



CAMP SERTOMA OF SOUTH CAROLINA INC.

June 1, 2020

Friends,

Since the start of the COVID-19 outbreak, the Board of Trustees of Camp Sertoma of S.C. has been monitoring conditions that could affect the operation of Camp Sertoma this summer. Our primary concerns – and the factors that have driven every action we have taken – are the safety and well-being of the children who attend our camp and our obligation to Sertomans throughout our state to make the best possible decisions concerning the operation of Camp Sertoma of S.C. We are fortunate to have partners at the Clemson Outdoor Laboratory and Clemson University who have worked tirelessly to ensure that every possible step that could be taken to have a safe and protective environment for our children is being taken and we have firmly believed that our plans would meet every requirement outlined by the Centers for Disease Control, the American Camping Association and Clemson University. Despite our preparations, there are still many unknowns about the course and impact of the virus and the Board of Trustees has taken the position that we will never knowingly make any decision that would compromise or put our children, our fellow Sertomans or the staff at the Outdoor Laboratory at risk.

Consequently, the Clemson University Outdoor Lab and the board of directors for Camp Sertoma of South Carolina, on behalf of all Sertomans in our state, has reached the decision to cancel our 2020 camp season.

This decision was difficult and was made for the following reasons:

- While we have seen a reduction in numbers of individuals infected with the disease, a significant number of new cases are still being reported.
- Our camp involves the cooperative interaction of many individuals and organizations across the state and it is very difficult to limit personal contact.
- Many of the volunteers working with our children are older individuals for whom extra precautions are strongly recommended.
- Although we are extremely confident that the staff at the Outdoor Laboratory and Camp Sertoma are fully qualified and prepared to address any emergency that might arise, the extended impact of even a remotely possible infection make it very difficult to properly assure all contingencies have been addressed.
- The fear and uncertainty that have developed related to this virus have caused many people to view social interaction during these times to have significant risk.

We are thankful to Clemson University and the Outdoor Lab who spent many hours giving special consideration to Camp Sertoma and planning for a safe summer for our children every step of the way until it was clear what the best decision was. We will have much more to share in the coming days about our plans for exciting activities from Camp Sertoma during the remainder of the summer.

With much gratitude,

Dale

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