

HAZEN'S NOTCH ASSOCIATION

May 28, 2020

Dear Friend of Hazen's Notch,

Since the Vermont Health Department issued revised guidelines on May 15, 2020 for daycare, summer enrichment and camp programs for children, many programs in Vermont have been cancelled.

In analyzing the directives by state health officials since mid March, physical distancing stands out as having played a significant role in minimizing the spread of the COVID-19 virus in Vermont. It is clear that many families restricted social interactions to those who were part of their household at the time the "stay home" order was given.

With the arrival of Spring, health officials began to encourage people to engage in outdoor recreational activities in small, family groups. Groups of three were suggested as being a safe maximum number for a hike. If your household included five people, then that family group was considered safe. Many families have enjoyed walking, bicycling and hiking together while maintaining physical distancing from others.

Eventually health officials suggested that Vermonters could expand their social envelope or "bubble" to include one other family, whom you trust to have followed the same physical distancing protocols that your family had been following. A safer approach to expanding your household's social envelope is to socialize outside and maintain physical distancing while outside.

How can we make the beauty of the Hazen's Notch Summer Camp experience available to children this Summer while following the guidelines issued by the Vermont Health Department ? Our conclusion is that the "Family Camp" model is a good solution.

FAMILY CAMP

In previous years, Family Camp at Hazen's Notch has allowed an adult caregiver (for example - a parent, grandparent, uncle or aunt) to bring their children for a half-day program at the Bear Paw Pond Area. This program of guided exploration and self-discovery included visiting the pond and the meadow at the summer camp. On some days as many as five family groups might attend.

SUMMER 2020

We are replacing all of the Day Camp sessions with Family Camp programs. Parents may register via email or telephone/voice mail for either a morning session or an afternoon session on the day or days of your choosing. You may invite not more than one other family to join you. Staff will be available to assist with guided exploration. Be prepared to follow all health safety guidelines as directed by the Vermont Health Dept. Your group size is limited to 8 people including adults.

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LOCATIONS

Family Camp programs will take place at two locations: the Bear Paw Pond Conservation Area and the High Ponds Farm. Staff will be on site at both locations, simultaneously to assist family visits.

Bear Paw Pond, more commonly known as "the summer camp", is the best location for families with younger children. The address is 1000 Hazen's Notch Road. There is a small pond near the parking area. A short walk up the driveway leads to Bear Paw Pond and Coyote Meadow. There are picnic tables and numerous mowed areas suitable for a picnic. Wading in the shallow area is permitted. (110 acres)

High Ponds Farm features numerous active beaver ponds and meadows. The address is 478 Rossier Road. The Rossier Road is exactly six tenths of a mile East of the Ski Center. There is a small, active beaver pond at the entrance to the property. A short walk leads to the larger group of beaver ponds known as the Moosewood Ponds where there is a picnic shelter. There are mowed trails through the orchard and wildflower meadows. (220 acres)

Camp Staff will be available at both locations to welcome and guide you during your visit.

Please note that the public is welcome to visit the High Ponds Farm during daylight hours without reservations or registration. Physical distancing must be observed.

DATES / RESERVATIONS

Reserve as far in advance as possible. hazensnotch@gmail.com or 802.326.4799. Please provide an email address and/or telephone number so that we may confirm your reservation.

Morning Session is from 9 to Noon. Afternoon Session is from 1 - 4 pm.

Monday through Friday.

July 6, 7, 8, 9 10; July 13, 14, 15, 16, 17; July 27, 28, 29, 30, 31; August 3, 4, 5, 6, 7.

Specify the number of adults and children and their ages. Group size including adults is limited to 8 people. We will have supplies for washing hands at both locations.

FEES

Through the HNA Campership Fund, the towns of Montgomery, Jay and Westfield, the State of Vermont and private individuals are providing financial support for all aspects of the 2020 Family Camp programs. The programs are free of charge.

DONATIONS

Your free-will donation in any amount will be greatly appreciated. Envelopes and donation cards are at the information sign boards at the entrances to both the Bear Paw Pond Area and the High Ponds Farm. You can make a donation when you register on the day of your program or mail a check whenever it is convenient for you. Thank you !