



May 20, 2020

UPDATE FOR PARENTS OF REGISTERED CAMPERS FOR KWASIND 2020

As a parent of a registered camper, I wanted to write you a more personal and informative letter beyond that which was written for the broader Kwasind community. You likely received the message or saw it on our social media posts that shared the heart-breaking news that **our summer camp programs have been suspended for 2020.**

For the last number of weeks, my daughter Grace, who has been a camper at Kwasind for the last 2 summers, has been telling me constantly how excited she is about getting to go to camp. She keeps telling her brother, Josh, that "even though we can't go to school or see our friends or play sports at least we get to go to camp soon." Josh was to be a first-time camper this summer – he even had a new sleeping bag. But he, like his sister, is now incredibly disappointed about not going to camp this summer.

AS A DAD...

For parents who are sharing with your kids that camp at Kwasind has been suspended for the summer, let me speak with you first as a dad in the same situation. There is no way around this - sharing this information with your kids can be heart-wrenching and upsetting. It seems that there is so much that our kids are missing out on in light of COVID-19 and now having no summer camp to look forward to is another huge blow. Sharing this news is something I am working through with my own kids – I have included at the bottom of this email a few links I have found helpful. What I do know is that it is important that we extend empathy and understand that each child will have different needs to which we will need to respond. Show them that you are with them during this time and try to make different times to talk about it, grieve about it and share the positive stories of camp.

AS THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR...

Now, let me put on my hat as the Executive Director of Kwasind. I never imagined I would ever have to close camp for a season. I've been going to camp since I was five, have served in a summer camp context for the last 25 years and have been honoured to invest the last six summers into the growth and development of Camp Kwasind. It seems almost unfathomable to me to experience a summer without camp and seeing campers take one step closer to Jesus. However, there are moments where difficult decisions need to be made and I want you to know that we are in full support of the Ontario government's decision.

WILL ANYTHING HAPPEN THIS SUMMER?

We are currently looking at online options to provide, without cost, a variety of activity ideas, camp songs, short chapel sessions from our speakers of the week and downloadable resource ideas to bring camp ideas into the home. This would not be a formal "virtual camp" that you register for; rather, a way to provide families access to "camp elements" to interact with as they desire. We are making the shift from preparing programming for **Camp at Kwasind** to **Kwasind @ Home**. We will keep you updated as plans progress.

WHAT IS HAPPENING WITH MY CAMP PAYMENTS?

Kwasind is committed to providing a full refund on deposits and payments made for summer 2020. Based on feedback from parents, we are also offering two other options regarding payments you have already made. Please select your desired option by following the link below.

Option #1: Full Refund

You will receive a full refund of all deposits and payments that you have made towards enrollment in a summer 2020 program with no amount held back for administrative fees. We will do our best to expedite your request. Please recognize it may take 30-60 days to process refunds.

Option #2: Rollover payment to book a spot for next summer

We will forward all deposits and payments that you have made as a credit on your account for 2021 camper weeks, specialty camps or for Celebration Weekend. As an added bonus, this will not only ensure you have a spot in our EPIC Summer 2021 programs, you will also receive our 2019 rates! This option helps stabilize Camp Kwasind's yearly operating financial position and meet short-term cash flow needs. If your financial situation changes and you would prefer to request a full refund, you can do so through October 31, 2020.

Option #3: Donation

With the suspending of camp programs, we have a significant loss in operational revenue while still having many fixed operational costs and plans for upgrades to camp that now need financial donations. This option will allow you to transfer a portion of your refund into a tax deductible donation. The remainder of your payment will be refunded to you or rolled over into credit for saving a spot for your child(ren) for summer 2021 at the 2019 rate.

[CLICK HERE TO SELECT HOW YOU WOULD LIKE TO DIRECT/RECEIVE REFUND](#)

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to me personally. I'd be happy to answer your questions as best I can at this time and in this era of so many unknowns. On behalf of the CBOQ Board Executive Committee and Camp Kwasind Management Team, I appreciate your patience, partnership, and on-going support, as we look forward to an EPIC 2021 summer!

Peace,



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Resources to support you talking with you kids about camp being suspended for this summer:

- <https://reformjudaism.org/blog/2020/04/30/how-talk-your-kids-about-canceled-summer-plans>
- <https://www.tinabryson.com/news/video-helping-our-kids-manage-summer-disappointments>