



August, 2021

Dear Green Chimneys Families,

As promised, we are going back to our pre-COVID home weekend schedule beginning in September. Increased youth and family contact means more opportunity for improving family interactions and relationships, which are strong predictors of positive outcomes for youth in residential care. Given this, beginning the weekend of September 17th, **every** weekend will again be considered a home weekend.

That said, we are also very aware that your children are in residential care for a reason, and interactions at home may not always be safe. We continue to be committed to working with you to create safety plans and strategies in order to safely keep your child home, as well as working up to that and modifying visit plans when necessary. We also will be offering seven “Respite Weekends” throughout the year in order to provide a needed break for parents and caretakers. These weekends are typically scheduled following a recess week, and you can opt to have your child remain at Green Chimneys. There will be no Green chimneys transportation on Respite Weekends. During these weekends, we will offer special recreational programming on and off campus. The first Respite Weekend is scheduled for after the Labor Day extended weekend, 9/10-12. You will receive a calendar with all the Respite Weekends sometime in the next week.

Green Chimneys will continue to provide courtesy transportation to Long Island, New York City, New Paltz, and Middletown. COVID practices of mask wearing and seating according to dorm cohorts will remain in effect on Green Chimneys transportation. **There will be some changes for our New York City transportation.** Our NYC youth, currently being transported with our Long Island youth by charter bus, will no longer travel with our Long Island youth, beginning the weekend of September 17th. Instead of a charter bus, we will go back to our former practice of taking the Metro North train to Grand Central station on home weekends. NYC youth will be escorted by our staff on the train, unless youth are travel-trained and may travel independently. Green Chimneys will cover the cost of train tickets. The Long Island stop will continue to be provided via charter bus, with some slight changes to times, given that the bus will no longer need to stop in NYC. Pick-up/drop-off locations in Middletown, NY, and New Paltz, NY will remain unchanged. All Green Chimneys transportation will be offered every weekend, beginning the weekend of September 17th. Details about exact locations and times will be sent out separately in the next week or two.

We really appreciate your patience and cooperation as we look to improve the quality and effectiveness of our services. Please contact either of us with any questions or comments.

Best,

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