**Summer Camp & Covid Guidelines 2022**

Sassafras Earth Education, 5 Church Street, Aquinnah, MA 02535

February 2022

***Please note that these protocols are subject to change*.**

**Contact Information:**

Please put the numbers listed below in your cell phone. Texting is the best way to reach us during program days in case you need to communicate any changes in attendance or for urgent situations. Please call anytime outside these hours or in the event of urgency.

Saskia Vanderhoop cell 774 563 0628

David Vanderhoop cell 508 560 2969

Audrey van der Krogt cell 508 560 8433

**Sassafras Summer Camp 2022**

Summer Camp 2022 will operate similar as in 2021. Youth will be in small, consistent groups of approximately 6 participants with consistent staff/mentors for the week (camp directors and occasional vetted visitors excepted). Groups will be spread out on the land, with their own base camps and hand washing stations.

On Wednesdays groups will walk to the beach for our weekly day at the water, an experienced lifeguard will be on duty.

**Registration**

Only registered participants, volunteers and staff are permitted on the land. Any visitations need to be scheduled and vetted in advance with one of our directors. All present on the land need to be familiar with these guidelines and sign and date our covid liability waiver.

**Come Prepared to Program**

Clothing: Everyone participating and present on the land needs to be dressed for a full day outside in the weather. In summer that means protective clothing against ticks, briars, sun and rain. We highly recommend participants wear long pants (no shorts or capris), sturdy shoes (no flip flops) and socks, and that they tuck pants in socks, and shirt in pants to prevent tick bites. In the event of (forecasted) rain, participants need to have rain gear.

Masks: Everyone needs to bring a mask in their backpacks (more on masks below).

Backpacks: All participating in programs need to have a backpack/daypack with lunch, snack, and sufficient water for the day (no shopping bags!). Do not bring candy, electronics, games, toys, cards, or watches please. Youth is welcome to bring the following: field guides, bandanas, nature’s crafts, and a Sassafras approved non-folding knife (Mora).  Knives need to remain inside backpacks (never clipped onto a belt.) until staff permits carving time.

**Drop off & Pick up:**

Parking is either in the Sassafras parking lot (marked), or on the shoulder of Church Street. Parents, grandparents and caregivers are asked to remain in the parking lot, and to not come onto the land past the parking lot.

DOGS are not permitted in the parking lot or on the land.

Drop-off: Please be timely and swift for drop off and pick up. At drop off, youth will check in with the Sassafras staff holding a clipboard, receive their meeting location and proceed with all their gear for the day.

Forgotten gear: In the event parents need to drop off additional gear/lunch/water please leave this on the picnic table in the parking lot and text us so we can make sure it’s received.

Opening & Closing and Guest Circles: Youth and staff will sit in a large circle on spaced out pillows to distance.

Co-drivers: Email or text Saskia any additional people that are allowed to drop off or pick up your youth besides the primary caregiver.

**During Program**

All participating in programs will be encouraged to physically distance and to avoid “close contact”. Youth will be directed not to touch each other, hug, exchange food or snacks, share equipment or other items.

Participants and staff will wash hands or use hand sanitizer frequently during the program day, ex. before eating, after using the bathroom, and anytime deemed necessary by our staff.

**Masks**

Masks are not required outside when we are able to physically distance, however everyone is required to bring a mask inside their backpack.

Masks are worn by all inside the tipi, or in close quarters due to weather or other emergency, ex. sitting under a tarp, helping a distressed camper, or while providing first aid.

Anyone choosing to wear a mask all day will be supported by our staff.

**Covid Symptoms or Illness**

Do not come to camp if you or your family members have or suspect covid, and inform us immediately.

Contact our staff to let them know that your child is staying home.

Our staff will assess daily in meetings if communications about covid infections need to be made with families.

Youth and staff may return to camp after a negative test.

If someone develops covid related symptoms during the camp day, one of our staff will make sure they are comfortable yet separated and observed from a safe distance (10') until the parent or guardian can pick them up.

We will ask a child to wear a mask if they are coughing or sneezing.

In the event of additional concerns, Sassafras follows the guidelines of the MV Schools.

**Cancellations and Refunds**

The following covid specific policies are in force during this time:

In the event a program week or day is canceled due to any covid related reason by Sassafras or any governing body before June 1, 2022, registrants may receive a full program credit minus PayPal processing fees.

If a program is canceled on or after June 1, 2022, Sassafras is committed to compensating our staff in full for their commitment, and we will not be able to offer a program credit or refund.

The Sassafras Team