



# GET READY FOR SUMMER 2024!



## DEAR CAMP FAMILY,

Welcome to Banner's 60<sup>th</sup> summer! As summer approaches, we are very excited that camp is about to begin. We are honored that you have chosen Banner to be a part of your family.

Banner Day Camp is more than just fun. It is an enriching environment that allows children to become more self-confident, independent, resilient and empathic individuals. Banner provides opportunities for campers to develop essential 21<sup>st</sup> century skills that are important for future success and happiness. As you will experience with Banner's Starfish Goals of the Week, an emphasis on building strong character is an integral part of our camp. At Banner, campers learn how to work together and support one another. We encourage personal growth by guiding our campers to believe in themselves and gain confidence in so many areas of life – sports, fine arts, adventure, swimming, friendships and being a part of our special and connected camp community.

The information enclosed will help your family prepare for this summer at Banner. Please review the materials and keep them for your reference.

Camp is a way of life for all of us here at Banner. Our Banner traditions inspire our leadership, staff and campers to be their best selves. We look forward to a safe and exciting summer filled with fun, friendship and adventure that exceeds our greatest imagination. Thank you for choosing us to provide the best camping experience available to your family.

All our best,

Stacy Schwartz Kotelov &  
Howard Thall  
*Executive Directors*





## THE STARFISH STORY

An old man walked up a shore littered with thousands of starfish, beached and dying after a storm. A young child was picking them up and flinging them back into the ocean.

"Why do you bother?" The old man scoffed. "You're not saving enough to make a difference." The young child picked up another starfish and sent it spinning back into the water. "Made a difference to that one!"

-Author Unknown

## YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE, EVERY DAY.

It has been said that "teaching kids to count isn't nearly as important as teaching them what counts". Banner Day Camp offers a unique environment where children, families, Leadership Team members and staff come together to foster a transformative experience for our campers. It is our hope that we have created a safe-haven for kids to be themselves and flourish in an environment free from judgement, criticism or ridicule. Banner Day Camp is dedicated to the health and well being of all children. This commitment drives us to be a leader in serving the Banner community by fostering an unconditionally loving and nurturing environment and sharing the best of ourselves everyday.

While parents are the primary source of values, education and character building, camp offers an environment where children can learn and practice social skills at a level not offered at home or in school. Camp creates an opportunity for us to partner in teaching our children that they can make a difference. To reinforce what children are already learning at home, we provide a setting for campers to learn, practice and test their "value skills".

The STARFISH values will be discussed with the campers at Bannerama and continually reinforced throughout our camp program. Each camper will be honored for possessing a specific value during a ceremony at camp.

The STARFISH program provides benefits that will be seen for years to come. As the message of our values education continues to be communicated to our campers and becomes part of our camp culture over time, the benefits to our campers will continue to grow.

# THE EIGHT VALUES OF THE STARFISH PROGRAM

## SENSITIVITY

Be considerate and have concern for the feelings of others. Be a person who seeks to avoid hurting others' feelings while actively seeking ways to make others feel better.

## TEAMWORK

Be willing to work with others toward a common end or purpose. Pitch in equally to support one another. Help others to be successful.

## APPRECIATION

Be grateful for what you have. Acknowledge and value the contributions that others make. Actively recognize all that is good in your life.

## RESPECT

Be considerate of everyone in your words and actions. Show admiration for the abilities, qualities, achievements and traditions of others.

## FRIENDSHIP

Be caring, supportive and kind to one another. Be inclusive and recognize the good in others. Show mutual trust and share together.

## I BELIEVE IN MYSELF (PERSEVERANCE)

Remember Banner's Motto: "It may be hard, it may take time. But stick with it, and you'll be fine. You can do it!" Be willing to continue on and persevere when the task becomes difficult. Have faith in yourself.

## SPORTSMANSHIP

Be encouraging and uplifting to teammates, play by the rules and accept victory or defeat graciously.

## HEALTHY HABITS

Practice healthy habits. Spend time in nature and care for yourself and others, physically and emotionally. Eat healthy foods and stay active. Be true to yourself and stand strong for what you know is right.



## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### LEADERSHIP TEAM MEMBER PHONE CALLS

Members of the Banner Leadership Team will begin calling all camp families in June. The Leadership Team member that will be overseeing your camper(s)' group will be calling home sometime before the start of camp to welcome you to Banner and begin learning about your camper(s).

The Banner Day Camp Leadership Team includes more than 40 dedicated educators and camp professionals working together to give campers an extraordinary Banner summer. All Leadership Team members have extensive professional experience in education and child development.

Each age-level and specialty area has multiple Leadership Team members responsible for working with campers and staff. Every age-level is then broken down into much smaller pods supervised by a Leadership Team member. This structure allows members of the Leadership Team to work with their specific groups continually throughout the camp day.

Leadership Team members are responsible for supervising all staff members and camp activities as well as ongoing parent communication. Please feel free to contact your Leadership Team member anytime throughout the summer if you have any questions or information about your child that you would like to share with camp.

### BANNER ONLINE PHOTO GALLERY

Throughout the summer, the Leadership Team will post photos via an online photo album of specific camp groups. You will receive an email inviting you to view these pictures and email updates as new photos are uploaded. If you have questions, please call your Leadership Team member.

### MEET THE BUS STAFF

On Friday, June 14, between 3:00 pm and 4:30 pm, the Banner bus will be coming to your neighborhood as bus drivers practice their route for the final time before the first day of camp. **On that day, the bus will stop by the home of all campers attending camp starting June 17 and receiving door-to-door bus service.** The bus will not be stopping at the homes of campers who meet their bus at a location other than their home. The time at which the Banner bus comes to your home on June 14 may not be your regular bus stop time. If you are home, feel free to come out for a wave and a quick hello to your bus staff.

## PRIOR TO CAMP

### BEGINNING JUNE 8

- Bus information and group assignments will be sent home for campers beginning in the 1st session.
- T-shirts will be delivered home through the mail.

### THURSDAY, JUNE 13

- Counselor introductions.

### FRIDAY, JUNE 14

- Wave hello to the bus staff as drivers practice their afternoon routes.

### MONDAY, JUNE 17

- First day of camp!



# BANNER DAY CAMP • 2024 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
WEEK 1	<b>June 17</b> 1st Session Begins Wear classic logo t-shirt	<b>June 18</b>	<b>June 19</b>	<b>June 20</b> Tweens wear color war t-shirt	<b>June 21</b> Picture Day & Ribbon Ceremony Wear classic logo t-shirt
	<b>June 24</b> Wear classic logo t-shirt	<b>June 25</b>	<b>June 26</b>	<b>June 27</b> Tweens wear color war t-shirt	<b>June 28</b> Olympics Day Dress up with classic logo t-shirt
WEEK 3	<b>July 1</b> Wear classic logo t-shirt	<b>July 2</b>	<b>July 3</b>	<b>July 4</b> No Camp Independence Day	<b>July 5</b>
	<b>July 8</b> Wear classic logo t-shirt	<b>July 9</b>	<b>July 10</b> Tween & CIT/SIT Trip to Dave & Busters Tweens & CIT/SIT wear gold or logo t-shirt	<b>July 11</b> 1st Session Drama Show Tweens wear color war t-shirt	<b>July 12</b> Carnival Day Wear classic logo t-shirt
WEEK 5	<b>July 15</b> 2nd Session Begins Wear classic logo t-shirt	<b>July 16</b>	<b>July 17</b>	<b>July 18</b> Tweens wear color war t-shirt	<b>July 19</b> Wild West Day Dress up with classic logo t-shirt
	<b>July 22</b> Wear classic logo t-shirt	<b>July 23</b>	<b>July 24</b>	<b>July 25</b> Tweens wear color war t-shirt	<b>July 26</b> Banner Spirit Week Finale Dress up with tie-dye or classic logo t-shirt
<b>BANNER SPIRIT WEEK</b>					
WEEK 7	<b>July 29</b> GaGa Prelims Wear classic logo t-shirt	<b>July 30</b> GaGa Prelims Wear tie-dye t-shirt	<b>July 31</b> GaGa Prelims	<b>August 1</b> Gaga Semi Finals Tweens wear color war t-shirt	<b>August 2</b> Bannerversary & GaGa Finals Dress up with tie-dye or classic logo t-shirt
	<b>GAGA TOURNAMENT (KINDERGARTEN THROUGH CIT/SIT)</b>				
WEEK 8	<b>August 5</b> Wear classic logo t-shirt	<b>August 6</b> 2nd Session Drama Show Wear tie-dye t-shirt	<b>August 7</b> Tween & CIT/SIT Trip to Great Wolf Lodge Tweens & CIT/SIT wear gold or logo t-shirt	<b>August 8</b> Sports League Championship Tweens wear color war t-shirt	<b>August 9</b> Last Day of Camp, Staff Follies & Swim-a-Rama Wear tie-dye or classic logo t-shirt