Special Camp Sessions 2 & 3
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

How will the new camp sessions be structured?
Similar to Session 1, Special Camp Sessions 2 and 3 will run for approximately three weeks. Session 2 will run from Monday, July 6 – Wednesday, July 22. Session 3 will run from Monday, July 27 – Wednesday, August 12. Families are required to commit to the entire session, and campers will remain in the same pod of children with the same staff the entire time. We are offering an array of options in hopes of meeting the varying needs of our community, including full-day and half-day City-Run and Specialty options for all grades.

Why do the new sessions end on a Wednesday?
Ending the sessions on the Wednesday of the last week of the session will allow more time to deep clean and sanitize the camp facilities, surrounding areas, and equipment prior to the start of a new pod or program. It will also allow a much-needed break for our camp counselors who cannot take time off as they normally would due to the health order.

Why are some camp fees higher in Sessions 2 & 3 than compared to Session 1?
Fees are increasing to ensure that we can continue to purchase all the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), cleaning supplies, and disinfectant required to keep camp safe for our campers and staff. A lower camper to staff ratio than normal and additional support needed to operate according to the Health Order also contributes to higher costs.

How do I register for the special summer camp session?
Registration will be available online at http://www.el-cerrito.org/onlinereg beginning Wednesday, June 17, 2020 at 8am. Camps and activity numbers can be found on the Special Summer Camp Session Schedule. Please note that trying to register before the registration opening date and time will result in an error message. After completing your online registration, please also submit a JotForm (Emergency Form) if you have not done so previously.

Who is eligible to register for the special camp session?
As of June 3, all children are eligible to attend ONE camp per the County Health Order. Children are NOT eligible to participate in camp if they are involved in another in-person extracurricular activity at any point during the session dates. For example, a camper cannot be in camp during the day and then participate in private tutoring, sports practice/lessons, band groups, etc. during the evening; nor can they participate in two half day camps offered by El Cerrito or any other provider.

Are there scholarships available?
Yes! Scholarships of up to $150 are available to qualifying families regardless of the date of any previous applications or awards. For more information on our scholarship program visit http://www.el-cerrito.org/scholarship.
What is a "Pod"?
A pod refers to a group of 12 or less campers who will remain together for the entire session, and do not intermix with other pods of campers. Each pod will be led by staff or instructors dedicated specifically to that group. Pods can be thought of as your camp “household.” Children should only participate in one pod during this time including non-El Cerrito programs.

I want my child and their sibling/friend to be in the same pod. How do I do that?
For siblings or friends to be together, they must be enrolled in the same pod, for the same time slot. Please coordinate directly with family/friends to ensure you are enrolling in the same pod. We will not be able to accommodate transfer or special requests. A mixed age K-6 camp that will keep siblings together is highly recommended where feasible to keep households contained as much as possible. Keep in mind that space in pods is limited due to the 12-camper allowed maximum.

How do the pod drop-off and pick-up windows work?
At each location there will be pods that have different time windows to stagger drop-off and pick-up and limit congestion in the drop-off zone. Your drop-off time is the first 15 minutes of your camp time, and your pick-up time is the last 15 minutes of your camp time. For example, if you are registered for an 8:30am-5pm pod, your drop-off window is 8:30am-8:45am and your pick-up window is 4:45-5pm. We strongly recommend that families do not put siblings in different pods at different locations that occur at the same time, because that would mean you would need to be in 2 locations within the same 15-minute time window.

Where will camps be offered?
Camps will be offered at different locations throughout the City to maximize physical distancing. Locations include the Community Center, Cerrito Vista Park, Harding Park, Castro Park, Fairmont Park, and Casa Cerrito. Most pods will spend the majority of time outdoors.

What if I register then need to cancel?
Because of the strict guidelines with the County and State Health Orders, once you register for camp, we will not allow any cancellations or transfers except for medical reasons.

Is Extended Care (Early Birds & Late Birds) Available?
Because of County and State orders, all camps will have to adhere to strict drop-off and pick-up times to stagger congregation and maintain physical distance. Unfortunately, Early Bird and Late Bird options are no longer available, and early drop-offs or late pick-ups are not allowed.

What will my kid do if they aren’t able to swim or go on field trips during camp?
Don’t worry, we are still making camp F.U.N.! Each day will be filled with physically distanced games, crafts and projects, plus there will be time for learning camp-style! It is sad that the pool will not be an option during the special camp sessions and field trips not offered, but your kids will still get a great camp experience.

What if the guidelines and orders change over the next couple of months?
While state and county restrictions continue to loosen, we have made the decision to base our program on what is definitely allowed now instead of making last minute decisions and changes. We feel the safest way to proceed is to base our program on current guidelines (as of June 2020). If the guidelines or orders do change, we will still run the special camp sessions as planned and described.