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# 2026 CAMPER HANDBOOK





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# OUR COMMITMENTS AS A BANNER COMMUNITY

Each camper and staff member in our community must be committed to creating a positive environment centered on inclusivity, empathy, and gratitude. Please review the following principles with your campers:

- 1** We will show kindness to others by keeping our hands to ourselves and being careful with what we say and how we act towards others.
- 2** We will use appropriate words and language. We will encourage each other to try new things and speak to each other positively.
- 3** We will show acceptance to others and include everyone in our groups.
- 4** We will show camp spirit in a way that supports others and does not cause harm or ill feelings.
- 5** We will be patient with ourselves and others knowing that growth often comes through mistakes.
- 6** We will show gratitude for the experiences that camp offers.
- 7** We will demonstrate empathy by identifying and acknowledging the emotions of ourselves and others.
- 8** We will be sensitive and compassionate to the feelings of one another.
- 9** We will be resilient when things don't come easily and keep trying.
- 10** We will hold fast to our Banner Motto:  
*It may be hard, it may take time.  
But stick with it, and you'll be fine.  
YOU CAN DO IT!*



# INFORMATION & FEES

## 2026 SESSION DATES

**8 Week Session:** June 15 – August 7

**1st Session:** June 15 – July 10

**2nd Session:** July 13 – August 7

## IMPORTANT DATES\*

Week 1	<b>Monday, June 15</b> <b>Friday, June 19</b>	First Day of Camp Picture Day & Ribbon Ceremony
Week 2	<b>Friday, June 26</b>	Olympic Day
Week 3	<b>Monday, June 29</b> <b>Tuesday, June 30</b> <b>Wednesday, July 1</b> <b>Friday, July 3</b>	Interactive Night - Preschool & Pre-K Interactive Night - Kindergarten & 1st Interactive Night - 2nd, 3rd & Tween No Camp
Week 4	<b>Friday, July 10</b>	Beach Day & Swim-a-Rama
Week 5	<b>Friday, July 17</b>	Wild West Day
Week 6	<b>Monday, July 20 -</b> <b>Friday, July 24</b>	Banner Spirit Week & Camper Follies
Week 7	<b>Friday, July 31</b>	Carnival Day & GaGa Tournament
Week 8	<b>Friday, August 7</b>	Banner Festival & Last Day of Camp

\* Events are subject to change.





## LUNCH PROGRAM

Campers have the choice to bring lunch from home or to participate in the hot lunch program. After camp begins, lunch programs may be changed by contacting the camp office. Beverages, snacks and treats will be provided for all campers. Campers and staff eat lunch in Banner’s air-conditioned dining hall Monday through Thursday. Friday cookout is served in the shaded picnic grove.

### HOT LUNCH

Banner hot lunches appeal to the demanding appetites of campers. Lunches **may not** be purchased on a day-to-day basis.

- M Monday**  
Cheeseburger or hamburger on a bun, tater tots, fresh apple slices, sugar snap peas.
- T Tuesday**  
Baked chicken tenders, mashed potatoes, orange wedges, cucumber, tomatoes.
- W Wednesday**  
Pizza, strawberries, green peppers.
- T Thursday**  
Macaroni & cheese, tossed salad, breadstick, grapes.
- F Friday**  
Hot dog cookout, potato chips, watermelon, pickle spears.

**\*Menu subject to change**

Pre-selected optional lunches offered include a variety of sandwiches (turkey, peanut butter & jelly, organic turkey wrap, bagel & cream cheese), baked potato bar or salad bar. Optional lunches are served with chips and yogurt.

### FRIDAY COOKOUT

Campers who bring a sack lunch from home Monday – Thursday may purchase the Friday Cookout.

HOT LUNCH PROGRAM PRICING	8 Week Session	4 Week Session
5 Day Week Campers*	\$390	\$195
3 Day Week Campers* (Junior Camp Only)	\$240	\$120
Friday Cookout Only	\$80	\$40

\* Includes Friday cookout

### SACK LUNCH

Campers who bring their lunches must bring them in single-use containers that will be thrown out after lunch. All sack lunches must be labeled with the camper’s name and bench number. Lunches will be collected in the morning and refrigerated. All campers are given a choice of milk, water or lemonade drink with lunch and an ice cream/popsicle treat at the end of the day, regardless of lunch options.



## TRANSPORTATION

Door-to-door transportation is included (providing the family lives within Banner's bus boundaries and their home is accessible by school bus). Boundaries are subject to change. Families that are outside of bus service areas are welcome to meet the bus at a central pickup/drop off location.

## REGISTRATION POLICIES

A completed application along with a full deposit is necessary to process each camper's registration.

### DEPOSITS

Deposits are fully refundable until January 15. After January 15, \$500 of the \$1000 deposit is refundable or transferable. After April 1, the \$1000 deposit is non-refundable and non-transferable.

### BALANCE OF TUITION

Balance of fees are due on or before April 1. Banner Day Camp reserves the right to cancel enrollment if fees are not paid by the above date. After April 1, full tuition is due at the time of enrollment.

### REFUND POLICY

- **Cancellations prior to January 15**  
Full deposits and any tuition paid will be fully refunded.
- **Cancellations after January 15**  
\$500 deposit (per camper) is non-refundable and non-transferable. The remaining \$500 deposit (per camper) and any tuition paid will be refunded.
- **Cancellations after April 1**  
\$1000 deposit (per camper) is non-refundable and non-transferable. All tuition paid beyond the \$1000 will be refunded.
- **Cancellations after June 1**  
Deposits and tuition are non-refundable and non-transferable.

## CHANGE OF SESSION

Any enrollment change approved by Banner that results in a reduction of weeks or a change of session after April 1 will result in a \$125 fee. Week changes after June 1 will be considered cancellations and tuition will not be refunded. Please note, holding an 8 week spot does not guarantee space in a 4 week program.

## ABSENCE POLICY

Banner Day Camp does not offer make-up days or refunds for camper absences.

## PARTICIPATION POLICY

In the event that Banner determines enrollment or continued participation in Banner's program is not appropriate, Banner reserves the right to discontinue service.





# MEDICAL INFORMATION

## HEALTH FORM

If you have not already done so, please fill out the online Camper Health Form required by the American Camp Association in the Family Login at [bannerdaycamp.com](http://bannerdaycamp.com). **This form does not need to be filled out by a physician.** Please write the specific date of each immunization or check the "All vaccines are current" box on the back of the health form. The ACA requires the date of your camper's most recent tetanus shot.

## MEDICATION AT CAMP

If your camper needs any medication at camp, please notify your Leadership Team member and drop off the medication with a note directed to the infirmary prior to the first day of camp. All medication should be in **the original prescription bottle** with clear dosage instructions including the time it is needed. The nursing staff will administer medications to your camper only if it is in the original prescription bottle. Feel free to call your age-level leadership to discuss any specific needs.

## ALLERGIES

Notify camp of any allergies your camper may have in order to prepare our staff to handle any special dietary needs, medications, EpiPens, Auvi-Qs and Neffys. Banner will do its best to accommodate any camper with allergies. The severity of a child's allergy may require individual meetings and action plans. Make sure all medications, EpiPen, Auvi-Q, Neffy, etc. have not expired. All staff will go through training during orientation week on how to manage allergies and administer emergency medication. If you need an EpiPen, Auvi-Q, Neffy, etc. to travel on the bus, please let camp know and we will make a red pack for the bus.

## INFIRMARY

Banner has registered nurses on staff at all times. Banner's nurses will dispense all medications and handle any infirmary needs.

## SICK CAMPERS

By sending your child to camp, you are verifying that they are well and not experiencing any illnesses. If your child is sick, they must stay home. They can return to camp:

- After 24 hours being fever free (without medication) or 24 hours after their last incidence of vomiting or diarrhea.
- When other symptoms have improved or are improving.
- When indicated by illness-specific guidance.
- Feel well enough to participate in camp activities.

If you knowingly send your child to camp while sick, Banner reserves the right to discontinue enrollment for your family. Our best defense against contagious illnesses is making sure that campers stay home while sick.

If your camper becomes sick during the camp day, we will notify you. Your camper will need to be picked up within one hour of contacting you. We will not, under any circumstance, send a sick camper home on the bus.



# CAMP TRANSPORTATION

Door-to-door transportation is provided for families that live within Banner's bus boundaries and are accessible by school bus. Boundaries are subject to change. Families that are outside of bus service areas are welcome to meet at central pickup/drop off points. Campers will not be able to ride any bus other than their assigned bus.

## BUS ROUTE INFORMATION

Approximate pickup and drop off times are emailed home in June. In the afternoon, buses depart from camp by 3:30 pm. Call the camp office with any questions.

## BUS ABSENCES

In the event of an absence, call the camp office as soon as possible.

## BUS EXPECTATIONS

Campers should:

1

Be ready outside five minutes prior to pickup time.

2

Stay seated on the bus and participate in bus activities.

3

Be kind and friendly to others. Keep hands to oneself.

4

Refrain from screaming or yelling.

5

Keep the bus clean and free of debris.

6

Be ready on deck for drop-off.

## LATE ARRIVALS

A camper not riding the morning bus may be dropped off at camp after 9:00 am.

## EARLY DEPARTURES

Parents can make arrangements to pick up a camper by sending a bus note or calling the camp office **by 1:00 pm the day prior to the change**. In most cases, your camper will be ready at the front porch at the time requested. Pickups must be completed by 3:00 pm Monday through Thursday and by 2:50 pm on Fridays.



# CAMP GEAR

## BANNER LOOK

A Banner t-shirt and gym shoes must be worn for all camp activities. Flip flops or sandals are allowed to be worn to and from the pool only. Banner t-shirts should be worn daily. Each camper will receive three complimentary classic logo t-shirts. We recommend having three to five shirts. A store to purchase additional gear is available online [here](#). T-shirts will be mailed to your house prior to the start of camp.



## LABELING BELONGINGS

Label all clothing and personal belongings with your camper's full first and last name and bench number. Banner would like to emphasize the importance of labeling all items brought to camp. Every effort will be made to return misplaced items. Towels, swimsuits, shirts, shoes and more can be labeled with a sharpie or name labels can be ordered from [mabelslabels.com](http://mabelslabels.com). Items without names will be donated after a week.

## CHANGE OF CLOTHES


### (Banner Beginnings and Junior Camp Only)

Pack a complete change of clothes – shirt, pants, socks, and underwear – in a clearly labeled gallon sized ziploc bag. All campers are required to be potty trained by the start of camp, however we realize that accidents do occur. Should accidents become frequent and/or regular, we will call home and discuss a plan with you.

## WHAT TO BRING

-  Backpack
-  Bathing suit
-  Sunscreen
-  Inexpensive water bottle
-  Extra weather appropriate clothing (sweatshirt/rain jacket)
-  Flip flops or sandals (for the pool only)

## WHAT NOT TO BRING

-  Personal valuables
- Any gaming devices (DS, Switch, etc.)
- iPad/tablets
- Gum
- iPhone/cell phones
- Alcohol or drugs
- Trading cards
- Weapons
- Glass Containers

**Banner is not responsible for valuables or collectibles brought to camp.**



# ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

## SPECIAL EVENT DRESS-UP

Campers are encouraged to dress up for the Friday special events and incorporate your classic Banner t-shirt into your costume. Costumes should be tasteful, appropriate, fun and weather appropriate. Scary and violent costumes and masks are not allowed. See the calendar for the special events schedule and which days allow for dress-up.

## RAINY DAY ACTIVITIES

On rainy days, Banner campers continue to enjoy fun activities and programs in the pavilions and other on-site building facilities. Activities include games, crafts, music, sports, dance, and movies.

## SUNSCREEN

The majority of our campers' activities will be in Banner's shaded oak groves. During swim and other activities, campers may be in direct sunlight. We recommend applying sunscreen prior to camp each day. If you would like your camper to reapply sunscreen before and after swimming, send it in your camper's swim bag. If you have any additional requests or instructions, please send a note on your Camp Notes pad.

## MOSQUITO REPELLING

Banner Day Camp prides itself on ensuring camper's comfort and safety. A professional mosquito abatement service sprays the camp twice weekly at night after the campers have gone home. In the event that mosquitos become problematic, the abatement program will be increased. If you find that your child is still being bitten, we recommend that you apply mosquito repellent at home. If you would like your camper's counselor to reapply repellent after swimming, send it in your camper's swim bag along with a note to the office on your Camp Notes pad.

## ASSUMPTION OF RISK

Part of the camping experience involves activities, group arrangements, and interactions that may be new to a child. These experiences come with certain risks and uncertainties beyond what children may be used to dealing with at home. Each family signs an assumption of risk at the time of enrollment stating that they are aware of these risks and are assuming them on behalf of their children. We ask every family to familiarize themselves with and instruct their children on the importance of abiding by Banner's rules and expectations.





# COMMUNICATION

## COMMUNICATION FROM CAMP

### LEADERSHIP PHONE CALLS

Your camper's age level Leadership Team member will be calling home prior to camp and throughout the summer to speak with you about your child's needs and Banner experience.

### COUNSELOR ZOOM CALLS

Group counselors will introduce themselves to their campers through a pre-camp zoom call with their group. Counselors will receive their group assignments on Thursday, June 11.

### WEBSITE

Visit our website at [bannerdaycamp.com](http://bannerdaycamp.com) to find out about recent activities and upcoming events and to see pictures of campers. Social media updates will help keep you informed on what's happening. Be sure to follow us on Facebook and Instagram.

### EMAILS

Banner will email updates and information throughout the summer in addition to weekly emails from your Leadership Team member. Leadership will check email prior to the camp day by 8:50 am and after the buses leave. For urgent and important matters, call the camp office.

### TELEPHONE BROADCAST

Banner Day Camp may contact you during the summer with a "Broadcast Message." We use this system to notify you of urgent, time sensitive changes to our program. Caller ID will identify the call as being from Banner Day Camp or 847.295.4900. When answered, a recorded message will play.

### ONLINE PHOTOS

You will be receiving an invitation and instructions to view online photo albums to see pictures of your camper at camp. Be sure to check these albums and save any photos you'd like to keep. Albums will be taken down in September.

## COMMUNICATION TO CAMP

**To best serve your camper's needs, direct any concerns, questions or positive comments to the appropriate Leadership Team member.** The Leadership Team members are camp directors who actively participate in the camp program during the hours of 9:00 am-3:30 pm. The optimal time to contact a Leadership Team member is from 8:00 am to 8:50 am and from 3:30 pm to 5:00 pm. If you need to get in touch with a member of the Leadership Team during the camp day, call the camp office and the Leadership Team member will return your call in a timely fashion.

### OFFICE HOURS

Pre-season office hours are 9:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Friday. During the camp season, office hours are 7:30 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Friday.

### CAMP NOTES

Prior to camp you will be provided with a yellow Bus Notes pad for transportation needs and a white Camp Notes pad for communicating camper needs to the group counselor. Complete notes thoroughly and clearly and give them to your bus staff.

### PHONE CALLS

Banner's Leadership Team welcomes parent phone calls each day. If you need to check in on your camper, call the camp office. Banner's team will get back to you promptly. Call with any question, concern or update.

# CODE OF CONDUCT

At Banner, our goal is to create a camp community that is safe and inclusive to each and every one of our campers. We intentionally create experiences that allow our campers to develop important social emotional skills. We recognize that campers will, at times, need redirection and guidance. We always strive to partner with campers and families to make sure that their children are successful at camp. We communicate any challenges that arise and work together to find a solution that is best for the camper and our camp community. It is always our hope that campers can remain at Banner in a way that is safe for them, the other campers and our staff.

## **Banner Day Camp expects campers to:**

- Stay with the group.
  - Campers participating in choice, elective and Tween club programs must:
    - Be at schedule/chosen activities.
    - Meet up on time at the appropriate location.
- Show kindness and respect to other campers and staff.
- Use appropriate language.
- Support and follow the rules and guidelines at all activities and throughout camp.
  - Follow counselor and Leadership directions.
- Keep hands to yourself.
  - Never physically harm yourself or others.
- Respect the belongings of others.
- Take care of the environment.
  - Throw trash away in the appropriate receptacles.
  - Take care of the equipment – including putting it away properly.
  - Respect plants –not climbing on trees, pulling at the branches, picking flowers or plants.

## **The following behaviors are not allowed at Banner:**

- Running from the group.
- Yelling at other campers – being verbally aggressive in tone and/or words.
- Hitting, kicking, biting, or any other inappropriate physical behavior.
- Threatening any physical behavior.

- Using language that is inflammatory and/or inappropriate.
  - Using language that is derogatory to others, prejudiced, sexual or racial in nature.
  - Making jokes that are sexual, racial, or inappropriate in any other way.
  - Using language that is unkind.
- Signs, words or actions that make other campers or staff feel unsafe, uncomfortable or threatened.
- Taking the belongings of others.
- Teasing, mocking and making fun of others.
- Not listening to the staff directions.

## **Should a camper display behaviors that are challenging at camp, we will take the following steps with the goal of helping the camper be successful at Banner.**

- Leadership and staff have conversation with the camper.
- Leadership call home to make parent aware of behaviors at camp.
- Continued/consistent behavior challenges – Include Tylee and Emily, our Social Emotional Specialists, to make an appropriate behavior plan – communicate plan with families.
- Required break at camp – time away from group, opportunity to learn coping skills and get grounded.
- Required time off of camp –half day, full day, no bus – dependent on behavior.
  - For most behaviors, campers are asked to take a day off of camp after three occurrences.
  - Some more significant behaviors might be required after the first offense.
- Removal from camp.

## **There are certain aggressive and egregious behaviors that cannot be tolerated at Banner. These behaviors may require an immediate removal from our camp community.**

# THE LEADERSHIP TEAM

The Banner Day Camp Leadership Team includes more than 30 educators and camp professionals who are dedicated to providing unsurpassed supervision at camp. From planning and participating in activities, supervising and guiding staff and addressing camper needs, Leadership Team members are devoted to creating an exceptional Banner experience for each child.



**STACY SCHWARTZ KOTELOV**  
Owner/Executive Director

Banner and my life go hand in hand. I grew up surrounded by camp and am so proud that Banner is part of my family. I have taken part in nearly every role at Banner – from camper to Leadership Team Member and everything in between! Since my parents' retirement 13 years ago, I have proudly carried on their legacy and vision into the next generation. I enjoy guiding the Leadership Team, leading Bannerama and working with campers, staff and parents to create the very best Banner experience possible. Being at camp and implementing the customs, spirit and tradition of Banner is something that I truly love. It is so rewarding to watch how much our campers and staff grow throughout the summer. The Banner tradition continues on in my family. My husband, Paul, spent 20 years working at Banner, and my children Noah (25), Eli (28) and Ari (30) have spent their summers here and have worked at Banner! Every day that I walk into camp, it fills my heart and soul. I still feel the same passion, love, joy and pride for camp and all that it stands for. I am so happy to have your family be a part of the Banner family.



**HOWARD THALL**  
Executive Director

I am looking forward to spending my 34<sup>th</sup> summer at Banner. Camp is my year round home and I enjoy working with almost every area of camp. I truly believe that there is no better place to be. Throughout my time at Banner I have had the opportunity to serve as an age-level director, pool director, and winter office manager. I am now partnering with Stacy to plan and run our camp program. I enjoy working with the Leadership Team and staff to create an excellent program for all of our campers. I have the great privilege of spending Banner summers with my children, Maddie (26) and Sophie (24). I am excited for another great summer at camp and hope that all your children have a wonderful and growthful camp experience.



**NIKI PAPAK**  
Program Director

I am so excited to begin my 27<sup>th</sup> summer at Banner! As the program director, I spend my days creating and implementing activities and events at camp and sincerely believe that Banner offers the most exceptional camp program around. I find great joy in interviewing and working with the staff and know that they are what make Banner so incredible. Before working at Banner year round, I taught middle school Spanish. While I often miss my class of eighth graders, I am still able to use my passion for teaching here at Banner and I get to see the growth the campers and staff make all summer long. My son, Thor (18), has spent all of his camper years at camp and I have seen first-hand as a parent the unique social growth and skill development that happen at camp. I hope that you and your campers have the very best summer at Banner and I feel honored to be a part of your Banner family.



**MELANIE MANN**  
Junior Camp Director

I am so excited to be celebrating my 32<sup>nd</sup> summer at camp and continuing the adventure of overseeing the Junior camp and working with the Banner Leadership Team & staff. My family is here at Banner sharing in such a heartwarming and fun experience! Charles, my husband, works at camp leading the Senior camp. Our two sons – Tyler (22) and Kevin (19) – talk about camp all year long. I get to see the tremendous impact camp has on so many people's lives – a place to make friends, gain self-confidence and try so many new, exciting activities and adventures. I have worked year round at Banner for 28 years and it is very rewarding to plan and organize Banner's exceptional program, train and teach our newest Leadership Team members, and work closely with numerous staff members and campers. Please let me know if there is anything I can do for you or your camper. I am eager to once again get camp started!

# THE LEADERSHIP TEAM



**CHARLES MANN**  
Senior Camp Director

I have been a part of Banner Day Camp for the past 32 years. I began at camp as a counselor and have spent the past 28 summers serving as a Leadership Team member. I oversee the entire Senior camp and work with your age-level Leadership.

Banner is also a part of my family; my wife Melanie works at camp and my two sons, Kevin and Tyler, grew up and worked here. During my "non-Banner" months, I am the Social Science Department Chair at Vernon Hills High School. I also serve as an Adjunct Athletic Director in the fall and enjoy coaching the Varsity Boys Volleyball team in the spring. I am ready for the summer to begin and cannot wait to meet your camper and create a positive experience.



**RON PORT**  
Transportation Director

Banner is not just a job for me; Banner is home. I have been blessed with having the Banner experience in my life for 38 years and have done much of my own growing here at camp. Through Banner, I have formed unforgettable relationships with

others by being a counselor, mentoring counselors, training our bus drivers and working with the bus routes. During the school year, I am a technology teacher in North Chicago. My daughter, Lilly (24), has spent her summers at Banner as a camper and counselor. It's amazing for me to see camp through her eyes and to share the experience with the other Banner parents and families. I hope your experience at Banner this summer is as wonderful as mine always is and will be.



**ARI KOTELOV**  
City Transportation Director

I am so grateful to have been born into the Banner family. My grandparents, Allen and Helen, started camp in 1964 and ran camp throughout my childhood with my mom and dad, Stacy and Paul, and my Uncle Brad. I have been spending summers at

camp since I was born as both a camper and staff member. I have worked at camp as a junior counselor, counselor, specialist, office staff and as a member of our Leadership Team. No matter what I was doing, I have always had more fun at camp than anywhere else. After studying architecture at the University of Arizona, I was drawn to come back to Banner. Now as a transportation director, I work with our drivers and bus routes, and coordinate our Chicago buses. I have the pleasure of working at camp throughout the year in preparation for the next summer. My passion is creating an environment where campers and staff can have the experiences that lead to a fulfilled and happy life.



**SPENCER FORD**  
Age-Level Director

I consider myself truly fortunate to have found Banner Day Camp. When I began my first summer here as a college student working as a sports specialist, I had no idea I would be discovering a second home. Joining the year-round team

after graduating with a degree in marketing from the University of Alabama has been an incredibly rewarding experience. During the off season, I am involved in recruiting and interviewing staff, international staff communication and preparation, and camp setup and breakdown. Over the summer, I work as an age level director and work hard to build spirit, excitement and connection with the campers and staff. It is so fulfilling to watch campers grow, try new activities, build confidence, and form lasting friendships year after year at camp.

# THE LEADERSHIP TEAM



**TYLEE RESETICH**  
Social Emotional Specialist

I will be starting my 12th year at camp this year! I feel like I have gained so many amazing skills working at camp. I have become a better person and school counselor because of camp. I was a high

school counselor who specialized in mental health counseling at Carmel Catholic High School and now am currently the Student Wellness Specialist. This will be my 5th year as the Social Emotional Specialist at camp. Before that I was an age level director and I served as a counselor and bus driver for 5 years. I love this job so much! I get to connect with campers, families, counselors and the leadership team on a whole new level. I enjoy watching campers grow and develop new skills. Camp has provided me the space to grow in a supportive environment and it has changed me for the better!



**BECKY HASSELSON & ALISON SULLIVAN**  
Pool Directors

As your Pool Leadership Team, we have many years of experience at our favorite place – the Banner pools. We love to swim

and have strong backgrounds in teaching swim instruction and lifeguarding; this will be Becky's 32<sup>nd</sup> summer and Alison's 15<sup>th</sup> summer at Banner. Becky spends her school year at home with son, Noah (12), and works part-time in the Banner office. A former teacher, Alison spends the winter at home with her two girls, Parker (8) and Reagan (7), and also manages Banner's social media accounts. Becky and Alison are Starguard Elite Lifeguard Instructors and train all Banner lifeguards and swim instructors. Our goal as Pool Leadership is to ensure that all campers have a safe and positive swim experience at Banner, and we are available to talk about your camper's swim progress anytime.



**JESSIE HOFFMAN**  
Office Coordinator

Every summer at Banner is more rewarding than the last. This will be my 19th summer working at camp. I work in the Banner office year round and spend the majority of my day overseeing day-to-day office communication. I coordinate and train all

of our bus drivers. I work closely with the entire Leadership Team and office staff to ensure that all of your phone calls and questions are answered promptly, and to guarantee each camp day runs smoothly! My son, Lucas (9), is a Banner camper. I look forward to seeing familiar faces and meeting as many new campers as possible throughout summer 2026!



**BRAD GREENBERG**  
Athletic Director

I am so excited to begin my 27<sup>th</sup> summer at Banner and my 18th summer on the Leadership Team. I am the Athletic Director and help to coordinate all specialty areas. I love working with the campers and helping them have fun while developing their

skills and confidence. I am currently a physical education teacher at Kipling Elementary School in Deerfield. I met my wife, Lisa, at Banner. My daughter, Joie (12), will be beginning her 11<sup>th</sup> summer at Banner and my son Blake (10) will be beginning his 8<sup>th</sup>.



# CAMP PROGRAMS

## ADVENTURE

- Balance Bikes
- Banner 100
- Bungee Trampoline
- Dune Buggies
- Go Karts
- High Ropes Course
- Plasma Cars
- Pioneering
- Rock Climbing
- Slingshot Paintball
- Traversing Wall
- Zip Line

## AQUATICS

- Aqua Climbing Wall
- Aqua Jump
- Bumper Boats
- Canoeing
- Diving
- Fishing
- Junior Lake
- Kayaking
- Paddle Boats
- Senior Lake
- Swimming
- Waterslides

## ARTS

- Arts & Crafts
- Ceramics
- Cooking
- Creative Creations
- Dance & Poms
- Drama
- Drumming
- Hip Hop Team
- Jewelry
- Juggling
- Lanyard
- Model Building
- Painting
- Rocketry
- Fashion & Design
- STEM & Design
- Songs
- Yoga



## SPORTS

- Archery
- Baseball
- Basketball
- Flag Football
- Floor Hockey
- GaGa
- Gymnastics
- Kickball
- Sand Soccer
- Sand Volleyball
- Pillo Polo
- Soccer
- Trampball
- Wiffle Ball

## IMAGINATIVE PLAY

- Banner Builders
- Banner Farm
- Bannerville
- Imagination Playground
- Nature Center & Garden
- Sandbox
- Ship Playground
- Storytelling
- Train Playground

## GYMNASTICS & BUNGEE TRAMPOLINE

Any parent who objects to their child's use of the equipment may arrange for the child to have alternate gymnastics instruction by notifying the camp.

## ROPE COURSE & CLIMBING WALL

Senior and Tween campers can participate in the Climbing Wall and High Ropes Program. Gym shoes are required for this activity.

## LAKES

Banner's privately owned senior lake is an off-site environment. Staffed with lifeguards, the lake requires all campers wear personal flotation devices for additional safety. Banner's junior on-site lake has been stocked with fish and is a favorite water play area and fishing hole for Banner Beginnings and Junior Campers.



# FAQs

## 1 WHAT SHOULD MY CHILD BRING TO CAMP EACH DAY?

Campers should wear a Banner t-shirt and gym shoes every day. We encourage campers to apply sunscreen in the morning and sunscreen will be reapplied after swimming. Pack a backpack with a swimsuit, pool shoes, and extra sunscreen. Camp will provide a swim towel or one can be brought from home. Please label all items and leave all valuables and electronics at home.

## 2 WHAT IF MY CAMPER WILL BE ABSENT FROM CAMP?

Please call the camp office right away. If no one is available, please leave a message. We will contact your camper's bus driver to notify them of your absence.

## 3 WHAT IS THE LATEST TIME I CAN PICK UP MY CAMPER FROM CAMP?

Campers can be picked up by 3:00 pm at the latest. If you would like to pick up your child, please notify the camp office by **sending a bus note by 1:00 pm the day prior to the change.**

## 4 CAN MY CAMPER RIDE ANOTHER BUS HOME?

No, campers will not be able to ride any bus other than their assigned bus.

## 5 DOES MY CAMPER'S SACK LUNCH GET REFRIGERATED?

Yes! Sack lunches are separated by group and stored in the walk-in refrigerator each day. Campers who bring their lunches must bring them in single-use containers that will be thrown out after lunch.





# FAQs

**6 WHAT DOES BANNER DO IF IT RAINS?**  
Banner has sufficient space and programming options to provide an excellent camp day even in inclement weather.

**7 WHAT HAPPENS IF MY CAMPER LEAVES SOMETHING AT CAMP?**  
Please notify us immediately if you are missing any items and will do our best to get that item returned home. Please label all belongings with your camper's full name and bench number.

**8 MY CHILD IS WORRIED ABOUT SWIM LESSONS THIS SUMMER. WHAT SHOULD I DO?**  
Banner wants your camper to have every possible success. Please inform us of any apprehensions or negative experiences your camper has had with water so that we can best meet their needs.

**9 CAN MY CHILD WEAR GOGGLES IN THE POOL?**  
Yes. Campers may bring their own goggles to wear in the pool. Please be sure to label them with your camper's name. Banner does not provide goggles due to risk of eye infections.

**10 CAN MY CHILD WEAR EARPLUGS IN THE POOL?**  
Yes. Send earplugs and a small storage case labeled with the camper's name and bench number with your camper. Banner provides storage for earplugs at the pool throughout the summer so your child does not need to worry about losing or misplacing his or her earplugs.

**11 MY CHILD WON'T BE SWIMMING TODAY. WHO DO I NOTIFY?**  
Send a note to the office on your Camp Notes pad. You can also let your Leadership Team member know via email or phone call.

**12 HOW IS THE SWIM PROGRAM AFFECTED BY INCLEMENT WEATHER?**  
If it is raining or if the weather is cool, campers will take part in alternate activities during their scheduled swim time. If it is extremely hot, campers will have a double swim consisting of one instructional swim in the morning and one recreational swim in the afternoon.

**13 WHEN CAN I VISIT MY CAMPER AT CAMP?**  
Banner is a closed campus for the safety and security of the campers and staff. We are always available to connect by phone or email and will continue to share pictures via online photo albums for you to see your camper in action. All families, regardless of session enrollment, are invited to Interactive Nights on June 29 (Preschool and Pre-k), June 30 (Kindergarten and 1st), and July 1 (2nd through 6th grade). This is a great time to enjoy camp together and see firsthand what makes a summer at Banner so special. (Interactive Nights are based off the grade completed for the 2025-2026 school year.)

**14 SHOULD I TIP OR GIVE A GIFT TO THE STAFF?**  
Tipping or giving a gift to the staff that work with your child(ren) is optional. Many parents like to do so at the completion of camp, which is very much appreciated by the staff. Banner utilizes a platform called Grazzee to make tipping easy for parents and to keep tips earned secure for staff. Watch for more info to come.