



Gov. Evers Announces \$8 Million in Support for Wisconsin Summer Camps

JUNE 24, 2021

MADISON. - Gov. Evers shared today that \$8 million of relief will be provided to summer camps in Wisconsin, funded by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. Wisconsin has a rich history of outdoor education with 230 licensed recreational educational camps, including day camps and overnight camps. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, summer camps have experienced increased expenses, the need for additional health staff, testing and medical supplies, and facility modifications. Additionally, most residential summer camps were closed last summer or operated with reduced capacity and revenue due to COVID concerns or restrictions.

“We are incredibly grateful to Governor Evers and his staff for their support of Wisconsin Summer Camps,” said Andy Shlensky, Director of the Midwest Association of Independent Camps. “The Governor’s support will assist Wisconsin summer camps in providing important growth opportunities for children from around Wisconsin and around the country,” The nature of the pandemic has restricted the social, emotional, academic, and physical growth opportunities for children in the past year and the relief funds will go towards hiring additional staff at Wisconsin camps, PPE and COVID testing to keep communities safe, to provide aid to camps that were forced to close last summer and to make it possible for more children to have a camp experience.

According to the Wisconsin Camp Economic Impact Findings Report by the American Camp Association in 2020, a survey of 40 camps showed camps contribute 7,844 jobs and \$717 million annually in Wisconsin. It is estimated that over 600,000 children participate in licensed Wisconsin summer camps each summer.

“We know that time at camp will help rebuild the social and emotional intelligence that children need to succeed,” says Gabe Chernov, President of the Midwest Association of Independent Camps. Individuals or businesses interested in contacting the MAIC for additional information should email gabe@birchtrail.com or andy@northstarcamp.com.