



# City of Edmonds Media Release

Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Aug. 21, 2020**

To: Edmonds Media

Contact: Shannon Burley, Deputy Director, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services

[Shannon.burley@edmondswa.gov](mailto:Shannon.burley@edmondswa.gov)

## **Edmonds LEAPs into Action to Help Families with School-Age Kids**

*The City pivots to provide daytime programs so parents can work*

(Edmonds, WA) When the Edmonds School District announced distance learning for fall 2020, many parents sat down to do some hard thinking: how would they work and manage kids at home simultaneously.

The City of Edmonds Parks Department heard them and spent the last several weeks developing ideas. Today, the City introduces LEAP – Learning Enhancement & Activity Program. LEAP will provide a safe and affordable, on-site recreation program that supports academic efforts for local, school-aged youth as long as practically possible and while Edmonds School District maintains distance learning.

The program repurposes the Frances Anderson Center (FAC) to support children entering second through sixth grade.

“The City can be a steward of our community and we saw this as an innovative way to redirect our community-owned facilities and staff to support our families including those most in need during this very challenging time,” said Edmonds Mayor Mike Nelson. “Plus, I know our parks staff really misses that daily community engagement as much as our community does.”

### **LEAP Program details**

The program will operate Monday – Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and provide day camp activities while supporting ESD distance learning. The program will group similar grade-level kids and staff into weekly pods in the FAC classrooms.

Children can be dropped off/picked up any time of the day with emphasis on pod room scheduling 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Room capacity varies from 10 to 24 and each room will have at least two staff members to provide a 1:10 staff/child ratio minimum. This ratio allows better safety practices, facilitation of distance learning support and will provide the ability to keep pods isolated from one another as much as possible to reduce potential COVID exposure. It also helps contain any potential outbreak to just one pod.

Supplemental programming comes from Environmental Education and Cultural Arts divisions as well as community partners like Sno-King sports to provide additional day camp programming.

Weekly registration is \$300 and \$345 for non-resident with need-based full scholarships availability for a minimum of 20% of the participants. Program capacity is 100 participants.

On Tuesday, Aug. 25, the City will ask the Council to approve two new positions that will allow the City to move forward with recruiting, hiring and training staff. The program is revenue neutral.

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