

## **SUMMER CAMPS**

### **COVID-19 Precautions & Policies**

Science Museum of Western Virginia

During these unprecedented times, cultural facilities are adapting quickly and cautiously to the effects of COVID-19. The role that these institutions play in our communities is crucial, especially as we brace the evolving nature of our relationship with education as it pertains to our community's children. As a result of this health crisis, a plethora of expert advice has been presented, in order to help educational and cultural institutions, such as the Science Museum of Western Virginia, prepare to reopen to the public and assure a safe environment for immersive learning.

The Science Museum of Western Virginia is complying with all federal, state, and local regulations and recommendations to establish reopening protocols and procedures. These protocols and procedures are also influenced by the advice of experts from qualifying organizations, many of which are established specifically for cultural and educational institutions. Organizations whose advisement and resources have been used to develop the Science Museum's Reopening Plan include: Center for Disease Control, American Alliance of Museums, Association for Science and Technology Centers, Environmental Health & Engineering, Inc., and other local bodies.

Below, is a summary of the Science Museum of Western Virginia's reopening procedures and policies as it pertains to Summer Camps for the 2020 season.

#### **Spacial Changes and Updates**

- Each Summer Camp will be limited to fifteen campers and a small number of staff and/or volunteers.
- For the first period of reopening, the museum will be strictly reserved for Summer Camps and will not be open to the public Monday through Friday.
- Summer Camps will take place within the museum or in open-air outdoor areas.
- Classroom desks have been structured to leave adequate space between campers, while still creating an immersive and cohesive environment.

#### **Staff & Volunteers**

- Educators and assistant counselors will maintain appropriate social distance from one another. Unless required for a camper's safety, behavioral concerns, or educational needs, museum team members will also maintain a 6-foot distance from campers.
- Educators and volunteers will work with the same group of campers for the entirety of each summer camp.
- All staff and volunteers will receive training on: the museum's protocols and procedures, how to properly wear a face mask, the use of disinfectants, how to identify symptoms of COVID-19, and proper hand washing procedures.
- Per the Governor's orders, Staff and volunteers will be required to wear face masks, while working with campers or museum patrons.
- Those staff who are able will have the option to continue telecommuting for their position.
- A system is in place for staff and volunteers to comfortably report personal health concerns.

**Sanitation, Hygiene, and PPE**

- A handwashing station has been placed at the entrance of the museum; all campers, staff, and volunteers will be required to wash hands or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer prior to entering the museum.
- Hand sanitizing stations will also be placed throughout the museum's exhibits, classrooms, and entry and exit ways.
- A routine cleaning schedule has been implemented and will be strictly followed by a designated team. Guidelines from the CDC will be followed, including the types of cleaners used and methods of disinfecting.
- Campers will be directed to wash hands throughout the day on a regimented schedule.
- Per the Governor's order, all persons who are able and aged ten and over are required by law to wear face masks/coverings while indoors. The museum will supply masks to those campers who arrive without. It is strongly encouraged younger campers also wear face coverings, although it is not required for summer camp attendees.

**Camper Drop off and Pick Up**

- Parents will have the option to drop off and pick up their children from outside of the museum on the 4th floor or in the plaza outside the main entrance to Center in the Square. *Details about this process will be communicated with parents and guardians.*

**In the Case of Illness**

- Refunds will be given in any instance a camper falls ill and is unable to attend a registered summer camp.
- Should a camper, staff member, or volunteer fall ill with COVID-19 or be suspected to have COVID-19 during a summer camp, the camp will be canceled, and refunds will be given to all participants. Parents/guardians will be notified immediately if this is the case.
  - Strict protocols have been prepared for this situation, and all staff will be trained to confidently, safely, and swiftly respond.
- If a camper is showing symptoms of COVID-19, the Director of Education will contact their parent/guardian.
- Should it be confirmed that a camper, staff, or volunteer was asymptomatic during a camp and tested positive within 14 days of an attended camp, all parents/guardians of those campers will be notified.
  - We do request that we be notified if a camper becomes ill with COVID-19 within 14 days of attending a camp at the museum. The Director of Education will handle this information, and the child and family's name will be kept confidential from the public.

For questions regarding these policies or other health concerns during Summer Camp programming, please contact the museum's Manager of Visitor Services.

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