



## Welcome to YMCA Camp Starfish!

Thank you for registering for Camp Starfish! We are excited to have you join us this summer! Within this packet, you will find important information needed to get the most out of this summer at Camp Starfish. Let's get started!

*If you have any questions regarding registration, please contact Jhaunelle Anderson, Camping Registrar, at (845)338-3810 x117 or [janderson@ymcaulster.org](mailto:janderson@ymcaulster.org)*

### First, some important reminders...

- Attached to this email you will find our **"Summer Camp Health and Safety form"**. This form addresses the steps we are taking to ensure every camper, and staff member will be safe while in our care this summer during COVID-19.
- An updated immunization record, or waiver, must be on file for your camper. **Camper may be asked not to return if records are not handed in.** If you have not yet submitted this document, please do so **As Soon As Possible**. You, or your camper's physician, may submit them via fax at (845)338-0423 Attn. Camp Starfish.
- If your camper needs to receive medication while in our care, a **"Camp Medication Permission Request Form"** must be on file for your camper or they may not attend camp. This form is attached to this email for your convenience.
- A copy of the **"Behavior Contract and Parent/Guardian Policy"** is also attached for your review.
- On May 15, 2014 the YMCA introduced the **"Getting To Know You Form"** to all YMCA families in an effort to best meet the needs of your children. If your child requires any special consideration, such as a disability, special needs or any other circumstances that you wish to bring to the camp's attention please fill out the "Getting To Know You Form". This form can be emailed at the parent/guardian's request.
- In order to make your payment in full, or to add another session, please contact *Jhaunelle* at 845-338-3810 x117 or by [janderson@ymcaulster.org](mailto:janderson@ymcaulster.org) the Wednesday before each camp session.
- Please label everything with the camper's first and last name—clothes, water bottles, towels, etc.—with permanent marker.
- Please make sure to only send your camper with the items listed on page 3. Please do not send your camper with electronics, toys, or cell phones.
- We are not responsible for any lost or broken items. Lost & found will be located in the Camp office.
- Your camper's counselor will be calling you the weekend before we start, just to check in, let you know who to look for that first day, and answer any final questions you may have.
- **Camp Contact Information (during the summer season):**
  - Camp Phone: (845)338-3810 x116
  - Camp Email: [ymcacampstarfish@gmail.com](mailto:ymcacampstarfish@gmail.com)
  
  - Registrar Phone: (845)338-3810 x117
  - Registrar Email: [janderson@ymcaulster.org](mailto:janderson@ymcaulster.org)

*For any questions or concerns prior to the start of Camp Starfish, please contact Deon Edmond, Camp Director, at [ymcacampstarfish@gmail.com](mailto:ymcacampstarfish@gmail.com)*

## The WHO of Camp Starfish

### Camp Director: **Deon Edmond**



This will be Deon’s eighth summer working with YMCA Camp Starfish and he can’t wait to get this season started! During previous summers Deon worked as a camp counselor and a senior counselor before becoming our Camp Director five summers ago. Deon is a Kingston native and graduate of Kingston High School. Deon is currently finishing up his Masters degree in Curriculum and Teaching at Columbia University in the City of New York. Deon’s recent jobs have included teaching Kindergarten at Columbia Grammar & Preparatory school in Manhattan, NY. In his spare time Deon served as a Varsity Wrestling, Track & Field, and strength & conditioning athletic coach at The Dalton School, Basketball instructor at DRIBBL Basketball, and Games Coordinator at Columbia Grammar’s K-2nd grade summer camp, all located in Manhattan, NY. Deon has dedicated the majority of his adolescence serving as a role model to young people, strengthening youth programs, and giving back to the Kingston community which he enjoys returning to each summer. Deon’s camp philosophy is for campers to embrace their own creative spirit, try new things, create new friendships, learn to work collaboratively in a community of peers representing diverse cultures and life experience, and most importantly for each camper to have a healthy and fun filled summer! Deon is looking forward to meeting and welcoming this summer's returning and new camp families!

Camp Starfish counselors are a diverse group of energetic, caring, and responsible individuals who are very excited to get the summer started! Prior to the start of camp each camp staff member receives 30 hours of training on behavior management, emergency procedures, ability awareness, and youth development. **All staff members are checked against the New York State Sex Offender registry.**

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## The WHAT of Camp Starfish

*What is the camp doing to keep my camper safe during COVID-19?*

Please see attached document "**Summer Camp Health and Safety**".

*WHAT Group is my camper In?*

**Yellow Guppies:** entering Kindergarten-1st grade

**Green Eels:** 2nd-3rd grade

**Blue Sharks:** 4th- 5th grade

*WHAT should I bring every day?*

### **Refillable Water Bottle**

We make a point to keep our campers hydrated throughout the day. There will be water fountains and water jugs throughout camp for campers to refill when needed.

### **Bathing Suit & Towel**

Our pool is closed this summer for renovations. To stay cool, campers will participate in water games. Please make sure to send them in with shoes that can get wet. **To save time on changing we recommend campers wear their bathing suits to camp under their clothing.**

### **Closed Toe & Heel Shoes**

Please **NO Crocs and NO flip-flops**. Sneakers and Keen style footwear have proven best for agility and to prevent injury. Flip-flops may only be worn during swimming.

### **Sunscreen**

Our Camp is located indoors but we often take trips to the park area, playing field and garden for activities. Please pack sun-screen and apply it before you leave home. If you have more than one camper, please make sure each camper has their own sunscreen.

### **A Smile & a Positive Attitude**

If you cannot find them, we'll share ours ☺...They're contagious!

### **Optional**

Sometimes camper's clothes get dirty or soiled, and a fresh **Change of Clothes** would be nice. You can opt to "store" the clothes in our camp office. (HIGHLY recommended for our younger Campers)

**Lunch** will be provided every day! In partnership with Kingston's Family of Woodstock and a grant provided by NYSED summer foods program our lunches will be provided every day. Lunches will include a protein, fresh fruits & vegetables, whole grains, dairy, juice and water. We will send menus home every Sunday evening so you can prepare.

*WHAT is my camper going to be doing all day?*

Daily Schedules can be found online at [www.ymcaulster.org](http://www.ymcaulster.org) on the *Camp Starfish* page.

*WHAT are Camp Starfish's character values?*

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At Camp Starfish, we role model, encourage, and reward the practices of our character values to create campers who are out of this world! Each character is also represented by its own color. Our values are:

**Respect, Responsibility, Caring, & Honesty**

### **The WHEN of Camp Starfish**

*WHEN does camp start and end?*

**Session 1:** June 29th – July 3rd  
**Session 2:** July 6th – July 10th  
**Session 3:** July 13th – July 17th  
**Session 4:** July 20th – July 24th  
**Session 5:** July 27th – July 31st  
**Session 6:** August 3rd – August 7th

*Each camp day runs from 8:30am-5:30pm. Pre- and post-care options are available. Pre-care starts at 7:00am and post-care runs until 6:00pm. \*Please Contact Camp Registrar if additional Care is needed at: 845-338-3810 ext. 117*

### **The WHERE of Camp Starfish**

*WHERE is camp?*

Camp takes place at the Kingston YMCA. The address is **507 Broadway, Kingston, NY 12401**. Camp Starfish entrance is located at the "Child Care Center" on Pine Grove Avenue. This is where drop-off and pick-up will take place. This door is locked at all times. **If you are picking up early or arriving late, please let the Camp Director know so we can be ready to let you in the building.** If there is no notification, you will need to enter the YMCA's main entrance. **Please bring a photo ID to pick up everyday.** During drop-off, only **one** parent or guardian can escort their camper to our check in station for sign-in/health check to minimize crowd size.

### **The WHY of Camp Starfish**

The unique aspect of the Starfish Program is our untraditional summer camp model. Camp Starfish was created nine summers ago with a goal of combating negative youth health trends (i.e obesity, malnutrition, sedentary behavior), unintentional childhood drownings, and summer learning loss.

Today, our camp program has grown to include a diverse offering of both academic and enrichment programs such as daily reading and writing, movement activities, music, art, drama, service learning, gardening, science, engineering, and cooking. Through interactive, cooperative, and project based activities, our campers develop the problem-solving and critical thinking skills necessary to becoming lifelong movers and learners.

After several years of fine tuning our programming here at Camp Starfish, we are proud to offer a balanced approach that keeps our youth physically active, academically, and socially stimulated through the summer with fun interactive project based activities. Doing this provides tremendous academic, emotional, physical, and social benefits for each child, both in the short term and throughout their lives beyond camp. With so many scholars, educators and youth professionals across America joining the movement in rethinking how we utilize the summer months, we are proud that we are able to offer a program that has the whole child in mind.

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## The HOW of Camp Starfish

*HOW can I be involved in my camper's summer experience?*

### **By donating supplies...**

From art supplies, to books, to board games, Starfish will be happy to put it to good use. If you have an item that you feel would be beneficial for our campers to use, please drop it off with your camper in the morning.

### **By following us on social media...**

Social Media pages will be updated with camper Birthday shout outs, pictures of our daily activities and more!

Facebook: YMCA Camp Starfish

Instagram: @ymcacampstarfish

Thank you for taking the time to read this welcome packet!

Each member of the Camp Starfish team is here to support you and your camper, especially during this difficult time. While many of us are feeling the pain and fear of a pandemic affecting how we live our lives and recent events surrounding justice, diversity, equity, and inclusion in our society, we are aware of how our campers are also feeling during this challenging time. While their hurt and fear might manifest differently, we are here to make every camper feel safe and welcome while they are in our care. Having a strong relationship with our families is important to us! While in-person communication may look different this summer, I have tasked our staff, including myself, to take time to use email, phone, and handwritten letters to keep you informed. Again, thank you for registering for the Camp Starfish Program. We are looking forward to welcoming all our campers next week!

### **See you soon!**

Deon Edmond

**Camp Director**

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