

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** Contact: Linda Blake
Assn Director of Marketing and Community Relations
Linda.Blake@ymcadc.org; 202-536-8394

**The Y Plans to Open Summer Day Camp Programs in the DMV**

Helping parents who are in need of childcare while they return to work while providing a fun and engaging experience for children.

**WASHINGTON – July 15, 2020 –** The YMCA of Metropolitan Washington will soon open several of its sites to operate Traditional Summer Camp to help parents who need childcare as they return to work. The Y’s Traditional Summer Camp program will provide children with the opportunity to engage in fun activities including arts and crafts, dance, outdoor play and sports while following COVID-19 protective guidelines. Each child will receive individual activity packs developed with STEM materials to prevent summertime learning loss. Additionally, campers will have an opportunity to participate in the virtual Thingamajig Invention Convention where they can create their own inventions for prizes.

To keep children safer, the Y will be implementing the following safety precautions:

* Strict limited capacity based on local licensing guidelines, the Centers for Disease Control and the American Camping Association.
* All camps will include daily health screenings for children and staff upon arrival, mid-day and at departure.
* Children should follow local guidelines in regards to wearing masks.
* Masks and personal protective equipment will be worn by all staff and extensive cleaning procedures implemented throughout the day.
* The Y will also be limiting contact between campers and camper groups.
* Per the local and CDC guidelines, all campers will be in small groups.
* Each child will receive individual fun activity learning packs – no materials will be shared.
* All program areas will be cleaned and sanitized throughout the day.
* All centers and classrooms is inspected to have appropriate signage and room arrangements.

To further ensure a safer environment, the Y’s summer camp staff must complete all trainings in COVID-19 health and safety, child abuse prevention, parent communication, and trainings provided by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

Most camp sites started in Washington, D.C., Maryland and Virginia on July 13th. Plans are that most camps will run through the end of August. Space is limited at each site. To register or for more information, go to www.ymcadc.com.

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**About YMCA of Metropolitan Washington**
The YMCA of Metropolitan Washington is a non-profit charity organization that has been serving the communities and families of Washington, D.C., Maryland and Virginia in the areas of youth development, healthy living and social responsibility, for nearly 168 years. Through opportunities in wellness, aquatics, youth sports, summer camps, childcare and more, the Y engages more than 250,000 individuals and families. Visit [www.ymcadc.org](http://www.ymcadc.org) for more information. Members are asked to stay with the Y during this critical time to maintain charitable services for every community. #StayWithUs