

Blue Ridge Suzuki Camp COVID-19 Planning & Protocols

March 31, 2021

Blue Ridge Suzuki Camp and our host *Shrine Mont Camp & Conference Center* are committed to Covid-19 mitigation practices that promote the health and safety of our camp community. We are fortunate to be in a rural location where outdoor space, recreational opportunities, and fresh air are abundant, and where some classes and many activities can take place outdoors. Furthermore, our small size and location give us flexibility in planning that allows us to make adjustments as needed.

The protocols outlined below are based on guidelines from the State of Virginia, the Centers for Disease Control, and the American Camp Association. If any new mandates or guidelines emerge for summer programs as our camp week approaches, our protocols will be adjusted accordingly. Finalized protocols will be sent to all registered families on May 10, 2021.

In this document “participant” refers to any person attending camp, including registered students, family members, guardians, etc.

Shrine Mont Camp & Conference Center Protocols for Summer of 2021:

Shrine Mont Facilities and Staff: Shrine Mont staff will be screened and temperature checked daily, and will wear masks and maintain social distancing at all times. Staff will not enter participants’ rooms unless required for emergency maintenance, and only when the room is vacant. Shrine Mont staff will remove all blankets and pillows from rooms and will “air out” rooms before arrival. Staff will use enhanced cleaning protocols and sanitation throughout the lodging spaces, classrooms, and common spaces. Public bathrooms will be continuously stocked with soap, sanitizer, and paper towels for frequent hand washing. The elevator in Virginia House will only be available to those who are unable to take the steps. All public buildings will be marked with entrance and exit doors.

Dining Hall and Meals: Meals will be served in multiple shifts in order to reduce density in the dining hall, and will be served by Shrine Mont staff wearing masks and gloves. Participants will be encouraged to eat outdoors when possible at a newly created outdoor eating area with picnic tables, or their own blankets/chairs. Participants will be asked to eat in their customary family groups. While vegetarian options will be available, it may be more difficult this year to provide alternatives for individuals with dietary allergies or specific food needs. Please contact BRSC Director in advance to see if your specific needs can be met.

Daily Health & Safety Requirements: BRSC participants will be required to practice social distancing in all public buildings, and to wear appropriate face masks in public buildings and outside when 6 feet of distance cannot be maintained. In order to take part in classes and activities, participants will also be required to follow recommended hand-hygiene practices and to undertake daily Covid-19 self-screening and temperature checks.

Blue Ridge Suzuki Camp Protocols for Summer of 2021:

Program Adjustments: Camp will be one night shorter this year, ending late Thursday afternoon after classes. While there will be the same amount of instructional time as a typical year, we will not have the usual final concerts on Friday morning. Instead, parents will be invited to demonstrations at the Thursday group and ensemble classes. Solo Recitals will be held with a reduced number of performers, and may not be able to include a piano accompanist in some instances. Evening activities will focus on smaller gatherings, and a special event such as the faculty recital may be held in the large outdoor pavilion with audience chairs distanced. This year we will not be able to offer piano instruction.

Schedule and Classroom Spaces: All indoor classroom spaces will be measured to meet appropriate capacity guidelines, and activities will stay well under these limits. The daily schedule will be adjusted to spread classes throughout the day, allowing for utilization of larger rooms and avoiding smaller rooms. Master classes will be moved to larger rooms and/or may be adjusted to lower the number of participants (for example only 2 students attending at a time) to allow for plenty of social distance. Some group classes and elective classes will be held outside in open air pavilions. Classroom windows will be left open as much as possible for fresh air circulation.

Enrollment: We will limit our overall number of camp participants (registered students and family members) to a number that we feel will allow us to safely undertake activities in the spaces we have available, including the dining hall. Registration will be 'first come, first served' in order of registrations received, and will be closed at the point that we reach capacity. After that we will maintain a waiting list.

Recreation and Free Time: As part of the daily schedule, students will have free time to take advantage of the 1,100 acres that Shrine Mont has to offer. Families will need to bring their own sports equipment, and pool use may be staggered. More than ever, participants will be encouraged to enjoy the variety of outdoor recreation opportunities available -- including miles of hiking and biking trails, tennis courts, fishing pond, a large gradual-entry swimming pool, and much open space to run around and play. Families are asked to not participate in local off-campus activities while at camp.

Teen Participants: We very much welcome teen participants to camp and our Blue Ridge Chamber Music Institute, but we regret that this year we will not be able to offer a supervised teen cottage for our participating teenagers. All students under the age of 18 will need to attend with an adult over the age of 21 who will be responsible for them.

Assumption of Risk: If participating in camp this year raises questions regarding your health risk, we suggest saving your BRSC experience for a future summer. We strongly caution against participation if you feel you are at high risk. All participants will be expected to agree to an 'assumption of risk and waiver of liability' as part of attending.

Pre-Arrival and Testing: In the ten days prior to arrival, participants will be asked to complete a daily temperature and symptom check and follow recommended practices of hand hygiene, mask wearing, social distancing when necessary, exercising caution in public spaces, and limiting interactions in social settings. Adult and child participants will be required to obtain a negative molecular (PCR) Covid-19 test 1-3 days prior to the first day of camp on June 20, with testing completed in time to provide results at registration. We will continue to monitor testing options and may adjust our requirements as options evolve. We will likely allow participants who have been fully vaccinated to show proof of vaccination in lieu of the Covid test.

Welcome and Orientation: Our camp orientation session will be virtual this year on Zoom, and will be held Friday, June 18 at 6:30 PM. All student participants and at least one adult will be asked to attend. Having a virtual orientation this year avoids a large gathering and provides important information and reminders to families before they leave for camp.

Transportation and Arrival: The majority of our families are within driving distance and will drive to camp in a personal vehicle. Any family who is considering air or other forms of transportation should contact the Director first, since we will continue to monitor any recommended precautions and/or quarantine requirements. Upon arrival at camp, families will complete our health screening form and temperature check, submit their negative PCR test results, pick up their registration packet, and proceed to unload. We may assign specific staggered registration times.

Covid Symptoms or Positive Test: If a participant has a fever or exhibits any symptoms of Covid-19, they will be required to quarantine in their room, and arrangements will be made for a Covid test and/or examination by a health care professional (take-out meals can be brought to the room). A positive Covid test would require a participant and their family to return home, and we regret that we are unable to give refunds if this were to occur. Camp participants will be notified if they have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive, and close contacts would need to return home as well. (close contact is defined as someone who has been within 6 feet of the person without a mask for 15 minutes or more). Please note that if health & safety protocols are followed, no participant other than family members should be considered a close contact.

Cancellation Policy: Families will be able to cancel for any reason and receive a full refund (minus the registration fee) until May 20, 2021. Between May 20 and June 20 we will give refunds if a participant or a family member of a participant tests positive for covid-19 and quarantine requirements prohibit attendance.

In the event that the Covid situation changes dramatically and we feel it is in the best interest of our camp community to cancel, all fees paid (including the registration fee) will be refunded.

Updated Protocols: Protocols may need to be adjusted as camp gets closer and recommendations are updated. All registered families will be sent the finalized protocols on **May 10, 2021**, giving them 10 days to review and agree to them, or to withdraw from camp.

At Blue Ridge Suzuki Camp we know that the need for music, for in-person learning, and for the experience of camp has never been greater than it is now. We appreciate your cooperation and look forward to having a fun and safe camp experience together!