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Afterschool Alliance Applauds New Field Guide for Camps from the American Camp Association/YMCA of the USA; Alliance's Jodi Grant Says 'Guide's Granular Approach to Safety is an Outstanding Contribution'

Statement of Jodi Grant, Executive Director, Afterschool Alliance

“We applaud the American Camp Association and the YMCA of the USA for their [Field Guide for Camps on Implementation of CDC Guidance](#). Across the nation, professionals at summer camps, summer learning and afterschool programs, and the entire out-of-school-time community are working heroically to give children and families the support they need during this time of great strain and stress. For many, that means figuring out on-the-ground specifics for returning to some version of normal, while still ensuring everyone's safety. Doing so is essential to our children's social and emotional well-being, and it is absolutely critical to rebuilding our economy.

“When dealing with such a dangerous virus, getting it right is essential. So, the *Field Guide's* granular approach to safety is an outstanding contribution. Out-of-school-time programs across the country will benefit from the work these two fine organizations have done. We'll all be paying careful attention to lessons yet to be learned, as camps and summer learning programs prepare to reopen in the weeks ahead.

“Our country will emerge from this pandemic a different place. Many of our children -- our most precious resource -- have been shaken or traumatized. As we strive to build or rebuild their resilience and hope for the future, afterschool and summer learning programs and camps will be key to our success. Ensuring they can open safely, and have the resources to continue, is essential.”

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The Afterschool Alliance is a nonprofit public awareness and advocacy organization working to ensure that all children and youth have access to quality afterschool programs. More information is available at www.AfterschoolAlliance.org.