

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For our parents/guardians, we also recognize that you may have questions regarding how this decision was reached, its financial implications, future action steps, and more.

Why we think this is the right decision for our campers and staff

We know that camps across North America are making their own decisions about closures and delays. Each camp has a unique set of variables; location, population, the cities their families come from, facilities, etc. What makes Sabra special added to our concerns for camp this summer. Our campers and staff travel from all over the world to be at Sabra. We eat, shower, play and pray together in large communal settings. With expert recommendations against “mixing” communities as well as physical distancing guidelines, we feel that cancelling our summer camp program is the prudent action in the name of health and safety for our campers and staff and the communities in which they live. We respect our colleagues immensely and know that each camp has worked tirelessly to come to a decision that is best for their camp.

Additionally, the Sabra team and many of our Sabra families remember the 2009 H1N1 epidemic. That illness was brought to the Sabra peninsula by just a few campers and we watched it impact (and shut down) our entire camp in less than 10 days. While all the campers remained safe and our protocols were strong, we know that quarantine and sickness greatly devalue the amazing experience we offer for our campers and staff.

That said, with the information about this global pandemic being fluid, the situation can rapidly change. We will continue to monitor and consult our experts and if there are medical resolutions or access to reliable testing, we will jump at the opportunity to convene. We love camp too!

Experts we consulted with/looked to in support of our decision

We received ongoing guidance through state and local health authorities, the Center for Disease Control (CDC), American Camp Association (ACA), Foundation for Jewish Camp (FJC), and other experts in the field. Our professional leadership carefully evaluated this information and it has become clear that we are unable to meet the guidelines regarding social distancing, group sizes and other requirements. We also felt that in following all the guidelines provided, the camp experience would be so diminished that it would damage the quality experience our campers and staff have come to expect.

Why we didn't delay camp

We didn't want to add to the uncertainty our children, staff and families are living with every day. While we could have “kicked this can” further down the road, it is likely we would be making the same decision. We also wanted to be mindful that our families need to be able to make summer plans as soon as possible.



I need support in talking to my child/ren about the cancellation

Please refer to the “Supporting Your Child” document with great advice on talking to your child/ren about difficult topics like this one. You can contact any of us and set up a time to talk.

- Lisa Deutsch (MSW, LCSW), Manager of our Community Care Team
Lisa@campsabra.com
- Kim Sloan, Asst. Director
kim@campsabra.com
- Terri Grossman (MSW), Director
terri@campsabra.com

On **Sunday, May 17**, we will be hosting a series of Town Halls.

Please click to register if you would like to join us.

12:00pm: Masada Camper Town Hall w/Terri & Kim:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/9tZcqf-mopjsrGNCLDLd3Q7WmTr4cNplzPOBo>

1:00pm: Habonim Camper Town Hall w/Terri & Lisa:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/9tZcuc-qrpzloGtDsD4ZjpCdXiJ-3z2pMrchD>

2:00pm: Parent Town Hall #1: w/Terri and Kim:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/9tZEpd-Cgpz8oG9O9xVZA-slt60o3lyK6vjAM>

3:00pm: Parent Town Hall #2: w/Terri and Lisa:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/9tZEtdOGhqzloHNGal8sUjnCnSqyk-vObjVs7>

4:00pm: Parent Town Hall #3: w/Terri and Kim:

https://us02web.zoom.us/join/9tZMsce2trj8uE9Clcvcf32wC_j05q8bAB8

5:00pm: Parent Town Hall #4: w/Terri and Lisa:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/9tZAuf-mtrjwsHNTZhJkUznCxtEiBHv992g1m>

6:00pm: Staff Town Hall: w/Terri, Kim, and Lisa:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/9tZcucOCgpjgtEtPrDa171g4egF6TFmjr24jr>

We are so very sad. Camp Sabra is our home, too, and you are part of our family. Our hearts break that the virus stole our summer and that we are not able to be with each other. We feel a little better knowing that, although we will have to wait longer, we will be together again. We will sing at Inspiration Point next summer. Country Roads, take us home.

Terri, Kim and Lisa

