



AuSM Camp Discovery 2021 COVID-19 Procedures Updated 6/1/21

Due to circumstances related to the COVID-19 pandemic, True Friends and AuSM have made changes to camp in order to maintain as safe an environment as possible. Please note that these procedures have been updated as of June 1, 2021. Please carefully read the following:

Cabins

Each cabin will house 4 campers. If you are familiar with the cabins at Courage North, you already know that each cabin has 4 bunk areas separated by a wall. Each camper will have their own area and will not share their space with anyone else.

Cohorts

In order to be in compliance with current group size recommendations and to limit the potential spread of COVID-19 should someone get sick at camp, campers will be assigned to a cohort. Each cohort will be made up of campers from 2 cabins. Cabins 1 & 2 will be a cohort, Cabins 3 & 4 will be a cohort and Cabins 5 & 6 will be a cohort.

Cohort Staffing

Each cohort will have its own group of staff, staff that will work only within their assigned cohort for the entire week. This group of staff will include 1 Cabin Support Person (hired by the Autism Society of Minnesota) and 2-3 True Friends staff.

Masks

Campers will not be expected to wear masks when eating, sleeping, or showering. Masks also cannot be worn when campers are in or on the water. We know that masks can be uncomfortable, and though they are required in most indoor spaces as well as outdoor spaces where social distancing cannot be maintained, we do have the flexibility to offer mask breaks for campers who need them. We encourage you to send masks with your camper that they find the most comfortable (no buffs or gaiters, please). We also will have some disposable masks available.

Meals

All meals will be eaten outdoors on the deck with tables spaced apart from each other. Campers will be seated a minimum of 6 feet apart. If it is raining, campers will either eat in their cabins or mealtimes will be staggered to allow for eating in the dining hall. If a camper does not want to eat outdoors, accommodations can be made.

Camp Spaces

All activities will be designed to take place outdoors with spaces created that allow campers to still hang out with each other safely. There also are outdoor basketball hoops and space for activities that would typically occur in the gym. While some indoor spaces may be available to campers, everyone will be encouraged to be outdoors as much as possible.

In Case of Rain

In case of rain, some buildings will open and indoor activity options will be available but group size will be limited.

Minnesota's First Autism Resource®

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Rule of 3

In order to help maintain a safe environment for campers and staff, True Friends is encouraging everyone to remember the Rule of 3.

1. Masks
2. Social Distancing
3. Outdoors

We will remind everyone throughout the week to think of these 3 things and work to maintain at least 2 of these 3 things at all times. For example, if a camper is outdoors and able to social distance, they do not need to wear a mask. If they are outdoors and not able to maintain social distancing throughout the entirety of the activity, they will need to wear a mask. Visual supports and social narratives will be offered to assist with protocols.

COVID-19 POLICY

1. All campers must submit ONE of the following upon arrival at camp:

A negative COVID test, administered within 72 hours of camp arrival day. PCR (non-rapid) tests are recommended, if possible.

OR

Proof of vaccination (photo, copy, or original accepted)

To locate a testing site by location in Minnesota, you can visit [this link](#). Most testing, especially PCR is free, and does not require insurance coverage. Note that at-home testing is possible, but may not be compatible with the 72 hour rule.

2. Check in will include a COVID screen, which will involve a short questionnaire and a forehead temperature read. It will not include a test. Note that parents/caregivers may be subject to this screen, especially in the event that they wish to enter a Courage North facility to use a restroom, etc.
3. True Friends and AuSM have tiered protocol in the event that one or more campers show common or uncommon symptoms of covid. In accordance with guidance from the Minnesota Department of Health, the following [tool](#) will be used in the event that symptoms are identified. Phone calls will be made to family members of any campers affected. Safe, supervised quarantine is available on site to campers who show symptoms while awaiting decision of pickup.
4. Families and caregivers will need to identify a contact person in the event of symptoms or illness. This contact person must be guaranteed to be available to pick up the camper within 4 hours of request for pickup, unless another time window is approved by camp medical staff.
5. 5. If a camper returns home from camp and has a positive COVID test within 10 days of returning home, the family is required to report it to AuSM, and AuSM is required to report it to families from that session, without identifying the camper who tested positive.

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