

CAMP BARAKEL

EST. 1942 "Where God has Blessed"

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As you probably know, our nation is struggling to find good workers to fill all of the job opportunities that are available. At Camp Barakel, talented and tenderhearted staff gather each summer to voluntarily provide summer camp for children and youth, but we are experiencing a staffing shortfall this year.

With our two weeks of staff training drawing to a close, we now have an accurate picture of who we have on the summer staff team, along with a full understanding of our significant shortage.

We are committed to good training of our staff, and we refuse to place children in the care of people who have not been thoroughly assessed and taught. Concern for the health and safety of our campers has always been uppermost, and continues to be our steadfast compass in making difficult decisions.

Because of the staff shortage, we are canceling the following events:

- **boys**, July 12-17, Junior Week (attending 4th, 5th, and 6th grade in the fall)
- **boys and girls**, August 9-14, Middle School Week (attending 6th, 7th, and 8th grade in the fall)

We will send a full refund to those in the above events.

Unfortunately, we cannot accommodate any additional campers in any other week.

As of today, we are planning to host all scheduled events **not** listed above.

We do not pretend to know the full disappointment that you feel at this announcement. We know this is difficult news, and comes on the heels of a lot of disappointments during this past year.

The impact of these cancellations on the whole Barakel community is significant. We are heartbroken. We can't remember a year when we wanted to host campers more. Nevertheless, nationwide complications related to the pandemic, including the government's response to the pandemic, colleges' unwillingness to let us come recruit on their campuses, the disruption that occurred last summer when we couldn't operate and therefore broke continuity with some of our volunteers, all contributed to this sad situation.

Even though many of these factors are beyond our control, we are recommitting ourselves to searching for those very special volunteers who serve your children. For more than 75 years, Camp Barakel has had as its mission the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in an outdoor setting, with staff who are motivated by a love for kids, a love for the Savior, and a love for His church. We are prepared to meet this challenge head-on, creatively, and with our future campers in mind every step of the way.

Sincerely, and with aching hearts,

The Barakel Resident Missionary Staff