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Camp Takodah SUMMER CAMP 2020 ANNOUNCEMENT

Hello,

My name is Artie Lang, and I'm the Executive Director of the Takodah YMCA. Today, I want to talk to campers, parents, and staff. But, most importantly, to our campers.

I know you've been waiting to learn what was going to happen with summer camp this year. I am here to tell you that because of COVID-19 there will be no Camp Takodah this summer. Our #1 job is to keep all of us safe at camp and return home healthy — and after many long days and sleepless nights, we just couldn't figure out how to do that at Takodah this summer.

Some of you may be surprised by this news and it's timing. We were holding out hope that Takodah could be there for you this summer. We know you deserve a break away from everything that is happening in the world right now.

I bet almost every one of us feels really sad. As a former camper and staff, I understand your deep feelings of grief. I haven't missed a summer at camp in 35 years.

Some of you are probably anxious. That's totally normal. We feel that way when we're not sure what the future holds.

Some of you may be a little angry. I know camp is a place where I can be my true self, and it's frustrating that I won't get that this year.

I want you to know that as I made this decision with our staff and Board of Directors, I have felt every single one of those emotions. Not having camp is hard. I'll really miss seeing all the smiles and hugs. I always look forward to the sound of a rocking dining Hall. Camp was really what I was looking forward to after staying at home for all of these weeks. All of these emotions are understandable — and natural. That's why I wanted to tell campers before everyone else.

I am sure you have questions. First and foremost, yes, we plan to have camp next summer. I know there are so many more and you will find the answers on our website on a special Summer Camp 2020 Announcement page. You can reach out if you don't see your question there, but please know we may be very busy — so it may take a little bit of time for us to respond.

We know that this is hard news for you and your parents. We will not be publicizing the news of this summer until tomorrow. Today is about you and this heartbreaking news.

Tomorrow, we will send out another video to the Takodah Community. It won't focus on us and the way we feel; it will focus on what this means to camp. I hope your parents will watch that one too.

Please know that we are all going to miss you — and we are doing everything we possibly can to see you next year.

In camp spirit
Artie Lang
Executive Director, Takodah YMCA

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