

COVID-19 Response & FAQs



To our supporters and families,

With the health and safety top of mind for our employees, the youth and families we serve, and the general public, Camp Fire Minnesota is taking steps to minimize the spread of COVID-19. Our leadership team continues to regularly review and follow advisement from MN Department of Health and other government agencies. Ultimately, we find our core values guiding us through the evolving and uncertain situation with COVID-19.

"Can-do Collaboration" and innovating as a team as we work remotely to continue serving our youth, families and educators with new distance learning resources.

"Fostering Youth & Community" to make decisions that are in the best interest of our staff, families we serve, and the broader community as we cancel and adjust programs, events, meetings, etc.

"Love of Nature" is our reminder to practice and encourage each other to be attentive to self-care and manage stress. Follow our social media for activities and ideas for outdoor time – all while practicing proper hygiene and distancing precautions.

We hope that the FAQs below help answer some of your initial questions, please reach-out with additional questions.

FAQs

Is the Camp Fire Minnesota office open?

Our physical office in St. Louis Park is closed until further notice with all staff working remotely or at Tanadoona weekdays 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

- Contact staff directly during business hours; staff contact info: www.campfiremn.org/admin-staff. Please note, we do not have the capability to transfer calls; staff will continue to answer their direct dial lines.

Who do I contact with general questions during this time?

For general questions please email info@campfiremn.org or call our main line (612) 235-7284.

Who do I contact with program questions during this time?

The best way is to email info@campfiremn.org or call our main line (612) 235-7284.

Are in-person youth programs being held?

Distance learning ("My Nature Connection") curriculum, activities and videos for educators and parents is in development and shared as available. Follow our social media or visit <https://campfiremn.org/mynatureconnection> for resources.

Limited in-person programming is now taking place. This includes:

- MEA Day Camp (October 15-16)
- In-class Environmental Education
- Teen Outdoor Leaders at Tanadoona
- Family & Community Events at Tanadoona

What is the status of event rentals at Camp Bluewater and Tanadoona throughout the year?

Rentals are available in compliance with MN Department of Health guidelines. We'd love to host your event or family get-away! Please contact Emily Peterson, Business Dev & Sales Manager, to discuss your event and questions specific to your reservation:

emilyp@campfiremn.org

What is the status of Camp Fire Minnesota community events?

We deeply value the opportunity to connect our supporters to the impact and value of nature-based learning and environmental education programs for Minnesota youth, and will be making appropriate adjustments to upcoming events.

Following the guidelines from the CDC and MDH we are modifying events to avoid large group events and to follow distancing guidelines.

Community & Family Events are scheduled as follows as in-person events at Tanadoona

- **Fall Hike**, October 13 // 4-6pm
- **Outdoor Play Day**, November 1 // 1-4pm

Our Fall Fundraiser will be held virtually. We have two very special events for you, learn more and register here:

<https://campfiremn.org/fall-fundraiser/>

- **Under the Stars**, September 25 // pre-show and concert 6:30pm; program and tasting 7:00pm
- **Nature Yoga**, September 26 // 11-11:30am

What if I have questions about event cancellations?

Visit our [Upcoming Events](#) page for the most up-to-date event information, cancellations or adjustments. Please email info@campfiremn.org with additional questions or concerns.

Summer Camp

Why was summer camp cancelled?

We are an American Camp Association (ACA) accredited camp. We follow best practices to ensure the safety, health and well-being of our campers and staff. We did not make this decision lightly. We took available guidance from the CDC, ACA, and MN Department of Health, to explore how to provide a safe environment for campers, families, and staff. Our campers' safety is our top priority – this year and every year. We assessed every aspect of camp. Yet, the need for strict distancing to prevent the spread of COVID-19 at this time simply cannot be maintained in camp programs.

What happens to the fees I paid toward camp?

All 2020 registrations cancellations have been processed.

We know how important Tanadoona is to you and your camper. Like you, keeping Tanadoona a thriving green space for all youth is our top priority. Thank you to everyone for your understanding and a special thank you to those able to hold your payment as credit for future years or donating to Camp Fire Minnesota. We are grateful for our passionate Tanadoona community who has stepped up support as we face financial challenges stemming from COVID-19.

If you have questions about your 2020 registration, you can always reach us at info@campfiremn.org. We look forward to your future participation in our programs.

Can you guarantee my camper a spot next year?

We are looking into how we can approach this to ensure equitable registration for next year. We cannot make any guarantees at this time, but trust that we too want every camper who was registered to be able to attend in 2021.

What are 2021 summer camp plans?

We are making plans to hold summer camp in 2021 and we know it will look different. As we have more information available

we will share with camp families and our supporters.

Please make sure you are on our email list for summer camp updates. If you're not sure, you can [sign-up here](#).

We cherish the fun, adventurous and care-free camp experience for our youth. Our decisions are based on the safety of our campers and staff. While it was truly heartbreaking that we cancelled 2020 summer camp for the first time in 96 years we want everyone, our camp families, campers, and staff, to always feel they are in a safe and healthy environment. We look forward to being together again soon.

We appreciate your understanding and continued support. We cannot wait to continue in-person programming again. It is our organizational mission and our staffs' personal passions.

Beyond COVID-19 we maintain our vision for expanding year-round programs at Tanadoona to serve 10,000 youth and for advancing equity and inclusion in nature through our Nature Immersion Program with schools and new Fellowship program.

In the spirit of our core values, we want to share our sincere gratitude for families and donors who are reaching out to share your concern and dedication to our team and programs.

We are facing significant financial challenges. Cancelled fundraisers and cancelled programs due to COVID-19 are taking a toll. In this uncertain time, we are thankful for your continued support of our mission and the youth we serve. Please consider supporting support us with a donation.

*Thank you,
Camp Fire Minnesota*