

Westminster Spires Camp Update – May 2020

On May 12th, four of us who are connected to Westminster Spires and the Camping and Youth Committee (George Goodrich, Curt Kochner, Kara Todd, Daniel Triller) met over Zoom to discuss the possibility of holding camp this summer at Westminster Spires in midst of the situation regarding COVID-19. In the end, we all agreed that it would be best to not move forward and try to hold camp this summer (this includes Elementary, Middle and High School Camp).

While we are saddened by all of this, we feel this is the best decision for a handful of reasons. While we are unsure as to what phase we will be in come this July, either way we are confident that whatever restrictions are in place at that time would drastically alter and ultimately negatively impact the camp experience as we know it. In addition, we recognize that many families/parents would be reluctant to send their children to camp and we are hesitant to do a great deal of planning and preparation for a camp that may possibly never happen should the situation here in Montana remain the same or turn for the worse.

We also briefly discussed the possibility of holding a virtual camp experience, yet ultimately decided against it, since it would be difficult, if not impossible to recreate the camp experience virtually. Even more, we as a camp are not set up staff wise to make such happen.

With all this said, we are exploring two alternative options for camp this summer. One would be a leadership training camp of sorts, which would include a small group of CIT's and counselors that we could invest in as well as build up our leadership pipeline for future summers. Another possibility would be hosting a family camp or two. We think there's a real opportunity here for families to experience camp together, and in addition, social distancing would be far easier to maintain within family units where each family would have their own cabin. We will continue to explore these options over the next couple months.

In the meantime, Revamp the Camp will still take place June 5-7th as scheduled. This will allow a small handful of people to work on necessary maintenance projects and help get camp ready for a couple groups and family reunions that we anticipate will still take place.

Blessings,
Yellowstone Presbytery - Camping and Youth Committee