



Town of Huntington

Parks and Recreation

Camp Bright Star



CAMP DESCRIPTION

Camp Bright Star is a summer camp for children and teens with special needs ages 6 and older. Campers, who experience true fun and friendships, are allowed to be kids in a safe, caring and structured environment. The Town of Huntington has offered this program for over 35 years. The camp is partially funded by the New York State Office of People with Developmental Disabilities. (OPWDD)

Camper disabilities range from speech impaired, learning disabled, and developmentally disabled (i.e. down syndrome, autism). Campers are divided into five age appropriate groups. Applicants must be able to function in a group environment without one-to-one assistance. Exceptions are made if the child's school or family provides a shadow to assist the child. The school or family in these situations must complete a waiver.

Camp activities include swimming, sports, games, arts and crafts, music, creative arts, special events, and trips. Special events have included a carnival, talent show, and picnics. In the past, trips have been taken to Adventure Land, Pump it Up, Tiki Action Park, and the movies. Themed activities such as international day, tie-dye day and wacky hat day are part of the camp program.

Camp Bright Star meets all of the requirements of the Suffolk County Health Department. The camp is inspected twice a year and the reports are filed at the County Office in Yaphank.

DATES AND TIMES

The camp runs for a six-week period in the summer after the end of the school year. Camp is held Monday through Friday except for holidays from 9:00AM to 2:30PM.

FEE

The cost is \$320 with a Recreation ID Card and \$765 without the card. The card, which only Town of Huntington residents can purchase, is \$15 for disabled residents as well as 13 and older. For children under 13, parents can purchase a card that covers all of their children at a cost of \$40. The card is good for two years and can be used to obtain discounts at Town facilities and programs. The card is available at the Town of Huntington Parks and Recreation Department and the Dix Hills Ice Rink.

LOCATION

Camp Bright Star will be held at Maplewood Intermediate School, located at 19 School Lane, Huntington Station NY 11746. The hours of camp are 9:00am-2:30pm Monday-Friday. **(There will be no camp of July 4, 2023)**

REGISTRATION

Registration by mail starts in March for returning campers. New applicants must contact the Long Island Office for People with Developmental Disabilities to determine their child's eligibility for camp. The eligibility process is through the Front Door initiative. Contact Wendy Rincon at 416-3882 to start the process. If eligibility has already been approved a letter must be submitted from OPWDD, which states the child's eligibility for camp. New applicants should still submit the Town's camp application as soon as possible. They are processed on a first come first serve basis until the camp is filled. New applicants must attend an interview (held in May) with the camp director to determine if the camp is appropriate. The deadline for registration is May 2, 2023. It should be noted that preference is given to Huntington Residents. Campers are permitted to come to camp for any length of time although fees will not be prorated.

The application process includes a medical form that must be completed by a physician. A photo of the camper must also be provided. If your child will be taking any medications at camp, a copy of each prescription must be given to the camp nurse the first day of the program.

STAFF

Camp Bright Star employs a dedicated and caring staff. They consistently receive excellent ratings on the evaluations completed by the parents. The camp director and assistant director are certified teachers with a background in special education. Specialists, who teach the activities, have expertise in their teaching area. Counselors are college students who typically major in education. The camp employs a registered nurse, who is responsible for the medical needs of the participants. The staff to camper ratio is approximately 1:3. FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact the Town of Huntington Parks and Recreation Department, located in Town Hall at 100 Main Street, Huntington, New York, 11743. The phone number is 631-351-3089.