

SOMAPY 1 Q&A

Camp Director: Shaun Hawkins Camp Assistant Director: TBD

Camp Site:

Maplecrest Park
237 Oakland Road
Maplewood, NJ 07040

Rainy Day Site:

Marshall Elementary School
262 Grove Road
South Orange, NJ 07079

Our trained and passionate staff is eager to make a positive difference in our kids during a very critical part of their life. We focus on youth development all while having fun, making friends and building self-confidence. Each week we have one field trip, special event and swim instruction 5 days a week (unless on a full day trip). Every Friday, one of our specialist host unique field day activities based off our theme for that particular week. Our specialist are:

Austin Mangum- **Team Building**

Julia Curtis- **TV Production**

Ryanna Brown- **Science**

Vaughn Ferreira- **Animation & Graphic Design**

Lena Jones- **Sports**

Jonathan Hill- **Culinary Arts /Health and Wellness**

Zaneeyah Shaheed- **Recreation Games**

Sensei Carmen- **Karate** & more!

1. Daily Schedule/Routine at Park

1. What are the rotations? If any? How long?

- a. Camp will always begin at our picnic tables (next to the skate park) for counselors to take **daily attendance**. Parents dropping off sign in at the camp directors table. Each picnic table has a large storage container with a number representing that group.
- b. After attendance is done and the final bus arrives our campers walk over to the stage to have **"Morning Round-Up"**. At that time we get our campers excited with our daily TV show which gives all the details for what's going on for the week.
- c. Depending on whether we have a field trip each group will rotate through **3 special activity periods (45 minutes long)** in the morning. Followed by **lunch** from 11:30am to 12pm at our picnic tables. After lunch we have one final rotation at a special.
- d. At 12:40pm, campers in groups 6-9 get ready **for swim**. Campers in groups 1-5 get ready for **club time** announcements on the stage.

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- e. **Club Time** is a 40 minute special activity period where kids get the choice of choosing what they'd like to do. Each activity is structured and created by our specialist.(Ex: 4 square, lanyard, sidewalk chalk, and shoe golf).
- f. **Children in Extended Camp** programs are welcome to attend Creative Theater Camp, but they may have shorter time to prepare for the show and/or receive a smaller role due to timing. This is completely up to the parent, as we will not turn away potential campers but must have full disclosure about the nature of the program.

2. General Questions

1. How do you handle allergies?

- a. The staff is epi-pen trained and SOMAPY is a **peanut/tree nut free camp** with no exceptions. Children are not permitted to bring any nut products, and in the event that they do, campers will be asked to eat away from the entire camp at our camp directors table supervised by a counselor.

AM Drop off /PM Pick Up

- 1. Morning care begins at 7:00 A.M. and aftercare goes until 7:00 P.M. Drop-off/Pickup occurs in the Program Center lobby area on Jefferson Avenue.
- 2. We don't offer curbside drop-off or pick-up.
- 3. Parents may also drop off or pick up at our campsite from 9am until 12:30pm but must sign in at the camp directors table. Anyone picking up a child must have photo ID on them and be on the child's registration list as a pick up adult. Person picking up must sign out on the sign out roster.

3. Swimming

1. How long is swim time?

- a. Swimming will take place at the **West Essex YMCA Pool in Livingston**. Our campers have about 45 minutes in the pool, give or take 5 minutes depending on bussing. Swimming will take place weather permitting (**field trip or lightning**).

2. How much of that time is swim instruction?

- a. Campers will receive a **30 minute lesson (after swim testing) and have 15 minutes of free time** each day.

3. How is swimming time structured?

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- a. A camper's swimming ability will be tested the first day of camp and they will be given the appropriate level swim necklace (red, yellow, or green). Upon demonstrating required swimming skills, campers may be re-tested at the end of that week to advance to a higher swim level. This may also occur during lesson time if the camper is showing proficiency.
- b. For lessons, no PFDs (Portable Flotation Devices) are used as the "red" level campers wait on the edge of the pool and take turns. For free swim, the "red" level campers are **required to wear PFDs** the entire time they are in the water.
- c. We use the certified West Essex Lifeguards for swim testing. If they assign a level that the parent feels is inaccurate, they may contact our Assistant Director or Lena Jones for a re-test.

4. Activities

1. What types of activities will my camper engage in?

- a. To go into more detail about the above special activities I mentioned at the top of the page. Campers will design T-shirts, cook healthy snacks, create science & art projects, and play a variety of sports (ex: basketball, tennis, soccer, volleyball, baseball). Campers will also participate in theatrical arts (props, set making, costumes, etc.), dance, singing and various other traditional camp games.

2. How much of the day is spent outside?

- a. We find it important to keep our campers moving. Campers will get a decent amount of active time indoors as well, as the church has a large amount of movement space.

3. What will be done if my camper does not want to participate in an activity? Are there are alternate activities/options planned?

- a. Our staff does an awesome job of creating unique activities that keeps our campers engaged. If a child doesn't want to participate then we have other options. Please have parents contact me on this question. It depends on specifics.

4. How much "free time" will my camper have?

- a. Our campers have independence and make their own decisions about what they would like to do at least for 45 minutes a day. This is typically done at Club Time or Free Choice depending on the schedule for that day

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5. Camper Groups

1. How are groups determined?
 - Groups at SOMAPY are determined by age/grade level they are in. Campers in each group will typically stay together until club-time and/or swim because they are working towards earning our coveted spirit award for their group.
2. What efforts will be made to ensure my camper makes friends in a new camp group?
 - SOMAPY has the best spirit and allows for kids to stay connected. Throughout the summer we have special events that allow for kids to bond and have a positive experience. Our camp also has a "Team Building specialist who helps the kids meet new friends throughout the summer.
 - Campers learn to encourage and root for each other during the days activities. Using different games, activities and workshops really make all the difference. If any challenges arise between campers, our camp specialist along with senior counselor will address them as needed. Each specialist is trained in facilitating a group with the assistance of the group's senior and junior counselor, so their main priority is to help their cast bond.
3. What are the camp ratios?
 - **Groups 1-6 1:8**
 - **Groups 7-10 1:10**
4. What is the maximum number of campers in each camp group?
 - Campers are grouped by age/level. Staffing depends on number of campers in each. We have no more than 12 kids in our younger groups and max out at 20 for our older campers each week.

6. Theme Weeks, Trips, & Special Events

1. What trips will my camper be going on this summer?
 - **TBD:**