



Fall 2021

Dear Members of the Tyler Community,

When we made the difficult decision to cancel the 2020 and 2021 summer camp season at Tyler, we were hopeful that this was a temporary measure as rapid testing kits and vaccines became widely available.

However, as we continue to monitor the COVID-19 case statistics across the region and particularly for Delaware County, the number of cases still remains high with the added complication of new variants emerging at an alarming pace. Our priority is – and still remains – the health and safety of our staff, volunteers, and visitors.

We considered several factors as we explored the possibility of resuming our summer camp program:

- The limited amount of indoor space Tyler has available to accommodate staff and campers during inclement weather – or to fulfill social distancing requirements.
- The considerable personnel and administrative expenses involved in operating a safe, educational and fun summer camp program.
- The logistical and staffing requirements that would be necessary in the event camp counselor(s) and/or camper(s) contracted COVID-19 and needed to adhere to quarantine guidelines in a market beleaguered by staffing shortages across industries.
- The number of organizations currently operating a summer camp program in the immediate vicinity.

Unfortunately, these challenges have prompted Tyler to suspend its summer camp operation until further notice. We are taking this opportunity to embark on a strategic planning process that will engage – and solicit feedback from – the Tyler community as we chart a course for the organization's future growth and success.

While we are all hunkered down, staying healthy, and doing our critical part to move beyond COVID-19 as quickly as possible, please know that Tyler Arboretum is still a perfect place for your family and friends to enjoy spending time outdoors year-round for tours, picnics, workouts, or mental health breaks as you explore our collections, tree houses and trails!

With love and gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mandy Santiago".

Mandy C. Santiago, MSS, MSFM
Executive Director