

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Katie Guerin, City Kids Wilderness Project Wednesday, April 29, 2020 Phone: 803.730.8628 Email: katie@citykidsdc.org

CITY KIDS CONTINUES VIRTUAL PROGRAMMING AND CANCELS SUMMER IN JACKSON

COVID-19 Guidance and Parental Feedback Inform Decisions

Washington, DC-- As a result of guidance provided by the World Health Organization, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and authorities in Washington, DC, City Kids Wilderness Project suspended its in-person programming and applicant process on March 14th.

City Kids staff gathered feedback from families on resources needed and how best to design programming that would support them. This information informed the development of the organization's virtual programming. On Monday, April 13th, City Kids launched its initial six week virtual program with +100 activities that are being facilitated Monday through Friday for the program's participants, their families and City Kids alumni. These activities include:

- 1:1 video check-ins with youth, families and alumni;
- Virtual afterschool to support distance learning tasks and homework;
- Group youth gatherings, activity and game nights and facilitated guest speakers; and
- Remote workshops for high school participants for college and career readiness.

"As a nimble organization, we are prepared to toggle between in-person and virtual programming, we are open to providing expanded services and support based on family interest and needs. Resiliency is at the core of what we do, and we are committed to carving out a path that ensures that City Kids can survive and even thrive in this new reality." said Eloise Russo, Executive Director of City Kids.

City Kids has also made the decision to suspend overnight programming in DC through July 2020 and cancel summer programming in Jackson, WY through August 2020. Guidance from authorities in DC and WY, updates from peer organizations and feedback from participant families factored into these decisions.

"Our summer programs in Jackson play a very special role in our overall work with youth, and we will deeply miss the opportunity to connect in this way. As sad as we are about this, we know that it is the right decision." said Russo.

City Kids is planning for in-person and virtual programming in DC, and will provide implementation and timeline updates following further guidance from local authorities. Please visit City Kid's website for the most up to date information on their programming.