



Year-Round Office:
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FIRST TIME CAMPER APPLICATION GUIDE

Thank you for applying to Camp Starfish for your camper. The application process takes a little time. Our goal is to work with you and mutually determine if Starfish is the right match for your camper. This checklist will guide you through the paperwork and give you an expectation of how things will happen. If you have any questions at all, please don't hesitate to contact our office by phone (978-368-6580) or email (info@campstarfish.org). We are here to help and look forward to receiving your application!

Initial Enrollment Form (A) and Deposit

paper form, required

This form collects the basic information we need to save a space in your camper's selected session(s) and program(s) while your application is being completed and reviewed. Please complete and sign the form, returning it to our office with a \$50 deposit per session. Should we not be able to find a place at Starfish for your camper, or should you decide during this process to withdraw your application, we will refund your deposit.

Parent/Guardian Form (B)

paper form, required

This form gives us more detailed information about your camper, including family background, behavioral/emotional history, and current school placement. It is required for all first-time campers. It can be returned with Form A or separately. Once we receive this form, we will begin the application review process.

Professional Recommendation Form (C)

electronic form, 2 required

This form is completed electronically by a minimum of 2 professionals who know your camper. One must be an educational professional (ideally your camper's main classroom teacher or the educator who sees him/her most often during the day). If your camper currently receives mental health services, the second recommendation must be provided by their main therapist/social worker/psychologist. If your camper is not currently receiving therapeutic services on a regular basis, please have the second form completed by a professional who has most recently worked with your camper or who can give good insight into your camper's strengths, areas of growth, interactions with others, and goals. Neither of these forms should be filled out by parents/guardians, friends of the family or care providers such as a babysitter. You are welcome to invite additional recommenders to complete this form; the more information we have from individuals who know your camper, the better we will be able to individualize the camp experience for him/her. Once these two forms are received, the required parts of your application are complete.

This form is located at www.campstarfish.org/professionalrec.html

Please give this link directly to the individuals from you are requesting recommendations and ask them to complete the forms online at their earliest convenience.

Agency Support Form (OPT-1)

paper form, optional

Many campers receive agency support to facilitate their camp attendance. School districts, mental health agencies, private foundations and others may be involved in helping you fund camp. If so, Camp Starfish can work directly with those agencies by providing invoices, enrollment information and confirmation of a child's camp attendance, as well as additional documentation or explanations the agency may need to make funding decisions. If you plan to work with any agencies, please complete this brief form and return it to our office so we have the right contact information for each. This form can be completed and returned at any time, including with your Initial Enrollment Form (A).

Campership (Starfish Financial Aid) Application (OPT-2)

paper form, optional

If you need assistance to pay for camp, we may be able to help. Camp Starfish has limited amounts of "Campership" (Financial Aid) available for distribution based on financial need. Completing this form in its entirety and submitting it, along with documentation (as listed on the form) is the first step towards determining a Campership award.