

COVID-19 UPDATE

Chihopi 2020

Dear Chihopi Campers, Families and Staff,

The health and safety of everyone at Chihopi has always been our top priority. With that in mind, after thoughtful discussion with our Infectious Disease staff, the Transplant Department, and leadership at Children's Hospital as well as a review of current recommendations from the CDC and the American Camp Association, we have made the heartbreaking decision to cancel Chihopi 2020.

Although we all have become accustomed to cancellations, social distancing, masks, and virtual programming for school, meetings, and gathering with friends, it is still very painful to cancel Chihopi. We had been hopeful that late summer might bring some normalcy to our routines, but adhering to the current safety guidelines will be difficult. Social distancing at camp is challenging with cabins of 9-12 campers and staff, a shared dining room, and close contact during activities.

Since we cannot be together this August, our Chihopi team is developing another way to celebrate our friendships, connections, fun activities, and the community of Chihopi through virtual programming. V-CHOPI will be the virtual version of camp with daily programming and activities the week of August 3 that we will participate in with virtual cabins and with all-camp activities. Stay tuned for how we are going to use Wish Lanterns this year! And – the dance theme is Mask-erade! Information about registering for V-CHOPI and a schedule of events will be available in early July. You will receive an email about how to register and information will also be posted on the Chihopi website.

This will be an unforgettable summer in many ways for all of us. It will also be an opportunity to develop Chihopi in a virtual way that could be offered as touchpoints throughout the year. Even though we will miss being at camp this August, keep in mind that Chihopi is also a feeling we carry with us throughout the year about our friendships, a community of understanding and support, and a place”where everybody knows your name!”

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about our decision to cancel Chihopi. Although we are deeply saddened, we are also very excited about what we will also accomplish virtually and how this will only expand the possibilities of our connection throughout the year.

Sincerely,

Beverly

