

# **Talcott Mountain Science Center**

## **2020 Summer Program Details & Changes**

### **Course Offerings**

We are operating this summer under the State Office of Early Childhood, the Governor's Executive Orders and the CDC Guidelines. Summer programs such as ours and day camps can open June 22. We will be offering courses as rules, guidelines, staff and supply levels allow. These rules may relax or constrain during the summer based on COVID case numbers and government decisions.

Everything this summer will be fluid, as parents make adjustments to the availability of courses, the format, as well as our availability of staff, facilities and supplies. We are all in a new situation and working as best we can to accommodate guidelines, course content, family preferences and of course, health and safety. We appreciate your understanding and patience in this new reality.

We typically have 7-8 courses on campus each week. Some simply cannot work with social distancing and cleaning guidelines. We are looking for equivalent replacement courses or moving some online. All of this will evolve as we adjust courses and families make decisions based on the offerings.

We are allowed to have up to five groups (classes) on campus. Each class can have up to 10 students. Due to increased costs associated with COVID regulations and guidelines, we will only run classes that meet a viable minimum number of students, and may cancel under-enrolled classes.

All changes will be announced as soon as we are able to. We are working on a two-week advance notice for changes, but some conditions may not allow that exact schedule, we will inform as soon as we can.

### **Grade Levels UPDATED JUNE 24**

With revised guidelines from the State, and our first week underway, we now will be restoring rising K students to our courses. We still will need everyone to abide by our behavior agreement, and remind families that this includes the ability to follow rules for maintaining distance, individual materials, handwashing and sanitizer use.

### **COVID General Changes**

Again, we are a classroom-based summer instructional program, not a day camp. We will be operating under the guidance of the CT Office of Early Childhood for the 2020 summer while the COVID situation continues, so we are under State and CDC guidelines for all students, parents, caregivers, staff, contractors, vendors, and visitors.

What is being implemented under CT and CDC health guidelines:

Daily multiple cleanings of high-touch surfaces.

Daily screenings of staff, students and visitors for temperatures and symptoms.

Social distancing between students and between classes.

Masks for all staff.

Masks are optional for students. If they use them they need to be independent in their use.

Hand sanitizer stations in each building.

Staff will have sanitizing wipes to spot clean as needed.

Bathrooms will have one-at-a-time setups with increased cleaning.

Hand dryers will be closed and paper towels used.

Water fountains are closed.

Main buildings will have water dispensers - gloved staff will dispense water.

What will be different:

We will have two additional forms for everyone: (1) an informed consent health form per the state, and (2) a Talcott form asking you to confirm that your child will be able to follow social distancing rules, hand washing, directions and teacher requests. If these are not followed and compromise guidelines, students may be asked to leave the program. There are no refunds for students who are removed from a course for behavior reasons.

We can have a maximum of 5 student groups (classes) on campus.

Classes on campus can have a maximum of 10 students.

There will be limited use of "Scholars" (our version of CITs) as they count as students and cannot circulate between classes. We will have paid staff to assist teachers as needed with students and cleanings.

Transportation - parents will drive to / from campus for drop-offs and pickups. Arrival times will be spread out from 8:30 to 9:00 AM. See **Summer 2020 Transportation** below.

Supplies - each student will have an assigned set of supplies and tools (scissors, tape, iPad, computer if in a tech class etc.) for the week.

Groups of students (classes) will need to remain socially distant - 6 foot minimum. So classes will have their own lunch areas and play areas.

Students within a class are not required to maintain social distance, but we will consider this the norm, and classroom setups will allow for this. Classrooms / labs - student stations will be 6 feet apart.

We'll still have t-shirts for everyone, though we're working on a creative and safe way to dye them!

We won't have all-student contests, but will have them within each class.

On good weather days snacks and lunches can be held outside, rainy days will be eat-in-place.

3-4 PM Activities will be by class, not for the whole group.

## **Summer 2020 Transportation**

All participants will drive to and from Talcott for drop-off and pickup. We will not have Avon and West Hartford bus stops. Social distancing on our usual buses is not workable. If state and CDC guidelines relax, we will reassess this.

Directions to campus:

RT 44 to Parsons Way

LEFT on Okolica.

RIGHT on Montevideo.

Go 1.5 miles on Montevideo.

Follow the YELLOW ARROW SIGNS at any turns.

There are 4 SPEED BUMPS.

There is an "Entering Bloomfield" sign part way up (ignore it).

There is a stop sign part way up (obey it).

You will see our "Talcott Mountain Science Center" sign and entrance on the right, 1.5 miles up Montevideo.

Montevideo is a private road with other residents. The speed limit is 15 mph and we ask that you follow this speed limit, take care when passing others on the road.

Arrival times will be staggered between 8:30 and 9:00 AM. When you get there, park where directed, and stay in your car until we ask you to come out. Each student each morning will get a temperature check. 100 deg F is the cutoff, and students will go home with a temperature of 100 or higher, and you will be asked if the student has any COVID-related symptoms or has been exposed to a COVID-diagnosed person. Students will then join their teacher and go to their classes.

At dismissal, stay in your car and a staff member will get your name and your child's name and call for your child.

Social distancing markings will be placed in buildings, as will arrows indicating stairway and doorway traffic flow.

Water: You may bring a bottle of water each day, but we cannot refill them. We will have water dispensers and single use cups that a gloved staff member will fill.

## **Scholarships**

The Hartford Foundation has once again provided scholarship support for students who reside in Hartford or East Hartford. This is for one week per child per summer.

Requirements are (1) residency in Hartford or East Hartford, and (2) financial, a recipient of either TANF, SNAP, WIC, Husky (child) or free/reduced school lunch.

Some of our classes will be online, some will be on campus.

We have traditionally provided a bus from downtown Hartford, but the usual bus stop will not allow for the required COVID screening, and the bus would have a maximum of 10 students. We are currently working to secure a fixed parking area to allow a bus run from Hartford. Driving to/from the Campus will be the norm.

If you are interested in applying for a scholarship, please email [summer@tmisc.org](mailto:summer@tmisc.org) with the subject "HFPG Scholarship Request" and indicate the week and course you would like, and if you would be able to drive to campus or if you would need the bus.

We will be evaluating these and work with Hartford and a bus company to accommodate requests, and will let you know as soon as we have a firm solution.

## **Summer Cancellation, Credits & Refunds**

All refunds will be issued by check from our business office.

If we cancel a course, you will get 100% back as a refund or credit.

If you leave a course, you can have either full credit for a future course, or a refund minus 10% to cover fees and handling.

Please let us know if you want credit or a refund.