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Friday, May 22, 2020

Dear Camp Echo Rock Family,

I hope that you and your family remain in good health during this challenging time. I'm sure you and your child have been awaiting an answer about summer camp, so it's with a heavy heart that I tell you that Camp Echo Rock will not be offering day camp this summer.

Through many long days and sleepless nights, my staff and I worked to find solutions for every possible state mandated restriction that day camps will face this summer. Ultimately, we concluded that with the guidelines published by the State of CT on Monday afternoon, along with the challenges of the physical property at Camp Echo Rock, we would not be able to run camp at that site this summer.

I know how much your child was looking forward to the Echo Rock, my own included. Operating a safe and enriching camp takes many months of preparation under normal circumstances and the current unusual circumstances present major challenges that the Valley Shore YMCA continues to work to overcome.

I do want to let you know that our Camp Shore located in Westbrook at the Valley Shore YMCA has been approved to run summer camp by the CT Office of Early Childhood. With the large outdoor pavilion and multiple indoor spaces camp can utilize, it was determined that we could run a safe and fun summer camp program at that location. We are working with some of our Camp Echo Rock Camp Counselors and hope to bring some of them to Camp Shore. To learn more about our Camp Shore, please visit our website: <https://vsymca.org/summer-camp/>

I know this is disappointing news. We were looking forward to continue to build our new camp program. We do plan to return for 2021 and hope you will consider joining us at Camp Shore.

Stay Strong, Stay Kind and Stay Healthy,

Tony Sharillo
Director of Operations
Valley Shore YMCA
Camp Echo Rock
Camp Shore