



Dear Camp Barney Medintz Families and Staff,

For the past several months, we have been planning for our 2020 summer together at Camp Barney while simultaneously immersed in every challenging aspect of the COVID-19 pandemic. We have meticulously monitored evolving guidelines from local, state, and federal agencies, focused on solving the interplay between their guidelines and the dynamics of camp.

You were exceedingly patient with us as we took necessary time to consider delaying and re-imagining opportunities for us to be together at Camp Barney this summer. We remained diligently focused on trying to solve the assortment of medical concerns, logistical challenges, and necessary program adjustments.

Ultimately, and after significant consultation with public health officials, medical and other healthcare professionals, we made the extraordinarily difficult and very sad decision to not open Camp Barney for our 2020 summer season.

We waited as long as we could to make a decision based on the safety of our camp community. And the health and safety of every camper and every staff member in our Camp Barney community is paramount and will always be our highest priority.

This is difficult news to share with you today, and I share in the heart break.

For our campers, we understand the loss. So many months of upheaval and separation. We know how excited they were to be with friends and counselors, to discover and play, to sing, create, zip, splash, and fully exhale at Camp. We know this is true because we know your kids...and we got their emails!

For parents, we recognize the disappointment. No doubt, you were looking forward to your children disconnecting from screens and reconnecting with friends in the great outdoors at Camp Barney. We know this is true because we got your very thoughtful emails, too.

To our amazing summer staff, we will miss your incredible talent, exceptional character, leadership and creativity, compassion and passion, warmth, humor, and spectacular mentorship of every camper.

For our Camp Barney family throughout the world, the disappointment is undeniable. I wanted to share a special message to all of you today. [Please click here to view the message.](#)

Now that this heartbreaking decision has been made, we know you will want to know what will happen with your camp fees. The financial implications of canceling camp are serious. Camp Barney's business model relies on camp fees to cover not just our summer costs, but also our year-round operations, including staff salaries, maintaining our facilities and our 540 acres of property to sustain a world class summer experience for your family. We want to ensure CBM will remain a special place for you and your family for years to come.

If you are able, we ask you to consider donating all or a portion of your camper fees. Thanks to the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, all camper fees reallocated as donations will be matched dollar-for-dollar. If this is an option for your family, please email Summer2020@campbarney.org. We would be extraordinarily grateful. Gifts over \$1,800 will be commemorated with a dedicatory plaque on a bench in the Doris Zaban Chapel and your family will lock in 2020 rates for the 2021 camping season with priority registration.

If a donation is not possible, we will automatically roll over your camp fees to Summer 2021, reserving your spot(s) with priority registration at 2020 rates.

We also recognize these two options might not work for your family, so if you would like to request a refund, please reach out to Summer2020@campbarney.org so we can coordinate specific arrangements with your family. Thank you in advance for your patience.

We are working hard to create different ways to bring Camp Barney into your home and to communities everywhere this summer. Our Israeli song leaders – Deddy, Matan and Tal have recorded a beautiful Camp Barney arrangement of Shabbat songs and we'll be streaming it on Facebook Live this Saturday, May 16th at 8:00PM. It will be an opportunity for us to come together as campers, parents, staff, and alumni to celebrate our shared love of Our Summer Place. Make sure you visit and "like" the [Camp Barney Medintz Facebook page](#) so you can stay connected and hear about all of our other online events that we're planning for this summer.

Finally, we sincerely appreciate your expressions of genuine kindness and support during these past few months. We have never stopped thinking about you, either. We will get through this together and begin to focus our energies and thoughts on being together at CBM again next summer.

We will be "better together" at Camp Barney in 2021.

Note: Please [click here](#) if you would like to consider this collection of resources we've compiled for you which may be helpful to you or your family.

Sincerely,

Jim Mittenthal, M.S.W., Director
Camp Barney Medintz

Dave Weinberg, Assistant Director
Michael Drucker, Operations Director
Emily Shapiro, Chalutzim and Inclusion Director
Rachel Salba, Director of Business Operations
Courtney McCormick, Business Operations Assistant
Lisa Light, Administrative Assistant
Fran Harrell, Alumni/Travel Coordinator
Mark Balsler, Special Projects Coordinator