



GET READY FOR SUMMER 2026!



DEAR CAMP FAMILY,

Welcome to Banner's 62nd summer! As summer approaches, we are very excited that camp is about to begin. We are honored that you have chosen to become a part of the Banner 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 intentionally provides opportunities for campers to develop the character traits 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 12, 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 15 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 12 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 1

- 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 11

- Counselor introductions on Zoom.

FRIDAY, JUNE 12

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

MONDAY, JUNE 15

- First day of camp!



BANNER DAY CAMP • 2026 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
WEEK 1	June 15 1st Session Begins Wear classic logo t-shirt	June 16	June 17	June 18 Tweens wear color war t-shirt	June 19 Picture Day & Ribbon Ceremony Wear classic logo t-shirt
	June 22 Wear classic logo t-shirt	June 23	June 24	June 25 Tweens wear color war t-shirt	June 26 Olympics Day Dress up with classic logo t-shirt
WEEK 3	June 29 Interactive Night Preschool & Pre-K (Completed) Wear classic logo t-shirt	June 30 Interactive Night Kindergarten & 1st Grade (Completed)	July 1 CIT/SIT Community Service Project Interactive Night 2nd, 3rd & Tween (Completed)	July 2	July 3 No Camp Independence Day
	AMAZING RAISE FOR SCOPE				
WEEK 4	July 6 Wear classic logo t-shirt	July 7	July 8 Tween & CIT/SIT Trip to Bowlero Tweens & CIT/SIT wear gold or logo t-shirt	July 9 1st Session Drama Show Tweens wear color war t-shirt	July 10 Beach Day & Swim-a-Rama Dress up with classic logo t-shirt
	July 13 2nd Session Begins Wear classic logo t-shirt	July 14	July 15	July 16 Tweens wear color war t-shirt	July 17 Wild West Day Dress up with classic logo t-shirt
WEEK 6	July 20 Wear classic logo t-shirt	July 21 CIT/SIT Community Service Project	July 22	July 23 Tweens wear color war t-shirt	July 24 Spirit Week Finale & Camper Follies Dress up with tie-dye or classic logo t-shirt
	BANNER SPIRIT WEEK				
WEEK 7	July 27 Wear classic logo t-shirt	July 28 Wear tie-dye t-shirt	July 29	July 30 Tweens wear color war t-shirt	July 31 Carnival Day & GaGa Finals Dress up with tie-dye or classic logo t-shirt
	GAGA TOURNAMENT (KINDERGARTEN THROUGH CIT/SIT)				
WEEK 8	August 3 Wear classic logo t-shirt	August 4 2nd Session Drama Show Wear tie-dye t-shirt	August 5 Tween & CIT/SIT Trip to Great Wolf Lodge Tweens & CIT/SIT wear gold or logo t-shirt	August 6 Sports League Championship Tweens wear color war t-shirt	August 7 Banner Festival Wear tie-dye or classic logo t-shirt