

Notes from ZOOM Brainstorm Meeting- May 14th

Topic: Engaging Youth in Non-Traditional Summer Programs

Departments Present: Wells, York, Saco, Buxton, Kennebunkport, Berwick

Camp at Home: A virtual summer camp experience that provides a camper with engaging activities that can be completed both online and offline. Tip: even though it is a virtual camp, departments should still find ways to imbed your camp culture into this program.

Equipment:

- Weekly material pick-up that campers would need for the week. (Arts and craft materials, photos/handwritten notes from staff, science supplies)
- Offer a "Camp Starter Kit" that would include more general equipment needed for the program.
- Camp T-Shirts should still be considered for Camp at Home, as it brings unification and camp pride to the program. Campers can be challenged to decorate their shirt the first week of camp.

Programming Ideas:

- Camp Theme Weeks- use similar themes that you would normally use in a typical year.
- Create a calendar of events to help showcase the "bang for your buck" during registration.
- Virtual Field Trips: Staff can take campers on a virtual field trip by contacting local businesses and companies for an inside view on operations. Examples: lobster boat, town ambulance,
- Entertainment and Guest Speakers: Schedule entertainers to be on a ZOOM call, or ask for a pre-recorded performance that can be shared with campers to be viewed at their convenience. Also consider interviewing "local heroes", or people that your campers look up to. (Police and fire chiefs, varsity coaches and athletes, drum majors and band directors, etc.)
- Counselor ZOOM office hours- Counselors schedule specific hours each week that they will be on a ZOOM call, making sure that multiple staff have a varying hour of availability. This provides flexibility for campers and families who might have a busy summer but would still like to connect virtually with their favorite counselor.
- Your camp's version of Flat Stanley! Take photos of where Flat Stanley goes each week.
- Utilize a platform such as Google Docs for a place for campers to share their work and photos.
- Create a weekly video of activities that campers have done throughout the week.
- Talent shows.
- Crafts and activities that can be done using household items (paper towel tube, rubber bands, paperclips, etc...)
- Physical challenges that can then be recorded on a camp "Leader Board".
- Videos of instruction for certain activities that can be viewed at the leisure of campers. (Camp blog?)

Mini Camps: Hands-on programming which encourages physical activity and social interaction while maintaining physical distancing guidelines.

- Small groups- 10 to 15 participants, with the same groups day to day to limit exposure
- Short periods of time- 1-1.5 hours
- Theme Ideas:
 - o Science and STEM camps
 - o Back to Nature Camp (Storyboard walks, nature exploration...)
 - o Adventure Camp (Woods based- allows for ample free play in a safe wooded area)
 - o Sports/Gross Motor Skills and Drills- track and field/archery/field hockey/basketball/yoga/etc...

Teen Engagement

- Offer virtual classes (Safe Sitters, Safe at Home classes)
- Community Garden's
- Themed bike meet-ups
- Video game sports seasons
- Physical Distancing outdoor activities- Surfing, kayaking, stand up paddle boarding
- Virtual dance parties with guest DJ's
- Fitness Trails
- Geocaching- take photos instead of opening a container
- Bike Rodeo- Include safety, training, trail riding, and road riding

Staff Training

- Remind staff that they are role models of healthy behavior (hand washing, masks, etc...)
- For both in-person programs and virtual camp, staff can demonstrate the correct way to wear/adjust/remove masks.