



Protecting Long Island Sound Through Education for Over 20 Years

SoundWaters | Cove Island Park | 1281 Cove Road | Stamford, CT 06902 | www.soundwaters.org | 203 323 1978

Hello Young Mariners Academy Families!

Welcome to Young Mariners Academy 2019! I am honored and excited to be your Young Mariners Academy Director again this summer, and I look forward to sharing the new adventures and memories our instructors have prepared for our campers this year.

We strive to make Young Mariners Academy a place that feels like family. Whether it's your child's first Young Mariners Academy experience or fourth summer with us, we want your child to enjoy a positive experience where they can discover new things about themselves, learn to sail, explore their environment, and create life-long memories.

To help prepare your student to become a Young Mariner, we have created a Parent Guide. This guide is designed to answer all your questions regarding what to bring, camp schedule, drop off/pick up, and other important information. If you have questions not addressed in the guide, especially if you are a first-time Young Mariners family, please feel free to reach out to me at any time!

I'm looking forward to another amazing summer and can't wait to see you all soon!

Christian Witschy
Young Mariners Academy Director

cwitschy@soundwaters.org





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Hello Young Mariners Academy Families!

We are so glad you have chosen Young Mariners Academy (YMA) this summer! This Parent Guide contains everything you and your child need to know about YMA, including important information about SoundWaters operations, daily schedules, and what your child should bring everyday. We are also including all relevant forms.

Daily Schedule*

Every day is a little different at Young Mariners Academy, but the schedule below outlines how YMA flows:

- 8:30-9:00 Early Drop Off (requires sign up)
- 9:00 - 9:30 Morning Meeting
- 9:30 -12:00 Sailing Instruction or Land-based Learning Activities
- 12:00-12:30 Lunch
- 12:30-3:30 Land-based Learning Activities or Sailing Instruction
- 3:30-4:00 Reflection Activities/Packing Up
- 4:00– Pick up

Keep up to date on your favorite
Instructors, students, and YMA
activities on Instagram
(@youngmariners) Twitter
(@YoungMariners) and Facebook

View Individualized Division Schedule on Website

We strive to have great communication with parents and our students. We ask you to assist us in that way by letting us know any relevant information that will help us care for your child. We especially want to hear from you when:

- Your child will be ABSENT from YMA
- Someone other than a parent or guardian will be picking up your child. For safety reasons we can not release your child to anyone you have not specifically identified to us.
- If your child will be leaving EARLY from YMA

Sign in/ Sign Out Procedure

Sign-in/sign-out will take place at the **Young Mariners Campus** in Boccuzzi Park, Stamford.

In order to enter Boccuzzi Park you will need a SoundWaters parking pass. The parking pass for your session(s) will be mailed to you in advance, and the pass must be on your car dashboard. If you lose your pass or need additional passes - you can pick them up on the first day of camp. SoundWaters is not responsible for any fines and cannot help in your negotiations with the city of Stamford.

Please do your best to have your child signed in on time. We begin our activities right away and we wouldn't want anyone to miss out on any of the fun!

Please have your ID with you at sign out. Please be advised we can only release a student to someone 18 years of age or older.

Late Pickup Policy

Young Mariners Academy hours are 9:00am -4:00pm. It is important that students are picked up on time at their allotted time as we schedule staff accordingly. Student drop off can be as early as 8:30am and pick up as late as 4:30pm.



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Paperwork and Medications

SoundWaters is licensed by the State of Connecticut to operate our camp. Licensed camps administering medications to children must comply with all requirements in the CT State Statutes and Regulations. Parents/guardians requesting that medication be administered to their child while at camp must provide SoundWaters with appropriate written authorization before any medications can be administered. **Medications must be in the original container and labeled with child's name, name of medication, directions for medication's administration, and date of the prescription.**

The required forms are available as part of this handbook. You can also find links to the forms on our website or by logging into your online account. Young Mariners Academy accepts paperwork via email, mail, or fax.

Please be sure to provide the required forms to SoundWaters by June 1. Unfortunately, we can not allow your child to be at camp if there are missing or incomplete forms.

Weather

Young Mariners Academy is open regardless of weather-RAIN, SHINE, WIND, or NO WIND! We will limit on the water activity if we deem the conditions unsafe. While in the buildings, students enjoy a variety of fun activities.

Water Safety

All children in any small boat sailing program are required to wear life jackets at all times. Young Mariners Academy will provide an appropriately sized, USCG approved life jacket for all students.

We want your child to enjoy his/her time on and near the water. We begin this summer with a required swim check to help us gauge your child's comfort level in the water.

Your child does NOT have to be a fast swimmer. However he/she must be comfortable in the water and be able to swim short distances.



Gear List

Part of having fun at YMA is having the right gear. Your child will need to bring with them the items listed below every day. Please label everything with your child's name. SoundWaters is not responsible for any lost personal items.

- **Reusable Water Bottle (please, no plastic water bottles)**
- **Swim Suit (Your child can arrive in his/her swimsuit)**
- **Change of clothes**
- **Towel**
- **Hat**
- **Closed-toe-water shoes (no flip flops or Crocs)**
- **Healthy lunch & snacks (will be refrigerated)**
- **Sunscreen (please apply before arriving also)**
- **Rain gear (weather dependent)**
- **Sneakers (optional)**

Please do not send toys, electronic games or trading cards.



Young Mariners Academy Miscellaneous

Food Allergies: We will be alert to your child's food allergy and will make every effort to help your child avoid exposure. However due to the public nature of our location **we cannot guarantee that any area is peanut/nut free.** If your child should have an allergic reaction while at YMA, medication will be administered by a SoundWaters staff member who is certified and trained to do so.

Instructors and Staff: Young Mariners Academy staff come from a variety of backgrounds and experiences. Our instructors are all teachers in Stamford Public Schools. They all share a passion for working with young people and providing a safe, fun, memorable summer experience. Our summer staff attends a multi-day intensive training before the beginning of YMA that includes CPR, First Aid, SoundWaters marine education, teaching skills, swimming safety, canoe training, and mandated reporter certification.

QUESTIONS?

Please contact

For Registration: Olena Czebinak at (203) 406-3319 or e-mail camp@soundwaters.org.

For YMA Day to Day Information: Christian Witschy, Director, cwitschy@soundwaters.org or (203) 348- 9000