



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### Is Summer Voyager a new camp?

The Summer Voyager Camp is being presented by Stamford Public Education Foundation (SPEF) in conjunction with support from the Stamford Public Schools (SPS). Founded in 1996, SPEF's mission is to deliver educational programs and resources that elevate student, educator and parent success by bridging the gap between needs in the Stamford Public Schools and resources in our community. For more information visit: [www.spefct.org](http://www.spefct.org).



### When does registration close for Summer Voyager?

Registration will close on at 5:00 PM on June 1, 2018, unless camp fills before that date.

### What does a typical Summer Voyager day look like?

8:00- 8:30:	Arrive at Toquam Magnet Elementary School (123 Ridgewood Ave.) and enjoy breakfast with fellow Voyagers
8:30- 9:00:	Group meeting with teacher in classroom
9:00 -12:00:	Morning classroom enrichment block
12:00-1:00:	Lunch & recess
1:00 – 1:30:	Transition time (transportation to new site, if needed)
1:00-5:00:	Afternoon activity enrichment block
5:00- 5:30:	Wind down, parent pick-up or bus transportation

### What if I want to register for less than 6 weeks?

Priority is given to Voyagers registering for the full 6-weeks of camp. However, if you would like to register for less than 6 weeks, you can be placed on a waiting list for a 2-week block. Please indicate which 2-week block you prefer in our registration system.

### Can campers select which enrichment activity they want to do?

Campers will rotate through 3 unique, 2-week sessions of activities at SoundWaters (STEM), the Stamford Museum and Nature Center (Arts) and Peak Performance Sports Camps (Athletics).

### Who staffs Summer Voyager?

During the morning, classroom teachers are certified teachers in the State of CT. There is also a head teacher who provides curriculum support and professional development to the classroom teachers. Assistant teachers are high school or college students who are trained and have gone through background checks. There is also a trained SPEF Camp Director and assistant who will provide logistical support.

During the afternoon, the enrichment staff includes staff hired and trained by SoundWaters, the Stamford Museum and Nature Center and Peak Performance Sports Camp. All enrichment staff have been trained and have gone through background checks.

All sites will have at least one person trained in CPR and First Aid.

**What is the teacher to Voyager ratio?**

During the morning session, the classroom teacher to camper ratio is approximately 1:15. The afternoon varies according to program but all enjoy a small-group experience.

**How many Campers attend Summer Voyager?**

There are 105 Voyagers registered to attend each day.

**What do campers eat for breakfast and lunch?**

Breakfast and lunch is provided at no additional charge by Chartwell's Food Services, which is the same company that provides breakfast and lunch for Stamford Public Schools during the academic year. Breakfast will be a selection of cereal, bagels, fruit and milk. Cold lunches (sandwiches) are served along with choice of milk or water. Of course, campers can bring their own lunch, if they care to. We highly recommend that campers bring snacks.

**What do I do if our summer plans have changed before camp starts?**

Payment is collected in two stages. Initially, we ask for a \$500 deposit to secure your child's place in the program (\$100 of this is non-refundable). The remaining tuition of \$1,000 is due on or before June 1<sup>st</sup>. If a participant notifies the Stamford Public Education Foundation before June 15<sup>th</sup>, there will be a full refund minus the \$100 plus processing fees. Refund requests will NOT be honored after June 15<sup>th</sup>.

**What happens on rainy days?**

For morning sessions, the school gymnasium and classrooms are available for indoor recess. For rainy afternoons, Peak Performance will use the gymnasium, SoundWaters will use the SoundWaters' house and pavilion and the Stamford Museum and Nature Center will use its indoor buildings.

**What if my child has special needs (including food allergies)?**

Please let us know about special needs and dietary restrictions while registering. If your child has special needs, you're also welcome to contact us directly to discuss accommodations.

**What if my child is late to camp?**

You will need to walk your child into the building to bring him/her to the classroom and sign in.

**What should my child wear to camp?**

Please wear comfortable clothing, such as shorts, a t-shirt, and sneakers. On cold days, bring a sweatshirt and on rainy days, a raincoat. Toquam has air conditioning.

**What should I pack for my child every day?**

Always send your child with sunblock, bug spray and a water bottle with the child's name on it. Depending upon the afternoon activity, campers may need a bathing suit and towel, change of clothes, hat, water shoes (with a heel-strap, no flip flops), rain gear (weather dependent), and art smock.

**Can my child be in the same group or class as his/her friends?**

Please indicate the name of the child/children your child would like to be with, and we will make our best effort to place them together. We are unable to guarantee this, however.

**What if my child won't know anyone at camp?**

Camp is the perfect time for meeting new people and making new friends! Your camper's classroom teacher will take time on the first few days to help everyone get to know each other. By the end of their summer as a Voyager your child will have gained more confidence to meet new people in other parts of their lives.

**What if my child doesn't want to do an activity?**

Campers will remain with their groups at all times, at all activity areas. However, children will never be forced to participate in an activity that makes him/her uncomfortable. Of course, your child will be encouraged to try new things and face new challenges with the support of friends and caring staff.

**What is your electronics policy?**

The Summer Voyager experience is an opportunity for your child to unplug from cell phones and other electronics, and be free from distraction. We ask that no electronics, other than cell phones, be brought to camp and that those be safely put away (zipped in back packs) during camp hours. The only acceptable use of electronics is to enable campers to communicate with parents/guardians. Neither SPEF nor its enrichment partners are responsible for the loss of Voyagers' personal items.

**When will we receive more information about the camp?**

A list of camp guidelines and expectations will be available on the camp website (<https://spefct.org/summer-voyager>). We will host a camp orientation meeting for parents at the Stamford Government Center at the end of June. Notification of the time, date and location of the orientation will be posted on the camp website as well as emailed and mailed to all camp families in June.

**Who do I contact if I have more questions?**

If you still have questions about Summer Voyager, please contact:

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