



## Style

### SUMMER CAMP? SOCIALLY DISTANCED

BY ELISE CRAIG

IT'S CLEAR from the moment you arrive at the Y.M.C.A.'s East Sacramento Summer Day Camp that things are pretty different from past years. At the gym where it takes place, campers line up in chalked squares six feet apart to wait for temperature checks before they're allowed inside. When they enter, they head toward their preassigned group of 10, each with a color-coded bracelet. Every day, the groups rotate through different zones of the gym, to minimize their exposure to other kids and allow the camp to disinfect equipment between uses. One zone has the board games; another, table tennis. And although kids in the same group can play together (and don't have to wear masks), "we can't hug, and we can't touch," says Briony Adsetts, 8, a three-year veteran of the camp. "I miss that."

State safety regulations addressing Covid-19 have transformed the way day camps look around the country — if they've opened at all. Some city- and county-run programs, in areas like New York and Washington, D.C., were shut down early in the summer; other camps decided to hold only online sessions. When school was canceled, Eliana Hawk, 8, was unsure if the Y.M.C.A. camp would happen and worried about "a whole summer of boringness," she says. Jayden Ramos, 13, was glad to get a little space from his parents. "It feels good to get to see most of my friends," says Jayden, who attended last summer too. "Just sitting down and saying: 'How are you doing? How was school?'"

That doesn't mean it's easy to adjust to the new rules. For instance, on a recent Wednesday, as the temperature ticked up toward 95 degrees, Briony — a member of the blue group — looked wistfully at three water-filled plastic pools on the sidewalk outside: It was the green group's turn. "I don't know when my turn is," she said. Above all, campers say they miss the beloved weekly field trips to the movies, or the community pool. Staples like dodge ball and tag aren't allowed, either.

Still, campers are mostly thrilled to be there. "On a scale of one to 10, it's a 9.5," Eliana says. "I actually get people to play with. It's better than nothing." And the camp still has surprises in store. Bounce house, anyone? ♦



Jade Cathirell-Smith, 11, had wanted to start skateboarding for a couple of years. In June, after the coronavirus shut down Los Angeles, she found she finally had time.

BY ABBY CARNEY · PHOTOGRAPH BY BETHANY MOLLENKOF

**J**ADE CATHIRELL-SMITH, 11, has been skateboarding around her block in Los Angeles every day for the last two months, practicing a jump trick called an ollie. She's getting closer to mastering it. In June, with free time and inspired by friends who recently started skateboarding, Jade decided to teach herself to skate. "I go for a ride, and it helps me just be more confident," she says — even though she has suffered some minor scrapes along the way. It's easy to see the allure, especially amid the coronavirus shutdowns: All you need is a board, and you can practice solo, basically anywhere.

Skateboarding has resurfaced in a big way lately. It's about to become an Olympic sport. And just last month, skateboarders organized Black Lives Matter protests in cities including Portland, Ore., Philadelphia and

New York, where hundreds rolled through to speak out against racism. Zoë Cash, 5, was one of them. In June, she participated in a skateboard-led Black Lives Matter protest in Venice Beach, Calif., alongside her dad, KJ. He quit skateboarding as a teenager, because he didn't see many other people of color skating. But he returned to it after Zoë was born, hoping she could experience the same sensation of flying and freedom he'd once felt. On her board, Zoë says, "I feel like I can do anything."

For a long time, skateboarding has had a mainstream reputation as a sport that's mostly white and male, in part because that's who has dominated pop-culture images of skaters. Skate parks can be especially unwelcoming to young women of color, says Deah Gooden, the founder of the organization Black Girls Skate. But girls and nonbinary skateboarders are increasingly finding themselves reflected in the community, with

help from groups like Black Girls Skate and Skate Like a Girl, as well as from role models like the 11-year-old pro Sky Brown. "More young people are seeing that that's not what a skateboarder is exclusively," says Lou Williams, 14, who is transgender and started skateboarding in fourth grade with Skate Like a Girl.

Now, girls and nonbinary skaters are creating their own scene, Lou says — which is central to the skateboarding community anyway. "I'm more comfortable with questioning the validity of rules in general now," Lou adds. Zoë and her dad, for example, are teaching her cousin how to skate. And Jade recently mentioned her new teal-and-purple skateboard to a friend, who replied that maybe she ought to get one, too. "It's just really inspiring," Jade says, "that I can make other girls want to try new things." Speaking of new things: her next challenge? Venturing beyond her (extremely flat) neighborhood. ♦

## DON'T FORGET THE CLASS PET!

WHEN SCHOOLS CLOSED DOWN, WHAT HAPPENED TO THE GUINEA PIGS, TURTLES, HAMSTERS AND OTHER ANIMALS THAT CALLED THE CLASSROOM HOME? KIDS STEPPED UP.

BY KATIE PEEK · ILLUSTRATION BY NOA DENMON



### A BUNNY FOR THE SUMMER

One Friday afternoon in March, Sofia Rojas Ballas, 11, volunteered to bring home her class pet for the weekend. Grammy is a big white bunny with black spots and a fifth-grade class pet at Palmetto Elementary School, which is in Miami. Sofia was excited to keep him for a couple days and thought she knew what to expect. "I'd had him twice before," she says, including for a month last summer.

As class let out, Grammy was caged up, and Sofia's family headed home. An hour later, the Miami school district announced it was closing indefinitely. Grammy wouldn't just be staying for the weekend, it appeared.

Four months later, the bunny has

practically become a member of the family. Each morning, someone lets him out of his cage, and he spends the day hopping around the house and napping. He likes carrots, Sofia has learned; corn, less so. Grammy also likes to know what she's up to. "Sometimes he comes in the middle of my Zoom classes and sniffs my toes," she says, "and I'm like, 'Grammy, go away!'" (Occasionally, though, Sofia would hold Grammy up to the camera so her classmates could say hello.)

Sofia has always wanted a pet, but her family, which frequently visits relatives in Latin America, travels too much to have one. For this stay-at-home summer, at least, Grammy is hers. "I kind of don't want him to leave," she says.

### ABUZZ WITH BEES

A student beekeeper's job can be exciting and scary. "It's genuinely dangerous without gear," says Oscar Frazier, 12. He would know: For a year and a half, he has tended the bees at the Calvert School in Baltimore, where he's entering seventh grade.

Though the school closed in March, Oscar has continued minding the hives. After all, he promised to do the job — pandemic or no. He also lives right next door. Each week, he bounds over to the school grounds, where he meets the head of facilities. They pull on protective suits, wide-brimmed hats with nets to shield their faces and, finally, gloves.

Geared up, they cross a wide lawn to the school's four beehives. One by one, they

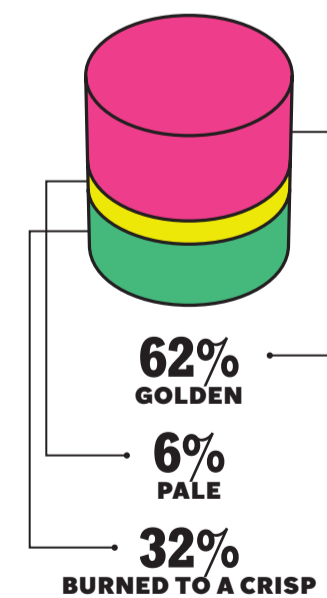
lift off the lids and pry out several of the wooden frames inside, checking that the residents are producing honeycomb and that the queen is laying eggs.

Occasionally, a bee makes its way into Oscar's protective suit and stings him. He frees the bee and pats down the suit before returning to work. The stings used to hurt more, but beekeepers build up temporary immunity to the venom. "Now it's not a big deal," he says.

Once they finish, they take off their gear and discuss what they've observed. The newest queen seems strong. Come fall, they'll harvest some of the honey, leaving enough for the bees to eat during the winter — whether or not the school is buzzing with students. ♦

## THE MARSHMALLOW SCALE: RESULTS

LAST MONTH we asked readers how they prefer their toasted marshmallows and received more than 50 responses. "Golden tastes best," one voter wrote, "but Burned to a Crisp is fun to do." Can't argue with that.



### SOLUTIONS

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PIT RIDGE SALON IRON PET	BED JULY PURSE ANNA NET	ADS MONET EAGLE STRIP SHY

### SOLUTIONS

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