



Friday, June 26, 2020

Dear Friend of the Arboretum,

The Arboretum's mission is and has always been to provide a safe and welcoming environment for learners of all ages to enjoy and experience nature. In light of the continued rise in COVID-19 cases and the June 26 Harris County public threat level increase to severe, I, with the support of the entire Summer Camp staff, have made the decision to cancel in-person Summer Camp for the remainder of the summer. The safety of our campers, camp families, volunteers, contract workers, and staff is my top priority. While I am saddened to make this announcement, I know that it is the right choice for everyone involved.

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact our community, time in nature will be more important than ever. I hope that you and your family are able to find safe and comforting ways to spend time outdoors. If you choose to visit the Arboretum, I ask that you continue to practice CDC recommended safety measures – social distancing 6 feet from other visitors, wearing a face covering if you are able, and staying home if you are unwell.

Thank you to everyone who has continued to support the Arboretum during this trying time. To all of the volunteers, Members, donors, class participants, and visitors, we see you and know that we would not be able to keep our trails open without your continued, unwavering support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Debbie Markey".

Debbie Markey
Executive Director
Houston Arboretum & Nature Center