



## 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 x122 or [janderson@ymcaulster.org](mailto:janderson@ymcaulster.org). Or Karen Rutkowski, Assistant Registrar, at (845)338-3810 x122 or [krutkowski@ymcaulster.org](mailto:krutkowski@ymcaulster.org).*

### First, some important reminders...

- 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. YMCA 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.
- Please review and sign our "**Behavior Contract and Parent/Guardian Policy**".
- 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".
- In order to make your payment in full, or to add another session, please contact *Jhaunelle* or *Karen* the Wednesday before each camp session.
- Please **label everything** with the camper's first and last name—clothes, water bottles, towels, etc.—with a 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 near the Camp office.
- **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) ,  
[krutkowski@ymcaulster.org](mailto:krutkowski@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 eleventh summer working with YMCA Camp Starfish, and he can't wait to start this season! Deon worked as a camp counselor and senior counselor during previous summers before becoming our Camp Director seven summers ago. Deon is currently working on his Master's in Curriculum and Teaching at Columbia University in the City of New York. Deon's recent jobs have included teaching at Columbia Grammar & Preparatory school in Manhattan, NY. A Kingston native and graduate of Kingston High School, Deon enjoys returning to his hometown each summer to spend time with his family and dog (Camp Starfish mascot), Bear. In his spare time, Deon is a Varsity Wrestling, Track & Field, and strength & conditioning athletic coach at The Dalton School, Basketball instructor at DRIBBL Basketball, STEAM Coordinator at Columbia Grammar's pre-K - 5th-grade summer camp, and is also serving as a board member at The Center for Creative Education in Kingston. Deon has dedicated most of his professional career to serving as a role model to young people, strengthening youth programs, and giving back to the Kingston community. Deon's camp philosophy is for campers to embrace their creative spirit, try new things, create new friendships, learn to work collaboratively in a community of peers representing diverse cultures and life experiences, and, most importantly, for each camper to have a healthy and fun-filled summer! Deon looks forward to meeting and welcoming this summer's returning and new camp families!

Camp Starfish staff 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 Group is my camper In?*

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

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

**Blue Sharks:** entering 4th grade - entering 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 for campers to refill when needed.

### **Bathing Suit & Towel**

We swim every day! **To save time on changing we recommend campers wear their bathing suits to camp under their clothing.**

- Because campers arrive in their swimsuits, they'll need daily underwear (and possibly shorts) to go home.
- If your camper wants to wear a swim cap or goggles during swim, please send them in with them.

### **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 sunscreen 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 the NYSED summer foods program, our lunches will be provided every day. Lunch will include protein, fresh fruits & vegetables, whole grains, dairy, and water. We will send menus home every Sunday evening so you can prepare for the week.

*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.

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*WHAT are Camp Starfish's character values?*

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 27th – July 1st

**Session 2:** July 5th – July 8th **\*No Camp on 7/4\***

**Session 3:** July 11th – July 15th

**Session 4:** July 18th – July 22nd

**Session 5:** July 25th – July 29th

**Session 6:** August 1st – August 5th

*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. 122*

### **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 by 9:00 am 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 every day.**

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

The unique aspect of the Starfish Program is our untraditional summer camp model. Camp Starfish was created twelve summers ago to combat 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 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 become 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 can 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 shoutouts, 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.

Having a strong relationship with our families is important to us! Please take the time to meet your child's counselor and communicate any important information we should know while they are in our care.

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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