

HOW IS DISCIPLINE HANDLED?

- **Point System:** Using a systematic reward/response cost program, campers receive points for appropriate behavior and lose points for inappropriate behavior while they engage in activities throughout the day.
- **Positive Reinforcement:** Social reinforcement (praise and public recognition) provide a positive, supportive atmosphere. Appropriate behavior is shaped through explicit, brief and firm commands.
- **Time-Out:** Campers receive time-out for engaging in intentional aggression, intentional destruction of property or repeated non-compliance. The initial time is assigned (e.g., 15 minutes) but the camper immediately begins to earn time off for “good behavior” (e.g., reduced to only 7 minutes).
- **Individualized Plans** are developed by the clinical staff.
- **Daily Report Cards** provide consistent feedback to parents and opportunities to reward progress.

WHO ARE THE KIDS WHO ATTEND CAMP STAR?

Ranging in age from 6-12, many campers have a diagnosis of ADHD. Others have a diagnosis of ODD, PDD, high-functioning autism or Asperger’s syndrome; some may not have a formal diagnosis. The campers are at varying academic levels, and while some have learning issues, others are capable of work well beyond their grade level. Campers have different levels of sports experience. All campers have unique goals they are working on.

WHAT IF A CAMPER REFUSES TO PARTICIPATE IN AN ACTIVITY?

The incentive of earning points encourages campers to actively participate. If the consequence of point loss does not encourage the camper to rejoin the group, the time out sequence is used. If a camper sits in on but does not actively participate in a group discussion, s/he will not lose points, but will miss the opportunity to earn points for contributing. If this is an ongoing issue for the camper, it will become part of his/her individual treatment plan.

HOW IS CAMP STAR MORE LIKE CAMP THAN SCHOOL?

Camp STAR is similar to a typical summer camp because the majority of time is spent doing recreational activities. The academic learning centers incorporate fun themes and games while allowing the children to practice skills they use in school.

HOW IS CAMP STAR DIFFERENT FROM OTHER CAMPS?

Camp STAR is unique because it combines typical camp activities with evidence-based treatment. Camp STAR is more structured and has a higher staff to camper ratio than most other camps, but children enjoy it tremendously because they feel successful in academics, athletics and social situations.

HOW DOES SWIM INSTRUCTION WORK?

The camp pool is staffed by certified lifeguards and swim instructors. One-on-one supervision can be provided to campers as needed. Campers have to pass a swim test to go in the deep end of the pool and to use the diving board.

HOW DO FIELD TRIPS WORK?

On Monday children suggest field trip destinations and vote on a location (bowling, mini-golf, museums and other fun destinations nearby) for the Friday field trip. Each morning, campers meet individually with a counselor to discuss their progress and what they need to work on to earn the field trip. Campers find out on Friday morning if they have earned the field trip. Those who do not earn the field trip still have a fun day at camp, with an opportunity to earn special privileges. Children understand that the following week will be a fresh start, with a new chance to earn the field trip.

HOW DOES MY CAMPER GET TO CAMP?

The majority of parents drop off and pick up their campers, however, Camp STAR can provide bus transportation from the city of Chicago for an additional fee of \$500.

WILL MY CAMPER RIDE A BUS DURING THE CAMP DAY?

Professionally driven school buses, equipped with seat belts, are used for Friday field trips and the five-minute rides to the camp pool (located nearby).

IS LUNCH PROVIDED?

Campers bring a sack lunch and snacks from home each day that are peanut-free. Camp STAR does not have access to a refrigerator.

Will you take my Child’s IEP Goals into Account?

If you share your child’s IEP with us, we will tailor his/her treatment program to focus on these goals.

WHY DOES CAMP STAR COST MORE THAN OTHER CAMPS? ARE SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE?

Camp Star has a very high staff-to-camper ratio (1 counselor to 2 campers!) and highly qualified clinical staff. Limited financial aid is available based on family size and income. Please ask for an application to see if you may qualify.

WILL MY INSURANCE COVER THE COST FOR ATTENDING CAMP STAR?

Insurance coverage is not guaranteed; however, in the past families have had success receiving 50-100% reimbursement for camp costs. Our clinicians are more than happy to provide a letter that includes insurance treatment codes to your family so that you may pursue reimbursement.

DOES MY CAMPER HAVE TO ATTEND A FULL DAY AND THE FULL SEVEN WEEKS OF CAMP?

We highly recommend that your camper attend camp all day for the full seven weeks, as it takes time to shape their behaviors.



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

- When:** Monday-Friday, 8am-4pm
June 14-August 30, 2010 (7 weeks)
- Where:** Wayne Thomas School
2939 Summit Avenue
Highland Park, IL 60035
- Cost:** \$6,300 (when registering after Dec. 31st, 2009)
*Financial Assistance is available to families that qualify

Contact Information:

312-996-6923

www.jcys.org/campstar

UIC University of Illinois
at Chicago

