



Oregon Association of Student Councils

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Dear OASC Family -

It is with regret and sadness that we write to inform you that the OASC Executive Board has made the difficult, yet necessary, decision to cancel our summer camp and Adviser Institute programs for 2020.

This decision was not made lightly. For almost 70 years, OASC has offered summer leadership camps and I have personally been attending for the past 30 years. We are not alone in taking this tradition interrupting action. Many of our fellow student council associations across the country are in the process of cancelling their camp programs as well.

The safety and well-being of our staff and campers is and always will be most important to us. In this situation, we must exercise maximum caution to ensure the health and safety of everyone. As always, we start planning for camp months in advance, selecting staff, opened registration and getting excited for our staff and campers to arrive. However, with our entire state under stay-at-home orders, schools teaching through distance-learning for the remainder of the year, cancellation of our Spring Conference, colleges and universities cancelling graduations in June and most importantly, the inability to know what public health guidance will be in place in July, we were left with no other decision but to cancel our camps. Our board chair, Ben Bowman, quoted John Wooden in our meeting stating, *"Failing to prepare is preparing to Fail"*. OASC wants to lead by being proactive vs reactive in the months to come.

For those of you who have already registered and paid for camp, your money will be refunded in full as soon as we are able to do so. We are also aware that many families need these funds quickly and will work to refund money as rapidly as possible. We are very thankful for your early registration and were excited for you to join us this summer - this is not how we envisioned 2020.

*"Around here, however, we don't look backwards for very long.
We KEEP MOVING FORWARD, opening up new doors and
Doing new things, because we're curious . . .
And curiosity keeps leading us down new paths."*

-Walt Disney

We are already looking forward to what this new path will look like and how we can continue to provide connections and opportunities for our students, advisers and schools. OASC generates a substantial portion of its operating budget each year from Summer Camp. If you would like to contribute to help OASC continue to provide services during the closure, please contribute [here](#).

OASC is not one program or event, it is all of you and our alumni too, and at this time, we wish you and your loved one's good health, and look forward to seeing and connecting with you all again as soon as we safely can.

Sincerely,

Sara S. Nilles



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Predicted Questions with Answers:

Q: What if I already paid for camp?

A: For those of you who have already registered and paid for camp, your money will be refunded in full as soon as we are able to do so. We are also aware that many families need these funds quickly and will work to refund money as rapidly as possible.

Q: What if I got a scholarship?

A: The committee had not yet selected or notified scholarship recipients for summer 2020 – we had only just received applications and recommendations.

Q: Can I use it next year or at Winter Energizer?

A: We will honor the time you put into your camp scholarship application for summer 2020 for Winter Energizer if needed and will reach out to those students in the future to see if a scholarship is needed for future events.

Q: What if I'm a junior (senior in the Fall) - Can I come next year?

A: At this time, OASC does not have an event for graduating seniors scheduled. The OASC Executive Board talked about this option and will revisit it at our August meeting. We are open to new events and opportunities – please share your ideas with either a student or adult board member.

Q: What if I was planning on running for Student Executive Council (SEC)?

A: The OASC Executive Board will be reviewing the requirements for the SEC and will announce the plan and process in August.

Q: Is there any other OASC events I can go to instead?

A: OASC is hosting a virtual Mental Health Summit on May 13th and we'd love for you to join us. [Register by clicking HERE.](#)

Q: Why did you cancel instead of postponing?

A: We have a very limited window of time in Oregon between schools getting out for summer and going back in the Fall. The only dates to postpone to would be the first two weeks in August – we don't believe the threat of COVID-19 will go away in those two weeks. OASC camp is more than just those two weeks in the summer – it's months of planning and coordinating a lot of schedules leading up to camp.

Q: How can I stay involved if I'm not at Camp?

A: Follow our social media @OASCleaders on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter! Check out our website www.oasc.org for updates, blog articles, resources and more!