



Dear Camp Widjiwagan Camper and Family,

I hope this letter finds you and your loved ones in good health. A sincere thank you for your patience and understanding as we've navigated these uncharted waters. After months of deliberation and contingency planning, and with the support of senior leaders at the YMCA of the Greater Twin Cities and our dedicated community board, Camp Widjiwagan has made the heartbreaking decision to cancel our Summer Wilderness program this summer.

The YMCA Camping Team worked hard to plan for every contingency; however, the uncertainties are still too great with the ever-evolving situation surrounding COVID-19. This summer we've decided the most prudent course of action is to not hold overnight camp programming.

We understand how devastating this news may be. We work all year long to create life-changing wilderness experiences. For some this was the summer of a capstone experience in the far north, others the bright spot of a year to connect with a small group in the wilderness, and for our first year campers, the first great adventure into the Boundary Waters. All of these hopes and dreams weighed heavily on us in making this decision. We are reading the clouds and making the decision to pull off the water for now. The storm will pass, we will learn from it, and move forward stronger than we were before.

You will receive a full refund (including your deposit) and no action is necessary on your part. However, you also have the following options:

- Deposit: Turn your refund into a credit on your Y account for a future 2020-2021 program.
- Donate: Instead of a refund, you could make it a donation to support the continued work of YMCA Camp Widjiwagan.
- Refund and donate: Do both. Consider taking a partial refund and making a partial donation.

If you would like to pursue one of the alternate options, please [fill out our online form](#) by June 1. After Tuesday, June 2, a full refund will be applied to your account and no action is necessary on your part. Please contact our Customer Service Center at customerservice@ymcamn.org to assist with any cancellation questions. Additional information pertaining to these changes can be found on the YMCA [Summer Program Hub](#).

At Camp Widjiwagan, we teach resilience and perseverance, so that we can make it through tough situations. None of us ever imagined we would see a summer without camp, but we are confident that the spirit of camp will endure. I understand there will be questions on how this decision affects our summer trip progression. I will look to address that and other logistical questions and provide updates when I can.

Although our overnight camp programs are being cancelled, the YMCA does intend to offer summer experiences through our Day Camps, Family Camps, Nature Power, Summer Power,

Summer Uproar and Childcare programs. If you are interested in any of these program offerings, please visit our [website](#) to see availability and schedules.

Please stay safe and healthy, and we hope to see you for summer 2021.

Sincerely,

Matt Poppleton
Executive Director