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Star Wars Week 2 July 4th – July 8th

SOMapY Camp



Summer Times

July 2, 2010 Vol. 7 Issue 2

What a fantabulous first week of camp! The excitement was heard all around. New friends were made, old friendships rekindled, and our summer is off to a wonderful start. To kick off the day, at Morning Roundup, our camp joins together to sing our SOMapY camp song, recite the Pledge of Allegiance, and get all charged up by Coach Dave when they hear about all the fun things in store for them that day.

On our first day of camp all the campers met their counselors and specialists, and there were many "getting to know you" activities heard all around camp. Thus they begin the process of forming friendships and building group spirit.

If you have not spoken to your child's counselor, please know that you will be contacted on a weekly basis with updates and any "need to know" information.

The first theme week of the summer was dedicated to helping campers learn and understand the principles of **Team and Friendship**. During one of their activity periods at camp, the campers designed a banner that will represent their chosen group name.

The campers can't wait for **Friday, Friendship Day** where they will reveal their group's name to the rest of the camp as well as exchange friendship bracelets with their new friends.

*** More updates on our first week will be posted in next week's newsletter***



Camp will be closed on Monday July 4th, - hope everyone enjoys the holiday.

This week, Gecko Kids Traveling Computer Studio will be visiting our camp. Using laptop computers, campers will bring their favorite celebrity to life using "Crazy Talk" & "SuperGoo" animation programs!! They will create their own music to add dramatic twists to their clip.

A couple of weeks afterwards, they will be able to go to the Gecko Kids website and view their clip as well as the rest of their camper friends. This class promises to be full of excitement and laughter. Check them out at www.geckokids.com.



On Friday, July 8th, we are inviting all the campers to finish off our Star Wars Week by **dressing up as their favorite Star Wars Character** so they can enjoy Mr. Shaun's (Games 2 specialist) Star Wars Games! Mr. Shaun has an amazing morning planned for all campers. The force will be with all of us!!

Remember parents, if campers want, they can also be creative and make their own Star Wars costume. Have fun with your kids this week and watch one of the Star Wars movie episodes.

The Perfect Game: Sports Challenge - Week 3 July 11th – July 15th

On **July 13**, our campers will be taking a trip to **"The Rock" for a NY Liberty Basketball game**. If time permits after the game, campers will be up and jumping around as they will participate in the physical fitness activity "Leaps and Bounds".



TRIP REMINDERS:

- **Campers must wear their camp T-shirts on each field trip day. Campers are given their camp T-shirts their first day at camp.** If you would like to purchase additional shirts they are \$6. Put a check made out to the YMCA in an envelope labeled "YMCA Camp T-shirt payment" and give it to their counselor and we will put one in their back pack.
- **This is a rain or shine trip so if rain is in forecast, please pack a raincoat for your child.**
- **This is a full day trip so there will be no swimming this day, so please do not pack a swimsuit & towel.**
- **Pack a regular lunch and drink.**

**** In addition to the Liberty game we will create more sports excitement with two more special days during the week:**

Tuesday July 12th- It's Team Cap Day! Have your camper wear their favorite sports team cap.

Thursday July 14th- It's Team Shirt Day! Have your camper wear their favorite sports team shirt.

To conclude Week 3, on Friday, July 15th, Sports Specialist Coach Fred will lead our camp in an exciting **"The Perfect Game"** Sports Challenge event. Check out the movie "The Perfect Game" with your kids to compliment this week's theme.

Important Information to Know

We want to share a quick note about a program that we will be discussing with your campers this summer. We believe in teaching, and living by, the four core values of **caring, honesty, respect, and responsibility**.

We will be recognizing campers who demonstrate these qualities while at camp in a variety of ways throughout the summer. We will be giving special attention to educating children about bullying, how it's wrong and how to deal with it. It is also a program designed to raise children's awareness and teach social skills and compassion when dealing with conflict and diversity. I encourage you to support this program and inquire of your children on a regular basis how they have done with it and/or benefited by it.

If you haven't had a chance to do it yet, please check out our SOMapY web page on our website, www.smountainymca.org. We want to make it an easy "one stop shop" to get any camp info you might need. The kind of information that you will find there:

1. Bus schedule info
2. Daily Reminder Calendar to help you remember any special needs for each day.
3. Each of our Weekly newsletters
4. Trip/Event/Theme schedules
5. Permission to Administer Medication Form
6. Alternate Pick-Up form
7. Directions to Maplecrest Park, our rainy day site at Marshall Elementary and to the pool at the JCC.
8. The Welcome to SOMapY Camp letter
9. The Parent Information Guide

Helpful Reminders!

We have found that in the past the items listed below from the Parent Information Guide are the things most often overlooked. Please make note of them.

- Please label **ALL** of your camper's belongings that are brought to camp with their full name.
- **Lost and Found:** Found items with names labeled on them, are usually returned the same day or the next day. We see a great many lost personal items with no name on them.

After Morning Round Up we have all the campers walk past the found items display to look to see if something there belongs to them.

Every Friday, all items that are not claimed, are taken to the Lost and Found box at the Program Center at the YMCA on Jefferson Ave.

Additionally, items lost at the JCC pool may be in their Lost and Found box. This is because if your camper's name is not on the item we do not want to take an item possibly belonging to another JCC camper.

- **Bathing caps or tied back hair is required at the JCC pool for campers whose hair is below their shoulders.**
- Do not put medications in your camper's backpacks. Give all medications directly to the bus counselor or camp director.
- Be sure to check your email or camper's backpack each day for camp notes or Ouch Reports.
- If your child will be absent from camp, please be sure to call the camp office prior to 8:30AM. Call 973-762-4145 X110 to report the absence.

- Please do not allow campers to wear sandals. They are potentially dangerous due to the wide variety of terrains at camp.
- **Campers are not allowed to bring electronic devices** (i.e. cell phones, iPods, Game Boys, etc.) to camp and any Yugioh or Pokemon type playing cards.
- Please be sure to keep our office informed if any of your contact information changes over the summer. This also includes changes to persons authorized to pick up and medication changes.



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