

June 1, 2020

Dear Village Families,

We hope this message finds you and your family safe and well, especially in light of recent events over the past week. The last months have been challenging for all of us, wherever we live. We appreciate your patience as we've worked hard to see what this summer will look like for Concordia Language Villages.

As promised by today, we have reached a conclusion on the feasibility of holding residential Village sessions this summer. It is truly with a heavy heart that we have decided to **cancel all remaining residential sessions from July 27 to August 22**. We know this is very disappointing to hear; and we share in the disappointment. We will all miss being at the Villages in so many ways.

This has been one of the most difficult decisions we have ever had to make as an organization over the last 60 years. But we don't know if, when, and with what restrictions, the State of Minnesota will lift its current prohibition on overnight camps. Although we tried hard, we saw that we could not offer the onsite experience you have come to expect and still meet safety guidelines as they are outlined by the American Camp Association. We can't justify keeping staff and Village families in limbo, hoping these barriers will be solved.

The loss of being on site at the Villages this summer is just that -- a loss. Take time to be sad, to grieve what could have been. It's part of the process. We hope that you'll join us again in the beautiful North Woods of Minnesota next summer. Or perhaps you'll opt to continue your Village experience virtually this summer with one of our online sessions. They are coming together in creative and inspiring ways with young people enrolling from across the country. We'll be here to welcome your participation in our world-class language and cultural immersion adventure. Registration specifics are included below.

Although we will miss seeing you this summer in person, we hope to see you online. Please also look for a message from your Village dean about our online offerings this summer. Stay well and safe -- may peace prevail on earth.

Sincerely yours,

Eric Eliason
Interim Executive Director, Concordia Language Villages
Vice President for Academic Affairs, Concordia College

Registration Specifics:

1. All residential session registrations will be cancelled on Tuesday, June 2. A credit will remain on your account in the amount of your nonrefundable deposit to be used for a

session that takes place before April 30, 2021. All other remaining fees that have been paid to date, minus the nonrefundable deposit, will be refunded in full within 60 days.

2. If you opt into a Virtual Village session, registration is currently open to select a session that works best for your schedule. We have temporarily suspended the \$50 deposit requirement on one-week sessions through Monday, June 8 so that you can easily apply your credit balance to the cost of a Virtual Village session. If you don't make a decision by June 8, the credit remains on your account. Find the schedule here:

<https://bit.ly/3coCVQA>

- a. **PLEASE NOTE:** *we are currently expanding our Virtual Villages schedule and will be adding sessions over the next few weeks. If you notice a session is full, please still add your villager to the waitlist -- this is how we will gauge interest and possibly increase session capacity. We will send emails over the next couple of weeks as new sessions are added.*
- b. Have questions about the Virtual Villages? Join us for an upcoming virtual coffee hour with Village leadership staff.
 - i. Wednesday, June 3 at 4 p.m. CDT: <https://bit.ly/3cmOCYm>
 - ii. Thursday, June 4 at 4 p.m. CDT (Four-week high school credit focus): <https://bit.ly/36SDTn3>
 - iii. Wednesday, June 10 at 4 p.m. CDT: <https://bit.ly/36Slial>
 - iv. Friday, June 12 at 12 p.m. CDT: <https://bit.ly/2Xnq4tS>
3. If you are not interested in attending a Virtual Village session at this time, please let us know by completing this form by Monday, June 15: <https://bit.ly/36O4IZE>. This will allow us to process any refunds, minus the nonrefundable deposit, as quickly as possible. If you change your mind later, you will be able to sign up for any available program through our online registration system.
4. We fully intend to offer Virtual Villages in the fall and winter. These are being mapped out now, and so more online options for language and cultural immersion during the academic year will be announced mid-summer.

If you have any questions, please contact our registration team at clvregister@cord.edu or (800) 222-4750 ext 1. For a quicker response, please email us. We expect a heavy call/email volume, so please bear with us as we respond to you just as soon as we are able.