Community Announcement:  
2020 Camp Ten Trees Program Changes

Dear campers, parents, volunteers and wonderful friends of Camp Ten Trees,

2020 is our 20th year of Camp Ten Trees! We are serving more campers than ever before and continuing to adjust and innovate our programs in line with our mission and commitment to social justice. Each year, we have the honor to learn and be shaped by the knowledge, needs and experiences of our campers, volunteers and other community members. Based on what we learned in 2019 (and the uniqueness of the calendar year in 2020 in regards to site availability), we have some changes we’d like to announce for our 20th year of programming for Queerspawn and LGBTQ+ youth.

The session dates and details for the 2020 season will be as follows:

- **Spring Camp, March 13th-15th:** LGBTQ2S+ & ally Teens, ages 13-17
- **Summer Session 1, August 16th-20th:** Queerspawn & LGBTQ2S+ Youth, ages 8-12
- **Summer Session 2, August 21st-26th:** Queerspawn & LGBTQ2S+ Teens, ages 13-17
- **Summer Session 3 (Trans Camp), August 28th-Sep 1st:** Trans, Nonbinary, & Two-Spirit Youth, ages 8-17
- **Leadership, Education, and Development (LEAD) Program, August 16th-20th:** Queerspawn & LGBTQ2S+ Teens, ages 16-17 (LEAD campers will stay on site between Sessions 1 & 2 and attend Session 2 as regular campers.)

Here are some changes you may notice with accompanying details about our decision:

- We are shifting from hosting our traditional sessions (for Queerspawn ages 8-17 and LGBTQ2S+ Teens ages 13-17) to having two sessions that will each serve *both* Queerspawn and LGBTQ2S+ identified youth and will be separated by age range. **Session 1 will be for all of our campers ages 8-12, and Session 2 will be for all of our campers ages 13-17.**
  - Combining sessions for Queerspawn and LGBTQ2S+ campers with tighter age ranges will allow us to hone in on programming specifically tailored for the
age groups. We believe campers will greatly benefit from even more intentionality in activity design and facilitation geared toward their developmental stages.

- **Session 1 will be two days shorter than before, spanning over 5 days.**
  - Feedback from campers, volunteers, and parents after our 2019 Queerspawn session indicated that 7 days of camp is a barrier for many of our younger campers - especially those campers who are in need of 1-1 inclusion support. We struggled to recruit enough inclusion counselors in 2019, which made it challenging to provide critical staff support needed for our youngest campers to have a successful week-long camp experience. We also received feedback that a full seven-day session serving 8-12 year old campers was not sustainable for our volunteers, particularly cabin counselors, many of whom stay with us for multiple sessions of camp. In order to accommodate the ever-evolving needs of our campers and strive for a more sustainable volunteer experience, we’ve chosen to experiment with a shorter session of 8-12 year old campers that will include campers from all of our target identity groups.

- **Session 2 will be one day shorter than before, spanning over 6 days.**

- **LEAD camper programming will take place only during Session 1 and LEAD campers will stay on site between Sessions 1 & 2 and attend Session 2 as regular campers.** Maintaining the LEAD program during Session 1 will continue to create opportunities for teen mentorship of younger campers. Further information about the new LEAD program curriculum will be coming soon!

- **The timing of our three programs this year was also impacted by the availability of our rental site.** We faced an unexpected hurdle when we discovered that, because of the way the calendar year falls in 2020 and the programs hosted by the site owners, the first week of our usual site reservation will be unavailable to us this August. Rather than eliminate sessions, cut programming/activities (waterfront specifically) or orient around a completely new campsite this coming year, we chose to work within the dates available at our current site.

We’re looking forward to your questions and feedback about these shifts! We’d like to open the line of communication about this prior to the 2020 camp sessions by holding a listening session for volunteers, campers, parents, guardians and families. The listening session will be held on **Wednesday, February 12th** from 6-8 pm, in person at the Camp Ten Trees office. The meeting will have an option to call in over Google Hangouts.

Please contact Maggot at programs@camptentrees.com with questions about the program changes or the listening session (including office location information). We’d love to hear from you!