

May 20, 2020

We at Bishopswood have been following the developments of this pandemic over the last few months and working very closely with organizations such as Maine Summer Camps, the American Camping Association, the State of Maine, and the CDC. As our country continues to struggle with the containment of Covid-19, we feel it is time to make the responsible decision to suspend camp for the summer.

This is one of the hardest decisions we have ever had to make, as we know how incredibly beneficial the camp experience is for everyone involved. At this moment, we feel we cannot balance the health and welfare of all campers and staff while maintaining the goals of Bishopswood.

Hearing our decision might be hard for you. Parenting is no easy task on a good day, and it is so sad to have children miss out on something they desperately want and need (not to mention you wanting and needing it too)! Your children especially might not find this easy. They have experienced loss of school time, activities, sports, friendships; some perhaps have lost loved ones.

None of this was expected. None of this feels normal. We are telling campers the only thing that is “okay” is that it is all right to feel sad or angry or confused. Bishopswood is going to miss preparing Kongo bars for you, giving you string to make the best friendship bracelet ever, watching you jump in Lake Megunticook for your first time (or your 100<sup>th</sup> time!), and most of all watching everyone smiling and hugging at check-in, then hugging and crying on checkout day.

A lot of investments and preparations are made in advance throughout the year which cannot be recouped at this point. However, we are committed to take the following financial actions:

1. We are happy to refund you 100% of your registration, t-shirt, and/or campership donation by check; or,
2. If you are in a position to make a full or partial donation to help us weather this storm, that would be amazing!

To both our Bishopswood families who have been with us for generations and to those of you who were going to experience your first Bishopswood experience with us: ***we are going to miss you.*** Please know, when it's time, all the experiences you treasure will be waiting for you and your camp friends to enjoy once again—together. Until then, be safe, stay well, keep the love of Bishopswood in your hearts, and make the “outside” world more like Camp.

I know our paths will cross again!  
Mike Douglass  
Executive Director

PS. We will send you a statement with what you have paid so far in the next two weeks, and feel free to reply to that email and let us know how you would like to proceed with the refund. Our hope is to have all refunds completed by June 17<sup>th</sup>.

PSS. Our hope is to have some staff at camp this summer to make connections with campers, plan for following summers, and work on some maintenance projects. We will be sending a Google survey soon to see what interest level you have in this.