

## Muslim Youth of North America

Empowered Youth with Awakened Minds, Inspired Hearts & Enlightened Actions 6555 S. County Rd. 750 E., Plainfield, IN 46168 | 317.839.8157

Assalamu Alaikum dear MYNA parents and campers,

It is with an extremely heavy heart that we make the following announcement, but it is with concern for our youth and the result of much istikhara that we believe it to be the best one.

The safety and health of our campers, volunteers and staff members is always MYNA's top priority at all of our retreats. The proliferation of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in the United States and around the world is a situation that is evolving rapidly and constantly. Since the situation first escalated, MYNA has been actively monitoring all the developments, consulting with several medical professionals, venues and public health administrations to put strict and comprehensive communicable disease action plans in place at each camp and venue. We have taken no shortcuts in ensuring that the safety of our community comes first, and we will continue to do so in every situation—coronavirus related, or not.

However, given the escalated and social nature of the outbreak and the CDC's latest recommendations, and after careful consultation with medical professionals and public health depts, deliberation with the MYNA President, MYNA Advisory Board, the ISNA E.D. and ISNA Board, and a great amount of Istikhara, we are postponing all remaining MYNA Spring Camps and MYNA City Editions. Our MYNA Spring Camps in Florida (South Atlantic), Indiana (Midwest), and California (Pacific) and our MYNA City Editions in Washington D.C. (Mid Atlantic) and Chicago (North Central) are all postponed.

The decision to postpone our retreat was not an easy one, as we know how special and impactful these camps are for our youth—spiritually, personally and socially. MYNA is working diligently to think of alternative programming for our campers and is looking forward to sharing those with you all. We also know how much time and effort our youth planning committees put into preparing these camps, which they won't be able to see in action this spring, but which we do accept is all from the decree of Allah.

Financially, MYNA has also already accrued significant expenses from the camps, having booked the campsites, confirmed speakers and counselors, reserved hotels, flights, and purchased program supplies ahead of time. The revenue from these camps was also meant to support our organization and the youth department in its efforts to continue to host high-quality events, engage our youth, and bring them closer to Allah.

With the desire to provide youth with high-quality and engaging programs, registration fees will be credited toward any of our future events and programs. However, I am also making a personal appeal to parents to very kindly ask if they would consider generously gifting their registration fees to MYNA to help offset some of the losses we are facing (a tax deductible receipt will be provided). I don't ask this lightly, but we are a charity and the amana of the expenses we have already incurred for these camps plus the revenue losses is something I pray we can all have a hand in offsetting for the work we do. If you are unable to gift your fees, we will be able to credit your fees to a future camp or event insha'Allah. Please let us know how you would like to proceed.

We pray that Allah shower His mercy on us all, protect us from harm, and alleviate any families currently facing stress or difficulty of that pain. We know that this safety measure is for the benefit of our youth and their families, and we ask Allah to put blessings in the decision and give us the ability to overcome the challenges ahead. Ya Rabb, we ask You to rid this disease from the face of this planet. We ask You Ya Allah to keep our communities safe from this virus and any other tribulations or states of oppression and protect our families and loved ones. Ya Allah, protect the organizations and institutions that might be affected by this virus and allow us to all continue our work for your pleasure and your pleasure alone. Ameen.



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This decision was not an easy one, but, please know that I am here for any youth and/or parents who want to chat about it. Feel free to call or Whatsapp me anytime at 317-838-8130.

May the Almighty reward you with Goodness Jazakum Allahu Khairun, And May Peace and Blessings be upon You Wasalaamu Alaikum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatuhu,

Sincerely,



Fiyyaz Jaat Strategy & Operations Officer, YouthDev,

Islamic Society of North America

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www.myna.org

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