

## UPDATED, June 19 8:00 AM

Dear Ranch Camp Families,

It's hard to believe we would be almost at the end of Session 1 this week. We are all still grieving the loss of our regular summer program and Family Camp. As we made our way through calling each of you after announcing our decision, it truly lifted our spirits to talk to so many of you and your campers. These calls solidified what we have always known about our community; connection is what creates the magic of Ranch Camp. It isn't about the activities or the food or anything in between. It is about the connections we make with each other and the opportunities we have to be the best version of ourselves.

**We are excited to introduce Ranch Camp 2020 Virtual Connections, a virtual experience for campers that will take place in July!**

We have been working tirelessly to concentrate the essence and magic of Ranch Camp into short programs with small groups of campers. The goal of Virtual Connections is to help campers connect to their peers in their unit and to participate in special unit programming so that they feel as if they were truly with us this summer.

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### **VIRTUAL CONNECTIONS SCHEDULE**

The Virtual Connections programs are organized by Session and Unit. Each program will take place 2 pm MDT on their respective dates.

#### **Session 1: Week of July 6, 2:00 pm MDT**

Tuesday 7/7 – Chalutzim (2nd-4th Grade, full + mini campers)

Wednesday 7/8 – Metapsim (5th & 6th Grade)

Thursday 7/9 – Toshavim (7th & 8th Grade)

#### **Session 2: Week of July 13, 2:00 pm MDT**

Tuesday 7/14 – Chalutzim (2nd-4th Grade, full + mini campers)

Wednesday 7/15- Metapsim (5th & 6th Grade)

Thursday 7/16 – Toshavim & Pack n Ride (7th, 8th, 9th Grade)

#### **Session 3: Week of July 20, 2:00 pm MDT**

Tuesday 7/21 – Chalutzim (2nd-4th Grade, full + mini campers)

Wednesday 7/22 – Metapsim (5th & 6th Grade)

Thursday 7/23 – Toshavim (7th & 8th Grade)

**Baktanna & Tiyulim (Trips): Week of July 27, 2:00 pm MDT**

Tuesday 7/28 – Baktanna 1st & 2nd Grade

Wednesday 7/29 – Baktanna 3rd & 4th Grade

Thursday 7/30 – TASC (Sessions 2 & 3) & Teen Village

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**VIRTUAL CONNECTIONS FAQs**

Who can participate in Virtual Connections?

Virtual Connections is open to campers that were registered for the 2020 season.

**How can I sign my camper(s) up?**

You must register your camper(s) for Virtual Connections. 2020 families – you can find the registration link in the email send on 6/19/20. Please register your camper at least one week prior to their scheduled program.

Once you have registered, your camper will be assigned to the Session/Unit program they would have attended this summer. As a reminder, here are the different units:

**Chalutzim** – 2nd – 4th graders (full & mini session campers)

**Metapsim** – 5th – 6th graders

**Toshavim** – 7th – 8th graders (and Pack n Ride during Session 2)

**Tiyulim** – TASC (Sessions 2 & 3) and Teen Village

**Baktanna** – 1st/2nd graders and 3rd/4th graders

**What is the cost to participate in Virtual Connections?**

There is no cost to participate in Virtual Connections. We are asking, if you are able, to please consider making a donation to support our programming efforts. Donations will go directly to staff salaries and are tax deductible. Camp donations will be matched by half by a generous donor. Your gift may be eligible for the Colorado Child Care Contribution Tax Credit which provides a 50% state income tax credit for gifts to children's programming. Your generosity is greatly appreciated, especially in a time like this.

**Who is leading Virtual Connections?**

Our trained Ranch Camp staff will be leading these programs. These staff are trained to work with children and specifically have been trained to safely lead programs in online spaces.

**Where will Virtual Connections take place?**

Each program will take place in a secure Zoom call hosted by Ranch Camp.

**What will each Virtual Connections program include?**

Each program will begin with welcoming campers and establishing a safe space. Each group will then participate in their unit program. This program has been developed to fit the unit's developmental stage and match key programming that takes place at camp. The call will conclude with an opportunity to help complete the unit flag and goodbyes. As we get closer to each program, we will send an email with specific details outlining any supplies and parental/guardian support needed during the program, and the Zoom link to access the program.

**When will Virtual Connections take place?**

Each program will take place at 2 pm MDT. The programs will be organized by Sessions and Units to give campers the chance to connect with the campers they would have been with this summer. Please see the schedule above.

**If I have more questions, who can I talk to?**

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to Carly Coons, Assistant Director. You can reach her via email at [ranchcamp@jccdenver.org](mailto:ranchcamp@jccdenver.org).

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**Please remember to complete your Virtual Connections Registration as soon as possible and at least one week prior to your campers' program!**

Even though we won't be together in person this summer in Elbert, Colorado, we are very much looking forward to connecting with each other in a new way until we're all back together under our bluest skies.

Until we see a Colorado Sunset Together,

Noah Gallagher | JCC Ranch Camp Director

Carly Coons | JCC Ranch Camp Assistant Director

