



Florida Diabetes Camp

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April 5, 2021

Hi All:

As you may have heard, the program directors of each of our summer camps recently met with the doctors on our Board of Directors, along with many of our long-time camp doctors to discuss the possibility of holding in-person camps this summer. After lengthy discussions, which covered virtually every scenario for each of our summer camps, it was the unanimous decision of all involved, that the Florida Diabetes Camp would not be holding any in-person camps this summer. Please know, this was a very difficult decision, indeed between Dr. Janet, Helene Rhine, and myself, we have been coming to diabetes camp for nearly 120 years! To not hold camp this summer, was the most difficult decision we have ever made! Obviously, we love camp and are well aware of the benefits it provides to children with diabetes. However, in the final analysis, the safety of your children and our staff was our number one priority and we were not willing to take the risk of endangering anyone! With that said, we will continue to explore all options for moving forward.

By way of example, we are already examining the possibilities for holding extended weekend camps this fall at Winona. Similarly, the PeeWee Camp directors are exploring opportunities for holding day camps in Tampa for PeeWee campers and their friends. We have expanded our Virtual Camp Planning Team and already have some new ideas for this summer's virtual camps. Finally, we are looking at options for holding 1 to 2 hour "virtual cabin socials" designed to provide past cabin mates an opportunity to catch up with their camp friends. Our goal is to have these "socials" led by as many of their past cabin counselors as possible. There have been so many advancements recently in the fight against Covid and our doctors are monitoring each and every one of them. Like all of you, we look forward to a return to normalcy, but we will never risk the safety of your children in doing so! Please stay safe!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary Cornwell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gary Cornwell
Executive Director
Florida Diabetes Camp