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What Will Summer Camp Be Like in 2021?

By Judith J. Castillo, Neighborhood News Staff Writer

In-person summer camps came to a complete halt in the summer of 2020. This summer, with the knowledge we've gained, and a restock of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), they may be able to happen in person. If not, virtual events are available and can be just as fun.

More Virtual?

Another summer is upon us and camps are going virtual faster than ice cream melting on a Texas summer day. What are parents to do? Although virtual camps are not the most desired option, they still provide children guided learning activities. Virtual summer camps offer a few hours of activities specially curated to keep young minds occupied, and several camps provide supply kits for use in the daily activities.

Benefits of Virtual Camp

Has your child always wanted to attend that super cool specialized camp, but getting him or her there was not feasible? Cue the benefits of virtual camp! Your child can attend camp for something as specialized as a space camp, or from a museum in another city or state...virtually! As a former camp counselor, I saw parents struggle with picking up their child by a certain hour, often in the middle of the workday. When camp has gone virtual, you may both be working from the comfort of home. Costs for virtual camp are also not as expensive as in-person events.

So, You're Saying There's a Chance?

At this point it is still too early to know for certain whether or not in-person camps will be happening, but the prospects are good. Last summer, even in the midst of the pandemic, some summer camps went on without a single case of COVID-19. There were many precautions, one of which was a required quarantine for two weeks prior to attendance. Camp looked different with masks, social distancing, pods of kids, and definitely more outdoor activities. Look for camps that are nature-focused and include outside activities with the space to roam.

This year is promising to be as unique as last summer, but the opportunity for kids to interact with other children at camp is on the table; feed the kids with knowledge through summer camp.

Resources for more information:

Find a camp - <https://www.campchannel.com/>

Virtual summer camps in San Antonio for 2021 - <https://sanantonio.kidsoutandabout.com/virtual-summer-camps>

Virtual summer camps in Austin for 2021 - <https://austin.kidsoutandabout.com/virtual-summer-camps?page=0&mini=2021-W24>

Virtual summer camps in Dallas for 2021 - <https://dallas.kidsoutandabout.com/virtual-summer-camps>

American Camp Association information - <https://www.acacamps.org/news-publications/blogs/camp-connection/2021-looks-be-another-covid-19-summer-camp-time-covid-19>

