is on [Thorne’s website](#) and registration opens January 15th. Learn more about 2021 camp offerings in our online catalog and in the 2021 camp descriptions in the [Downloads and Links](#) section on our Summer Camp page.

Will there be field trips this summer?

At this time, we will not be using buses for field trips this summer. In order to visit a variety of natural environments, we will have different drop-off/pick-up locations during the week. You will be provided with a final schedule of the drop-off/pick-up locations before your camp starts.

Boulder:

- **Chautauqua camps:**
 - Camps will meet at Chautauqua on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday
 - Camps will meet at Boulder Church (345 Mapleton Ave, Boulder, 80304) on Tuesday and Thursday. Groups will visit the nearby open space at Mt. Sanitas.
- **Mt. Sanitas camps:**
 - Camps will meet at Boulder Church (345 Mapleton Ave, Boulder, 80304) on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday
 - Camps will meet at Chautauqua on Tuesday and Thursday
- **Sombrero Marsh camps:**
 - Camps will meet at Sombrero Marsh on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday
 - Camps will meet at a field trip location like Chautauqua or Bobolink trail on Tuesday and Thursday

Lafayette:

- **Ryan Elementary camps:**
 - Camps will meet at Ryan Elementary on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday

- Camps will meet at Waneka Lake on Wednesday

Is there an Extended Care option?

We will not be offering Extended Care as an option this summer. Our Extended Care program typically brings together campers from numerous different groups to finish the day with a new instructor and at a location that offers an indoor space in the event of inclement weather. It is our opinion that this program cannot be operated safely for our staff or campers at this time.

Will you be running specialty camps this summer (arts and crafts, biking, bird banding, fishing, Jeff & Paige)?

At this time, we are unable to offer specialty camps. However, we are hoping to incorporate elements of some of these special camps into our other camp offerings. One benefit of working with smaller group sizes over two week sessions is that our staff will have the ability to tailor the camp experience to specific desires of the participants.

Are Choose Your Own Adventure camps available this summer?

Because we want to serve as many youth as possible this summer and state child care licensing regulations limit the group size of our Choose Your Own Adventure Camps to 4 participants, we are unable to offer these camps this summer.

Are you offering Parent and Child camps this summer?

Because we want to focus our limited staff resources on meeting our community's, childcare needs, we will not offer Parent and Child camps this summer. If your child is 3-5 years old, you may want to consider our drop-off preschool camp options in Boulder and Lafayette.

Are you offering camp in Littleton this summer?

Thorne will be unable to run camps in Littleton this summer. We are saddened by this decision, but believe it offers us the best ability to focus our management staff resources in Boulder County which we believe will allow us to run a safe program for our 2021 participants during this challenging time.