



## COMMUNITY UPDATE

May 7, 2021

Greetings Camp Promise Community,

We hope this note finds you healthy and safe.

While Camp Promise looked very different in 2020, we were so happy to be able to be with campers, to see old and many new friends come together, and to have a lot of laughs from the safety of home. All of our staff treasured the experience - thank you for trusting us and letting us into your homes (via Zoom!) for Camp Promise.

### Overnight Camp Season 2021

Throughout the year, we have remained in regular contact with our five camp facilities, the American Camp Association, medical professionals, and community and health organizations. We have been hoping to run overnight camp sessions, knowing that the overnight camp experience is so special and important. We have delayed a decision as long as possible. However, we must make plans for overnight camp now.

Unfortunately, based on the best advice we have received – due to the ongoing and unpredictable risks of COVID-19, new and ever-changing variants and the nature of overnight camp – we will not be holding overnight camp sessions for 2021. Jett Foundation's Board of Directors and staff struggled with this decision, but in the end determined that this is best for the safety of our campers and volunteers. Like you, we are disappointed, however, we are committed to make Summer 2021 even better than last year.

### What We Are Doing

**We have some good news! We will be hosting virtual camp sessions AND will be hosting new, one-day in-person celebrations at the end of the Summer and into Fall 2021.** While not an overnight camp experience, we are hopeful that these in-person celebrations give our campers the opportunity to be together, to encounter new things, and to enjoy at least part of the camp experience.



Our plan for 2021 is as follows:

### **Virtual Camp Promise-Connect Sessions**

Interested campers can sign up for one of the free Camp Promise sessions below via our [registration form](#). All campers who participate will receive a “Camp-In-A-Box,” which will include swag items, activity and event supplies, and so much more:

- **Session 1 (Campers Ages 18+):** June 21 - June 25, 2021
- **Session 2 (Camper Ages 12-17):** July 12-16, 2021
- **Session 3 (Campers Ages 6-11):** July 26- July 30, 2021

Please see the attached **FAQ sheet** for answers to commonly asked questions about the Camp Promise-Connect Virtual camp program.

### **In-Person Celebrations**

We will be hosting in-person camp celebrations across the country to bring our camp community together and provide our campers with a long-awaited and deserved day of fun and excitement. Dates and locations for these events are to be announced - **we will send them no later than June 1, 2021** so you can plan accordingly.

These events will occur from August 2021 - October 2021 and will be held on weekends.

Please know that we understand that many families and campers travel a great distance to join us at Camp Promise. We will host multiple events in an effort to accommodate as many families and campers as conveniently as possible.

If you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to either of us so we can help address any outstanding issues.

While this year will still be a departure from our normal Camp Promise season, we are really looking forward to FINALLY seeing many of you in-person later this summer and we look forward to a return to overnight camp sessions in 2022.

Sincerely,

Shannon Healey  
Program Dev. Director, Camp Promise  
shannon@jettfoundation.org  
(405) 459-7447

Meghan Houston  
Camp Promise Director  
meghan@jettfoundation.org  
(405) 459-7447



## Frequently Asked Questions Camp Promise Overnight Camps May 7, 2021

*The following are some questions we anticipate as part of Camp Promise's announcement of not holding overnight camp sessions for the 2021 season. If you have other questions, please do not hesitate to reach out directly to Camp Promise staff at [campinfo@jettfoundation.org](mailto:campinfo@jettfoundation.org).*

- 1. Why are you not holding overnight camps?** Jett Foundation's Board of Directors and staff reviewed current information available regarding COVID-19, trends among other organizations that serve those with muscular dystrophy and/or are immunocompromised and looked at camp organizations specifically. Due to the current health climate, they determined that it would put our campers, volunteers and staff at too great a health risk to run in the way that we want to while preserving the magic of camp.
- 2. Why are you announcing now for overnight camps later in the summer?** The decision to not hold overnight camps was not an easy one and we waited as long as possible to see if things would improve. The safety of our campers and volunteers is our number one priority; given the current climate and the projections for this summer, Jett Foundation's Board of Directors and staff determined it would be extremely challenging to hold an overnight summer camp where campers and volunteers are in such close proximity to one another for the duration of camp.
- 3. What happens for camp in 2022? Do I need to reapply?** Yes, all campers will need to submit an application for 2022. If you are already in our system, it should be a bit easier as some of your information will be saved (but certainly check and make sure it's up-to-date!)
- 4. What are the in-person celebrations?** We are planning to host in-person celebrations beginning in August through October 2021. These events will be hosted across the country in states where we hold camp (Arizona, Colorado, Washington and Ohio) and will include a few locations to serve our campers on the East Coast. More updates regarding these events will be provided no later than June 1, 2021.



## Frequently Asked Questions Camp Promise Connect Virtual Program

*The following are some questions we anticipate as part of the Camp Promise Connect virtual program. If you have other questions, please do not hesitate to reach out directly to Camp Promise staff at [campinfo@jettfoundation.org](mailto:campinfo@jettfoundation.org).*

- **What is Camp Promise Connect? What do I need to do?** With this program, Camp Promise will send you a box full of materials, activities, and a schedule of virtual events for you to participate in during the week of camp you signed up for.
- **Important notes about the 2021 Camp Promise Connect Program**
  - This year, we are holding virtual sessions by age rather than location. This model reflects what we heard in parent and camper surveys.
  - There will be “breakout sessions” for many activities, allowing campers to choose activities they want to participate in AND to keep group sizes smaller to allow for better communication among campers so that all campers have a chance to participate!
- **Can I change the week I want to participate in?** Yes. We are organizing camp sessions by age; however, we are open to discussing participation in another session if you have a friend/sibling/are close to another age bracket. We are here to help – reach out and we will help accommodate you.
- **What if I have never attended Camp Promise? Can I still participate in the Camp Promise Connect program?** Yes! We will be accepting additional campers that want to participate in this virtual Camp Promise Connect program. Please fill out this [form](#) with your information (or for the camper that wants to participate). All campers ages 6 and up with a Duchenne or select neuromuscular disorder are welcome to participate. If you are 5 years old, please reach out and we can discuss a plan with you!
- **What do I have to do for Camp Promise Connect? What’s the time/cost commitment?** We have designed Camp Promise Connect to provide the same high-quality programming that campers experience on-the-ground at camp. Each box will contain activities for the day, a list of virtual programs for campers each day and ways to connect and communicate with other campers as part of that session. We have kept the cost for families low by including necessary materials for various projects in the box. Campers will not be charged for any virtual activities hosted by Camp Promise.



- **What if I do not want to participate in Camp Promise Connect?** We understand that virtual opportunities may not be for all of our campers and their families. If you do not wish to participate, please reach out to us and we will be sure to remove you from future communications. We will of course keep you informed for the upcoming daylong celebrations and the 2022 Camp Promise season!
- **How can I help?** Camp Promise Connect will provide campers with activities and virtual events that will keep them connected during these challenging times. If you or someone you know is interested in supporting the Camp Promise Connect project with product donations or other financial support, please reach out to us at [campinfo@jettfoundation.org](mailto:campinfo@jettfoundation.org).