

May 22, 2020

Dear Nature Day Camp Families,

It is with great sadness that I share the news that Chippewa Nature Center made the difficult decision to cancel all Nature Day Camp sessions for the summer of 2020. In response to COVID-19, we have spent the last several months gathering information, monitoring developing safety guidelines, and talking with colleagues in Midland and across the Midwest. Our most important priority at camp has always been, and remains, the safety and well-being of our campers, their families, and our staff. The new protocols would prevent us from gathering for flagpole, playing together at lunch, sharing a meal over a campfire, or having a campout in the wilderness, many of the very things that are hallmarks of the Nature Day Camp program. The limited availability of personal protective equipment, necessity to reduce the overall size of camp, and the inability, even with screening, to protect campers and staff from COVID-19 also weighed heavily into the decision to cancel.

We know that this time is stressful and challenging for our campers, and you, their families. Chippewa Nature Center remains committed to providing a safe, healthy place for people to connect to nature through exploration, recreation, and play. Our trails will be open when the flood waters subside and we invite you to grab a scavenger hunt or a nature lesson from our [Resource Page](#) and venture out to your local green space as a family. As the community works to recover, we are committed to offering opportunities for exploration, learning, and respite. Please monitor our [Enews](#), [Facebook page](#), [Instagram](#), and [website](#) for programs, lessons, and guided explorations.

As we face a devastating flood and a global virus, we are all learning new ways of being a community, and we appreciate your support as we work to connect the people of our region to nature in this challenging environment. Several families have reached out and asked if they could donate a portion of their camp registration fees to support CNC. If this is something you are interested in doing, your donation will support the work that went into planning and preparing for this summer as well as on-going and future opportunities for children, families and adults to connect to nature in meaningful ways.

In order to most efficiently process refunds and donations, **please complete [this survey](#) by Wednesday, May 27**. If you do not complete the survey, you will automatically receive a full refund. We will begin processing refunds and donations on Monday, June 1, 2020. It may take up to 3 weeks for all refunds to be processed.

Sincerely,

Steve Frisbee, Nature Day Camp Director