

Dear Camper/Camper Family,

As we have spoken with many of our camper families over the past few weeks it has become more apparent than ever the impact that The Arc of Greater Houston and Camp Champions has on the lives of those we serve. As an organization, we take great pride in our partnership with Camp For All that has allowed us to provide a unique barrier free camping experience for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities for many years.

With the current pandemic of COVID-19, we have worked hard to evaluate our options about moving forward with Camp Champions for summer 2020. While we have remained hopeful that we would be able to provide our members with the same kind of camping experience they have come to expect, after much consideration by our staff and board of directors, we have arrived at the decision to not hold Camp Champions this summer at Camp For All. Please know this decision was not entered into lightly. Our top priority must be the safety of our campers, volunteers, and staff. After considering current recommendations by the CDC and other health professionals, trends by members of American Camp Association, and the impact this virus has had on the Greater Houston community and Texas, it is not clear that we would be able to provide a safe in person camping experience.

While this news is undoubtedly disappointing, we have a plan to support our campers during this unusual time. In the past few weeks we have piloted a variety of virtual programs and ways for members to stay connected. We plan to expand these programs and will include a week of Camp Champions programs to be done at home. As this is a new direction for us, details are still being worked out and will be shared in the near future. While this is not how we envisioned Camp Champions 2020, our staff are excited about the opportunity to continue to serve campers. At this time, we are still expecting to be able to hold our annual Fall Camp Out at Camp For All in October.

The Arc of Greater Houston is committed to serving our community and looking for innovative ways to provide programs that keep our members connected. As a nonprofit we rely heavily on grants and donor support. With having to cancel, postpone, or change our spring and summer programs, we do not have the financial support we had planned to have at this point in the year. If you are able, please consider making a financial contribution to The Arc of Greater Houston to ensure we can continue to serve individuals with intellectual disabilities now and for years to come.

We are here for you and look forward to serving our campers and their families this summer with at home programming. If there are other ways we can support you during this time, please let us know.

Sincerely,

Janniece Sleigh
Executive Director
The Arc of Greater Houston

Jo Jaynes
Director of Programs
The Arc of Greater Houston