

A Note from our President & CEO about Summer 2020 Programs

A few weeks ago, I shared with you our immediate plans for our Summer STEM Camps. I want to provide an update and a bit of rationale for some of the choices we are making this year. First, while we hope that you are all well, staying safe and getting out into the sunshine as often as possible these days I want to thank those of you who have reached out to us to inquire about options, provide feedback, and to those who have asked about our organizational wellbeing. We love the community we serve.

As we all continue to navigate the impact of COVID-19 in and around our community over the summer months, we want you all to know that we feel the same sense of unknown at PAST as you do at home, work, and school. One of the things we look forward to each and every year are our Summer STEM programs. While children's safety is our top priority every summer, there are additional considerations that makes this summer particularly difficult.

Although our Governor has made it possible for in-person camps to open for the summer, in evaluating the list of state requirements, feedback from parents about infection concerns, and the climbing per student costs associated with small group size restrictions, we feel that a hybrid approach to Summer STEM Camps at PAST makes the most sense this year. So, what in the heck does that mean for your STEM enthusiasts this summer?

- 1) This summer a select number of programs will be held virtually. Please use this [LINK](#) to see the list of available programs and to sign up as spaces are limited. Keep checking back as we may add additional programs throughout the summer. Keep in mind that thanks to the generosity of our donors – this summer's virtual camps are deeply discounted and we also have scholarships available.
- 2) During July and August – PAST STEM Camps will be delivered (at no cost to parents or centers) to licensed child care centers throughout the city. These locations will already be meeting all of the enhanced COVID safety protocols for your school aged children; PAST will just add to your child's experience at that location. Once again, thanks to the generosity of the Columbus Community, PAST can safely deploy STEM programming to other locations. Please let us know where your kids will be this summer so we can try and coordinate programming at those locations (child care centers, parks and rec centers, community centers, etc.) send an email to: programs@pastfoundation.org.

We understand and share in the frustration of the unknown as we continue to look forward to the upcoming months. PAST is so grateful for the continued support and we are looking forward to bringing high quality STEM programming to our students this summer. We ask for your patience and understanding as we pivot to keep your children safe and engaged this summer.

Warm regards,
Annalies Corbin