

Nokomis Families, Friends, Neighbours & Alumni

March 2021

The excitement is building and we are back, getting prepared to celebrate a huge milestone - our 30th Summer on Belwood Lake! As vaccine rollouts increase this month across Ontario, we are anticipating a busy summer at camp – we just don't know exactly what this will entail. First, let us review 2020, then announce our new Family Camp, explain our L.I.T. Program, and end with camper dates and plans:

REVIEW OF 2020:

What a challenging year for everyone, as we faced the worst pandemic in over 100 years! Losing things became commonplace: friends, school, camp, jobs, working, travelling, family visits, hugging, touching. Missing grandparents, weddings and funerals. Sanitizing everything, wearing masks and social distancing. It has been a real challenge to stay positive and hopeful. Nokomis was closed, but the bills kept coming in and like everyone else, we struggled. However, we received a donation from the Harold E. Ballard Foundation to repair the Dining Hall roof (it was built almost 70 years ago as a Lutheran Church), and Rosario Posca (Benjamin Moore, Erin Mills, Mississauga) to paint all of our camper cabins. This kept Zak, Noah and all our Staff, as well as many L.I.T.s, busy volunteering throughout the summer. To thank everyone for their loyalty and support, we hosted daily visits (Mon-Fri) for campers and their families (not exceeding 10 people) from 10:00 am to Sunset. Families were able to enjoy the outdoors, take part in camp activities, and catch-up & connect with the Nokomis Staff family! It was during these wonderful visits where discussions began about creating a Nokomis Family Camp. For the first time in Camp History, here is what we will be offering Spring/Summer 2021.

FAMILY CAMP:

In addition to our Children's Residential Summer Camp, Nokomis Weddings, Outdoor Education, Special Retreats, and Alumni Reunions, we are now offering Family Camp! Here are the available weekends in 2021: May 28 – 30, June 4 – 6, June 18 – 20, August 27 – 29, September 17 – 19, September 24 – 26, October 1 – 3, October 15 – 17, and October 22 – 24. If we are hit, once again, with the unfortunate news that overnight camps will not operate in Ontario this Summer, our plan is to offer all weekends (and weeks) for Family Camp. Starting from June 25 (the day our leaders are scheduled to arrive) to August 21 (the day our last bus takes the girls home). More information on Family Camps will be available on our website (www.campnokomis.com) with rates, dates, program options, Covid protocols, etc. by the end of March. For more information and early registration please contact our Camp Director, Zak Haddad.

L.I.T. PROGRAM:

The heart of Camp Nokomis has always been our Leader-in-Training Program! Watching young people 14 – 16 years of age work with Staff and Senior Staff to develop leadership qualities and skills has always been the most special part of camp. Even though we lost the summer of 2020, we will not let it slow the evolution of our future leaders. This year we will be evaluating and accepting a double cohort of leaders into the program! If the summer runs as scheduled, here are the dates: all L.I.T.s arrive Saturday, June 26, for Training Week. The female L.I.T.s go home on Friday, July 2, and boy's camp runs from July 3 – July 17. The male L.I.T.s go home Saturday, July 17, and the female L.I.T.s arrive that morning and stay through five weeks of training until Saturday, August 21 – the date the last bus goes home.

IF CAMP IS CANCELLED DUE TO COVID, WE WILL RUN A 4-WEEK CO-ED L.I.T. PROGRAM FROM JULY 10 THROUGH TO AUGUST 7 INCLUSIVE. Normally, we INVITE our young people into the L.I.T. Program, as we have extensive evaluations that are carried out both during the summer and throughout the year. We will begin by inviting our returning L.I.T.s back to camp, as well as the cohort that would have been promoted last summer. If you feel that your child is ready to become an L.I.T. and they did not receive an invite into the program please contact Jay Haddad and we can discuss options.

CAMPERS 2021:

You will see from the attached application form that Boy's camp runs for two weeks July 3 – July 17, 2021, and girl's camp runs for five weeks July 17 – August 21, 2021. If Covid-19 protocols necessitate any changes to these dates, we will let you know AS SOON AS WE KNOW. As for now, we will continue to progress as if 2021 is a normal, camp-operating summer! The camper application form is attached, please indicate if you have a deposit or payment from 2020 that you wish to apply towards the 2021 fee.

Wishing you health and happiness – we hope to see you soon!

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