

How will my life be different at Cedar Lodge in 2021?

We are excited to be opening Camp in 2021 and having your family join us. We are happy to say that we will be able to relax some of the COVID restrictions we had to follow in 2020. That being said, we will still not be back to a full Cedar Lodge format, but we believe the programming we have come up with is an adequate hybrid. There will be changes, and we are determined to try and run without wrecking your fun! There are three different groups at Cedar Lodge in 2021: Overnight campers 12 and up, Overnight campers 11 and below and Day/Mini-Me Campers. They will all be handled slightly differently. Please keep in mind that this will be what you can expect at the beginning of summer. If guidelines in Michigan continue to relax, we may be able to lighten a bit at camp, too.

Overnight Campers:

If you read the Parent's guide, you already know that the Sunday you come to camp will be different than normal, but similar to 2020. We will be meeting you at your car when you arrive, and parents will need to say good bye to you before we take you and your luggage up to the cabin. This is very different for us at Cedar Lodge, but it is not very different from how many camps have functioned for years. Many camps send a bus into big cities. The kids say goodbye to their parents and board the bus with their belongings. Then they travel to camp where they stay for 4 or up to 10 weeks before they board the bus once again and travel home. It's a very traditional format for camps, and it just so happens that it is a safer way to run camps in a pandemic.

Your temperature will be taken (on that first Sunday and every morning at breakfast) and we plan to have a nasal swab test administered on your arrival. This is easier than the test that you receive before you come to camp, but also less accurate. One test will not negate the need for the other. You will be assigned a cabin group with other campers close to your age. Your cabin unit, along with your counselor will form your "pod." Your pod will be like your family unit at home. Within that group, you can act like you would with your family. No masks, comfortable distancing, etc. You will sit with your pod at meals, and try to do as many activities during the day as possible together. There will be times (like riding and vaulting) that you will branch away from your pod to do other things. That's totally ok. When you're done, go back to your pods once again. There are also times that you may want to do something your pod doesn't want to do. That, too, is alright. For activities that are a mixture of pods the rule will be masked up if the activity is within 6' of each other or inside. If the activity is just with your pod and outside, masks can be alleviated. Campers that are 12 and up will be choosing their own activities in 2021. If they chose activities that are populated by campers that are only 12 and up there will be less restrictions on mask wearing. Campers 11 and below will have a more structured list of activities, but these activities will still be created from things those campers said they were interested in doing, and campers will have much feedback in their creation.

Day Camp and Mini-Me:

Much like the overnight campers, day camp will be handled differently for 2021. As you read in the drop off/pick up directions on another link, we will be meeting Day Campers and Mini Me at the flag pole outside of the camp dining hall. They will be met by a camp official or a day camp counselor. Mini-Mes and Day campers will form their own pod for meals, rest hour and inside time. Day campers will be structured into activities the same as the 11 and below campers for other times during the day. **Day campers 12 and up that have been vaccinated will be allowed more freedom to choose activities but they will still remain masked while participating in close quarters.** Just like any groups at camp that allow mixing of pods, they will be required to wear masks when they are inside, or when they are within 6' of other campers. Each day when they arrive in the morning for camp, their temperatures will be taken and they will have a nasal swab test (easier than the one done before camp). We would like parents to

take their temperatures at home too, before they travel to camp. Much like in the overnights, there will be some activities, like riding, that may not be an all pod activity. That is fine, and pod members will move out to the activity and then back to their pod.

We are confident that these changes, though they sound tremendous, in the end will not be such a big deal. Sometimes, change is good. Who knows? Maybe we will learn some new games or create a new song that will hold for Cedar Lodge camp life for years to come. Life is an adventure! Won't you join us?