

Dear Campers,

Although it won't come as a surprise to a lot of you, I'm sad to announce that William Lawrence Camp will not be able to open this summer.

This is a tough blow, to be sure. I want to say right off the bat, it's okay to be angry. It's okay to be frustrated. I'm angry. I'm frustrated. Perhaps I'm not surprised with all that's happened this spring, but I'm very sad to be sure. It's okay to feel whatever you feel. I'm sure you've endured repeated cancellations of things you love over the last few months, and it saddens us to add camp to that list.

The only thing I ask is that you find the strength to not take these feelings out on the people around you or the world at large. One of the hardest things about growing up is learning that some experiences, although difficult or terrible, are simply no one's fault. Despite all our best efforts to get things to turn out the way we want, sometimes they don't.

This is not the end, though. We're just taking a break. We plan to be back next summer. In the meantime, we'll be figuring out what needs to be done to run the summer of 2021 safely, while trying to keep all of us connected this summer.

We want you all to know that if you were working towards your Bill Larry Boy or Bill Larry Man years, if you come back in 2021 this year will still count. We'll recognize these accomplishments both this year as well as next year. If you were planning on being an L.I.T., we will still be running that training online.

We also know that virtual experiences are no substitute for the real thing. For the past four months, most of our lives have been filled with virtual stuff. We don't think camp is something that can be replaced with virtual events. We want you guys to get out and play. Get away from the computer!! Go hiking! Go swimming! Build a fire! (Preferably outdoors!) As safety rules allow, be with other people in real life! Put up a tent in the back yard and sleep out there! We all know the benefits outdoor activities bring, so don't stop doing them on account of us!

We also want you to be able to connect with your camp buddies. We want this too. So we'll be providing dates and times for you to video chat with camp friends this summer. Remember, you also don't need to wait for our social events. If you have their contact info, reach out to your camp friends on your own as well. We'll be sending along more information about these things, shortly.

This is not what any of us wanted, but that doesn't change things. So, all that's left is to make the best of what there is. Do we stand up and push forward, or do we lay down, feel sorry for ourselves, and quit? (I know that's what those folks at that other camp would do! Cue *Imperial Death March*.) My vote is to push forward, and make the best of what there is.

The very first thing camp ever taught any of us was something called "grit." Grit is the ability to find a way to live and play in a situation that we aren't originally comfortable in. (In our case it was being away from our families at camp.) In the current situation, all of us are having to use our grit. Let's use it to make the best of things this summer. Be well, make good choices, and let's keep going!

Sincerely,

Scott "Goose" Giessler

Assistant Director - William Lawrence Camp