



## **Roundtable: Promoting Social Distancing and Still Having Fun!**

*Zoom Call · May 18, 2020*

**Agenda:** This moderated zoom call will be an opportunity to share games and activity ideas for K-8 day camps that follow the 6 foot social distancing requirements and still bring the fun. Let's treat this like a pot luck of sharing: bring one idea from your program to share and sample ideas from other departments. Our goal will be to leave with some great tools that can be adopted at camps this summer!

### **Games and activities that promote social distancing**

- Water balloon battleship: 2 versions
  - Option 1: a "captain" in the center has the water balloons. Two lines of campers on either side of the captain trying to make it across to the other side. If you are hit with a water balloon, you freeze and become a land mine.
  - Option 2: use of some type of screen dividing two teams that are spread out. Water balloons are launched over the screen. If you are hit with a water balloon, you are out.
- Theme Days
  - Hat day
  - T-shirt day
- Activities that promote learning and support some of the school learning initiatives:
  - Book club
  - Short story writing
  - Camp newspaper
  - Camp journaling
  - Partnership with library or school literacy team for story telling visits
- On-Camp visits
  - Ice cream truck
  - Visits from PD and FD
  - Instructor-led dancing or yoga
  - Note: many local groups for performing or entertainment have decided to close for the season so those options may be limited
- Sports
  - Golf
  - Disc golf using hula hoops
  - Human foos-ball
  - Tag – using pool noodles, or for hot days - water balloons or sponges
  - Track and Field events
  - Soccer
  - Modified kickball – aka soccer kickball

- Obstacle course
- On-camp races or Time Trials
- Skills Day – individual skill stations for different sports
- Field Days: water stations
- Camp Hot Shots competition (if you have enough balls to guarantee campers have their own equipment between rounds)
- Video games with cleaning of controllers
  - Active games like Just Dance
- Acting Out Games
  - Talent Show
  - Human-sized checkers or chess (draw outside with chalk)
  - Board Game Day – Candy Land with either drawn board or use of colored cones
  - Driveway Bingo
  - “Why am I late for work” improv game
  - Charades
  - Sleeping Lions: everyone lays down, spread apart from another. There is one Lion Keeper – if you are caught moving you become a Lion Keeper until everyone is out
  - Statue or Night at the Museum: freeze like a statue and if you are caught moving, you are out.
- Word Games
  - Build a story
  - Telephone with cups and strings
  - Mad Libs
- “Old School”:
  - Crafts
    - Water color kits designated per campers
    - Have campers provide their own crayons and pencils
    - Friendship bracelets
  - Walks
  - Nature scavenger hunts
  - Photo scavenger hunt for Teens
  - Small hidden objects game
    - Rumpelstiltskin game: a small known object is hidden in plain site while campers are out of the room. Once they return to the room, they will look for it and say “Rumpelstiltskin” once they see it and sit down.
  - Minute to Win It: example – keep your balloon as high off the ground as you can
  - Bocce ball
  - Legos in small groups
  - Outside chalk
  - Four square, hopscotch
    - Cat and Mouse: use on four square – 5 players. Four on corners, one mouse in the center. Everyone tries to move around the square, but if the mouse catches you and makes it to your corner before you move back, you become the mouse.

### **Recommended sites or resources for additional games and activities:**

- AsphaltGreen: Rep it Out! From a Distance – asphaltgreen.org
  - Recommended by Mike Caron from Yarmouth
- BOKS program put on by Reebok: <https://www.bokskids.org/>

### **What needs to be done to maintain hand-held or touched equipment before it can be used for a game and after?**

- Equipment needs to be cleaned before and after.
  - Items, like a dodgeball for example, can be either wiped or sprayed with cleaner/sanitizer
  - Small items like legos could be bagged and soaked in a cleaning solution daily
- Participants need to participate in hygiene practices before and after activity, handwash and sanitize
- Option - reserve games for afternoon (post-lunch)
- Check in process for arriving to camp – discussion of ideas:
  - Staff and campers' temperature will be checked upon arrival
  - Small group camps
  - Parents will not be exiting cars to walk campers up to camp
  - Staggered drop-off times:
    - Individual activities like coloring pages and word finds will be used to engage campers to start during check in. Campers bring their own crayons, pencils and clipboards.
    - Campers will be seated in their own hula hoop to create individual space
    - Larger group activities reserved for when all campers arrive.

### **What is a game or camp activity that your campers generally love that you aren't considering offering this year due to social distancing? Do participants in the zoom call have some that would allow the activity to take place?**

- Penny Carnival: end of year celebration with different game stations and multiple camps participating together
  - Suggestion: rethink the end of year celebration. Offer a sponsored end-of-year celebration meal from a local business. Great way to support a local restaurant as well.
- Color Wars: one challenge is the inter-age group component
- Suggestion: send a letter to families ahead of camp to let them know what will be different this year so they know what to expect up front.

**What are the tools you can provide staff to reinforce social distancing?**

- Orientation: ask camp staff to bring their best representations of themselves to work. High levels of enthusiasm and excitement. Kids will respond positively to good energy. Example: even a simple paper airplane contest can seem like the best day ever with the right energy.
- Reinforce the requirements of limiting physical space: maintaining physical distance with campers, what will you do in place of high fives, etc.

**Is there a way to create a dialogue around physical distancing for campers that is creative?**

- Staff skit for campers: have staff model the behaviors you want to see
- Personal space/personal bubble: some kind of phrase to remind campers about keeping their distance
- Concern of campers being less inclined to say they are not feeling well if that means being sent home
  - Overcome this by including more frequent check-ins with the campers so the dialogue stays open. Don't wait for them to report to you, check in with them.

**What messaging will you provide to parents when they ask if you are really going to be able to achieve social distancing at camp? Or "what is camp going to look like"?**

- Informing families ahead of time of changes as well as policies and procedures
- Opportunities to meet staff and ask questions
  - Open House with limited staggered attendance using Sign Up Genius
  - Meet and Greet via Zoom ahead of camp