

IT IS WITH A VERY HEAVY HEART that we share this news, knowing how important and impactful Girls Camp has been for so many young girls throughout the years. After much thought, consultation, and prayer, we have decided that the wisest and most prudent decision for this summer is to cancel our week-long camp. Our hope is to still do something different for any interested campers and staff that minimizes risk, yet provides them with a taste of the camp experience.

There is so much that goes into planning and executing camp each year. The heart of the camp experience is the playful, intimate, and safe culture of faith, through which the girls and staff alike, encounter the love of Christ. This summer, amid a Covid crisis and the necessary strict precautions for camp, we don't believe we can conduct our camp in a way that best represents the true spirit and strength of Pine Hills Camp.

**HERE ARE SOME SPECIFIC REASONS FOR OUR DIFFICULT DECISION:**

1. While we have put sound policies and practices into place, we obviously can't guarantee that no one will get sick and we have valid concerns that campers could bring Covid back to families and those who are vulnerable.
2. If one person at camp exhibits one Covid symptom unrelated to any known condition, that person must be sent home, and most likely those in close contact (her cabin mates and counselors) will be sent home too. This could easily have a domino effect where nurses, counselors, leadership team members, and worship leader also get sent home throughout the week, and our strong and vital team that executes camp so well is seriously handicapped.
3. We recognize that even in a good year with no threat of Covid, our amazing counselors have one of the most important and taxing roles at camp. A significant source of support and camaraderie for counselors is the time we spend as a staff. All of that would be severely limited due to the need for adequate social distancing to also protect our staff. With the added stress of helping their campers abide by the often awkward and unnatural Covid guidelines, and the anxiety of "what if someone in our cabin gets it?", we do not want to put counselors in a position where they cannot receive adequate support and feel like their primary role is to enforce rules.
4. We are grateful for the tremendous amount of support, trust, and respect from our parents and the broader community, and we want that to continue. PHC has been around for 34 years and we anticipate many more wonderful camps in the future.

**\*All current camp payments will be refunded by check by the end of July at the latest.**

