



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### What makes Summer Voyager a unique camp?

Launched in the summer of 2018, Summer Voyager offers rising 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students a fun-filled experience for exploring their potential. Each day, our Voyagers are provided with both innovative academics and engaging enrichment activities.



This year's enrichment partners are:

- SoundWaters (STEM)
- Stamford Museum and Nature Center (Arts)
- Peak Performance Sports Camps (Athletics)

The camp is presented by Stamford Public School's longstanding community partner, the Stamford Public Education Foundation (SPEF). 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).

### What are the dates for Summer Voyager?

Summer Voyager is being offered from July 8 – August 16. Voyagers attending the 6-week camp rotate through all of the afternoon enrichment offerings; those paying for registration can opt for the full 6 weeks or select a two-week session (note: there is a reduced rate for attending all 6 weeks).

### When does registration close for Summer Voyager?

Registration will close when we reach maximum capacity (registration is on a first-come, first-served basis).

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

8:15 - 9:00	Arrive at Hart Magnet Elementary School (61 Adams Avenue, Stamford)  Enjoy breakfast with fellow Voyagers
9:00 - 11:45	Morning academic enrichment block
11:45 - 12:45	Lunch & recess
12:45 - 1:30	Transition time (transportation to new site by bus, if needed)
1:30 - 4:30	Afternoon activity enrichment block
4:30	Parent pick-up or bus transportation home

**Are there scholarships available and if so how do I apply?**

Scholarships are being provided by the Stamford Public Schools, based upon eligibility criteria established by district-wide administration. The process is that once they have compiled the list of students, they will be mailing invitations to those selected (likely by February 15<sup>th</sup>). Parents/guardians then must complete the application online or in paper form and submit it as directed. Registration for scholarship students is on a first-come, first-served basis. Therefore, we recommend those interested in sending their child to Summer Voyager submit the application as soon as possible. Note: participation as a scholarship student in last year's program does not guarantee an invitation this year.

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

Those Voyagers who receive a scholarship will be enrolled in the full program, which enables a Voyager to fully experience all this unique camp has to offer. Recognizing this is not always an option for some families, those paying for registration also have the option to select one or two 2-week session.

**Who are the staff at Summer Voyager?**

Morning (innovative academics): Classroom teachers are certified teachers in the State of CT. Assistant teachers are high school or college students who are trained and have gone through background checks. There will be a SPEF Program Director to oversee all Summer Voyager operations, along with an assistant who will provide logistical and administrative support. A registered nurse and part-time social worker will also be on-site at the morning academic location.

Afternoon (enrichment): Enrichment staff includes staff hired and trained by SoundWaters, the Stamford Museum and Nature Center and Peak Performance Sports Camp. All enrichment staff have received 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 small-group experiences.

**How many campers attend Summer Voyager?**

There are 135 Voyagers registered to attend each day.

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

Breakfast and lunch are 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. 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 \$750 deposit to secure your child's place in the program (\$100 of this is non-refundable). The remaining tuition for a 6-week enrollment of \$1,250 is due on or before July 8, 2019. If a participant notifies the Stamford Public Education Foundation before July 8, 2019, they will receive a full refund minus the \$100 plus processing fees. Refund requests will NOT be honored after July 8, 2019.

**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 when 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. Hart Magnet Elementary School 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), or art smock. *\*Please note: Summer Voyager staff is not authorized and/or allowed to apply sunscreen to your child.*

**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, in 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 cell phones 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 a Voyager's 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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