

Dear West End House Camp families,

Hundreds of hearts that beat as one, grateful for all the HOUSE has done...

Today our collective hearts are temporarily broken. With profound sadness, we share the news that we are canceling the 2020 West End House Camp season.

After careful monitoring of the guidance by public health authorities and our own medical experts related to the COVID-19 pandemic, and after much soul-searching and thoughtful deliberation, we have concluded that the health and safety of our campers and staff dictate that we forego operating this summer. This is the hardest decision we have ever had to make as an organization, but it is the right and responsible choice.

This was not our vision for the summer of 2020. We know that this is devastating news to our campers and staff who so looked forward to this season, especially after having to stay at home for the past two months away from friends, school, sports, and most regular activities. We know it is equally difficult news for parents of campers to hear. You realize, as we do, that camp would be more important than ever this summer. The magic of the West End House Camp experience is about the closeness, the relationships, the activities, and the traditions. WEHC is the opposite of social distancing, and we can't wait to get back to it as soon as we can do so safely and responsibly. As we stated in earlier newsletters, camp tuition paid in advance will be fully refundable. We will be in touch in the coming days to provide details of all the options.

West End House Camp is more than a place on beautiful Long Pond in Parsonsfield, Maine; it is alive within us forever, every day, and no matter where we are! This summer we are pivoting and will be offering a virtual camp experience for those connected with us as veterans, rookies, and even prospective campers. This will be called **The HOUSE at Home**. We know that this can not replace the real WEHC experience, but it will help you stay connected, entertained, and challenged with fun and creative activities. Many of the activities will mirror what we do at camp. We have a lot of creative people who are in the process of developing this. We will be sharing more details very soon!

West End House Camp is about **SPIRIT!** This includes being **Social**. It is also about learning **Perseverance**, **Independence**, **Responsibility**, **Integrity**, and **Teamwork**. Although we will not be together in Maine this summer, we are always with you in **SPIRIT!** Remember your WEHC values, as these will help you move forward through this moment with continuing success. When we can all gather together again at West End House Camp during the summer of 2021, it will be the best season ever!

Thanks for being part of the West End House Camp family!

As long as the sun is in the sky, the SPIRIT of the HOUSE will never die!