Program Background & Basics

Each program area offers activities which help campers build skills and explore new interests. For those campers who find a particular area of interest, the Tag\u270f Up program allows them to focus on developing their skills further in that area as well.

For Navigators and campers in the OCP, multiple opportunities are offered that allow campers to focus on tagging up in specific areas of interest.

In the Navigator program, campers choose “bundles” of activities which each last for three days. Two Navigators in the same cabin might end up spending their day completely differently – one might choose Watersports, Adventure Hike, and One Act Plays while the other may sign up for Drawing, Talent Show Acts, and Guitar Lessons. Navigators are encouraged to choose a variety of activities, including active and creative pursuits, however the most important goal is to help campers find things that they will enjoy participating in. For some campers, this might mean a lot more athletics – for others, more of the quieter options.

In the Navigator program, campers are offered many opportunities to Tag\u270f Up by showing mastery of particular skills or completion of a set of achievements in any given area. All campers are encouraged to seek out opportunities to Tag\u270f Up, but it is not required. For many campers, earning levels through the Tag\u270f Up program allows them to have a tangible goal towards which to work. For others, participation in an activity with no particular end-goal in mind feels right. Counselors work one-on-one with campers to help them learn and grow in the activities they’ve chosen regardless of whether the camper is attempting to Tag\u270f Up or not. Additionally, campers can passively Tag\u270f Up – they do not need to declare an intention to do so. If, simply by participating in an activity, campers have completed the requirements to Tag\u270f Up in that area, staff will make sure to recognize that achievement and offer the camper a Tag.

As campers grow at Starfish, new Tags become available. Teens in the Older Camper program can continue to Tag\u270f Up in areas they enjoyed as younger campers but may not have completed, and additionally they can choose to spend larger blocks of time focused on projects of interest. For example, for a teen who truly enjoys the outdoors and wishes to develop their skills in this area, he or she may choose to participate in a special multiple day Outdoor Exploration activity offered which will have its own special Tag for completion. Older Camper Program teens may also design their own Tags, learning along the way the life-long skill of visualizing future goals and determining the objectives necessary to fulfill them. As teens become more proficient in each the various activities, upper tag levels will incorporate opportunities to guide younger campers who are attempting to Tag\u270f Up as well.

As Tags are completed, campers are recognized at all-camp Gatherings. Additionally, when a camper tags up through a complete set of accomplishments in one area (for example, earning over time all tags in the Boating program), a special ceremony recognizes their achievements.