HOBY Statement on the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Situation

HOBY is continuing to monitor the Coronavirus (COVID-19) situation on a daily basis. The health and safety of our student ambassadors and HOBY volunteers is paramount and will continue to be our highest priority.

HOBY's 2020 Summer Programs are scheduled to kick off with the HOBY Alaska Leadership Seminar on April 30th and conclude on August 1 at the World Leadership Congress. At this time, we are moving forward with plans for these programs, however, with the current social-distancing requirements and a number of stay-at-home orders currently active, we are working to modify our program delivery methods and program schedule.

We are very committed to providing our student Ambassadors with the life-changing leadership development we have done for over 60 years. We are currently working with all of our local program sites and affiliates to determine the best course of action for each of the 71 scheduled programs, while simultaneously working on the development of a Virtual Leadership Seminar that students can participate in from the safety of their home. This virtual seminar will feature nationally-recognized speakers, interactive content and thought-provoking sessions that allow students to enhance their leadership skills, set their goals and gain the skills to implement them. There are also some program locations who may be moving their program dates either later in the summer or into early autumn. We expect to bring the Virtual Seminar online by late May. Those impacted by these changes can expect to receive a notification via email from HOBY explaining any change to their expected program.

Following the guidance of federal, state and local health agencies, HOBY’s Staff are working remotely from their homes until the stay-at-home order is lifted. Staff have access to phone calls, voice mail and email and will be available answer questions from schools, parents, volunteers and Ambassadors. You can find the contact information for our team here.

We can all help contain the spread of COVID-19 by taking the recommended precautions to reduce the spread of any respiratory virus, which are:

- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid social gathers in groups of more than 10 people.
- Work from home and stay at home, if at all possible.
- Utilize alcohol-based hand sanitizer when you can’t wash your hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when sick.
- Cough or sneeze into an elbow or use a tissue and place immediately in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

It goes without saying, these are challenging times; times no one ever expected or planned to face. Working together, we are committed to bringing an Outstanding HOBY seminar to as many 2020 Ambassadors as possible. Thank you for your continued support of HOBY and for your patience and understanding. Please stay healthy.