

GARNA Nature Camp 2020 COVID-19 Impacts FAQ

Due to COVID-19 impacts on the Greater Arkansas River Nature Association (GARNA) community, our Youth Ecological Literacy Program is making significant changes to its summer camp program for 2020 to ensure, as best as possible, the safety of our campers and alleviate some of the fears and uncertainty that families are experiencing. Below are answers to frequently asked questions related to the adapted small-group camp model and the efforts we will be taking to provide a safe and fun 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 contact us at youth@garna.org

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 GARNA's top priority. First and foremost, to reduce the potential for transmission of COVID-19, we have switched to a small-group model. Campers will be split into groups of 5 campers per 1 staff and will be distanced from other groups with limited interaction. The small-group model takes precautions beyond the current Colorado guidelines and minimizes the potential of canceling programs throughout the summer. GARNA is in frequent contact with Chaffee County Public Health and is monitoring best practices released by the American Camp Association. Rest assured, we will be following all public health guidelines for day care centers and camps, taking extra precautions whenever possible.

GARNA has 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 personal 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 program. GARNA has been safely managing the risks associated with running outdoor programs for almost 25 years, and our organization has proven itself exceptional at creating and following policies to keep participants and staff healthy and safe. GARNA 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?

GARNA will be offering 3-day and 5-day camps this summer, with up to 5 campers per instructor. Total numbers with Nature Camp small-groups at one site will be kept within CO Dept. of Public Health regulations. Currently capping at 10 campers (6/3/2020). Small-groups will be distanced from other groups with limited interaction, to help minimize the risk of exposure of multiple groups over the course of a week.

Camp dates will be:

- Session 1 Buena Vista – 3 days June 16 – 18
- Session 1 Salida – 5 days June 22 – 27

- Session 2 Buena Vista – 3 days July 7-9
- Session 2 Salida – 3 days July 14 – 16

Focus: Join GARNA instructors in searching for aquatic insects, exploring forestry and birds of prey, completing orienteering challenges, and more – crafts, games, scavenger hunts, nature journaling, etc!

My child is under the age of 7, why can't they participate in a GARNA's camps this year?

Based on current COVID-19 safety protocols and recommendations, all instructors and participants will be required to wear a mask and maintain a 6' separation. Because students under 7 have a more difficult time with fine motor skills tasks, often need hands-on assistance, and may have a more difficult time following the mask and distancing requirements, the minimum age to attend camp is higher than previous years. This was a very difficult decision, as we love working with these younger ages, and we look forward to welcoming them back next year!

What happens if stay at home orders are extended?

In the event that local, state, or federal government agencies implement any future orders that would require GARNA to cancel camp, we will provide a 100% refund to families.

What happens if social distancing orders remain in place?

GARNA staff will operate camp in compliance with all guidelines set forth by Chaffee County Public Health, including any rules related to social distancing. In preparing for camp, staff have worked hard to develop ideas on offering an engaging and fun camp experience while operating under a social distancing order. Rest assured, as long as social distancing and masks are required for the safety of our campers and our staff, we will ensure staff and camper compliance with these policies.

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

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

COVID-19 Community Health Cancellations

Should GARNA cancel a program/camp, those registered will be notified as soon as possible and a **full refund** provided. This includes any instances under which a COVID-19-related change in local, state, or federal regulations makes it impossible for GARNA to deliver camp.

In the event that GARNA has to cancel a portion of a camp that has already started in accordance with local, state, or federal guidelines, 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 Personal Health Cancellation: If a camper is diagnosed with COVID-19 or has any symptoms as defined within current Chaffee 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 for the unused portion of the camp.

In all other instances, GARNA's standard cancellation policy remains in effect.