

"The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged." Deuteronomy 31:8

Dear Sky Ranch Community,

We are living in challenging and uncertain times that call on us to be wise, flexible, faithful, and resilient. **Last week, after prayerful and thoughtful discussion, the Sky Ranch Board of Directors made the difficult decision to suspend all summer programs for 2020 and keep the site closed through August 7.**

We know people will be disappointed in this decision, but hope you understand that we grieve this loss with you. Our concern is to keep everyone safe and healthy, as well as our desire to be financially responsible with the long-term mission of this ministry. The risk is too high in a residential camp community setting for people to be exposed to this virus. **Parents trust us with their most valuable possession, their children, and we do not take that lightly.**

This decision has been a painful one. But as faithful followers of Christ, we are called to put our trust in God and not be afraid or discouraged. We are not forsaken; we are in a time of opportunity and innovation. Sky Ranch is determined to be a light in this darkness that seems so overwhelming.

Hear the Good News! Sky Ranch is doing ministry! Our summer staff is hired and has been doing training via Zoom since May 20! Equipping and empowering our summer staff to serve is our mission. We believe this is a vital investment in the present and future leadership of our church, providing them with fresh opportunities to foster faith.

Our Summer Staff are determined to provide resources that support our campers and congregations. Our goal is to get our staff up to camp, provide a safe place for them to continue their leadership development, and to create faith formation experiences. They have started recording a series of Children Sermons (<https://www.skyranchcolorado.org/ministry-with-altitude>) and will soon be generating a virtual resource series for campers interested in enjoying a little bit of camp at home. They will craft a variety of free camp activities, worship, games, and campfires for campers and congregations.

For those who have already registered and paid for programs at Sky Ranch, there are three options available for you regarding your payment:

- 1) You may request a full refund.
- 2) You may roll over your payment into a payment for 2021 summer camp.
- 3) You may donate all or a portion of your payment to help Sky Ranch cover fixed expenses (like year-round staff salaries, summer staff salaries, insurance costs, utilities, etc.).

Please contact our office manager at, Ally@skyranchcolorado.org, regarding your refund.

During this unique period of social distancing, I am repeatedly humbled by the generosity and encouragement from **all** who continue to give to this ministry. **We can't do it without your help.** Please pray for patience, have hope, and know that God is with us.

Brad Abbott, Executive Director

