

# Superior String Alliance

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## 2022 Camp Handbook & Student Code of Conduct

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Founded in 1984, the Superior String Alliance is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that supports the art of learning and performing music on the violin, viola, cello, and bass throughout Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

SSA teaches the U.P.'s next generation of string players, connects musicians from all over the U.P. and beyond, and grows young musicians' artistry by fostering a community built on curiosity and kindness.

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**SSA Camp Location:**

Presbytery Point Camp  
211 Brown Beach Road  
Michigamme, MI 49861

**SSA Main Office Location:**

112 W. Washington Street  
Suite H  
Marquette, MI 49855

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**Website:** [superiorstringalliance.org](http://superiorstringalliance.org)

**Phone Number:** 225-244-9059

**Email:** [admin@superiorstringalliance.org](mailto:admin@superiorstringalliance.org)

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# Letter to Camp Families

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Hello SSA Families!

We are delighted to share with you that SSA will have in-person programming this summer! This year we will be returning to our picturesque location at Presbytery Point Camp in Michigamme, Michigan for our regular sleep-away camp.

As you well know, the Covid-19 situation is dynamic and ever-changing. SSA is doing its absolute best to keep everyone safe while we operate during a summer of transition. It is SSA's intention to run our normal sleep-away camp sessions at Presbytery Point in summer 2022 and many future summers beyond. This summer, SSA will be adhering to a new set of COVID-19 policies, which you can review in this document.

Over the past 35 years, one key to SSA's success has been the significant investment we make in earning and maintaining the trust of parents and students alike. Facilitating a fun and musical experience in a physically and emotionally safe environment is our priority.

This handbook includes information that will ensure camp is full of fun and wonderful memories. Please read it carefully and let us know if you have questions or need any additional information. We can't wait to see all of those smiling faces and work with enthusiastic and musical campers! See you soon!

Sincerely,  
Dani



**Danielle Simandl**  
**Executive Director, Superior String Alliance**  
(she/her/hers)  
225.244.9059 [admin@superiorstringalliance.org](mailto:admin@superiorstringalliance.org)

[Facebook](#) / [Instagram](#) / [Youtube](#)



# SSA Camp Mission and Values

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## Overview

SSA Camp is a place where everyone can play, learn, and grow toward being their best selves. Our team of driven and talented staff love learning together with campers.

## Mission

SSA teaches the U.P.'s next generation of string players, connects musicians from all over the U.P. and beyond, and grows young musicians' artistry by fostering a community built on curiosity and kindness.

## Values

- We model and teach self-awareness and empathy
- Everyone deserves to be witnessed, heard, and respected
- In music, we're all life-long learners
- Learning should be filled with creativity, curiosity, and laughter

# 2022 SSA Summer Camp Calendar

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SSA Summer Camp is open to students who currently play violin, viola, cello, or bass. Camp Vivace and Camp Presto are sleep-away camp sessions for students and Camp Grande is a day camp for adults.

Below are the check-in and check-out times for Camp Vivace and Camp Presto. Please arrive no earlier than 1pm when checking in your child for Camp Vivace and Camp Presto, as we will not be ready until 1pm.

## **Camp Vivace:**

- Presbytery Point Camp – Michigamme, MI
- Check-in: Monday, July 18, 1pm - 3pm
- Check-out: Sunday, July 24, 8pm
- For students who will be in grades 9 – 12 in the Fall of 2022, and for graduating seniors in the class of 2022.

## **Camp Presto:**

- Presbytery Point Camp – Michigamme, MI
- Check-in: Tuesday, July 26, 1pm - 3pm
- Check-out: Saturday, July 30, 8pm
- For students who will be in grades 6 – 8 in the Fall of 2022.

## **Camp Grande:**

- Presbytery Point Camp – Michigamme, MI
- Sunday, July 31st, 11am – 4pm
- For adult students, beginner – advanced level

# Concert Schedule

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## **Camp Vivace**

Sunday, July 24 @ 7pm: Camp Vivace Final Concert

## **Camp Presto**

Saturday, July 30 @ 7pm: Camp Presto Final Concert

## **Concert Attendance**

Camper family members and friends are invited to attend the SSA Camp final performances. **All persons must wear a mask while attending these performances.** This masking policy is for the safety of all camp participants and to ensure that camp staff stay healthy to work at future camp sessions during the summer.

# Check-in & Check-out Policy

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All campers must be signed in and out of camp by their legal guardians or authorized adults who have been listed in their registration forms.

## **Arrival/Departure Times:**

Please arrive no earlier than 1pm when checking in your child for Camp Vivace and Camp Presto, as we will not be ready until 1pm.

## **Early Camper Removal:**

Early check-out is prohibited unless there is an emergency. In that case, it must be discussed with Danielle Simandl (SSA Executive Director) and April Hickey or Adam Hall (SSA Camp Directors). All SSA campers participate in a final concert right before check-out time.

**\*All persons must wear a mask during Check-In and Check-Out procedures.**

## **Check - in Process:**

We promise to keep check-in as streamlined as possible so that you can be on your merry way in about a half hour. Here's how check-in will work:

- Check in with the Camp Director in or near the Dining Hall and get cabin assignment (there will be signs directing you where to go).
- Sign up for audition time.
- Check in with Camp Nurse in or near the Dining Hall and
  - Drop off any medications.
  - Take a rapid COVID-19 test.
- Drop off any special food to Camp Cook (this is for campers with major food allergies who have made prior food arrangements with SSA).
- After a negative COVID-19 test result, campers can move into their assigned cabin.
- Time for campers to audition! More audition info found below.

## **Check - out Process:**

- After the final concert, check out with Camp Director in or near the Dining Hall.
- Pick up medications from Camp Nurse in or near the Dining Hall.
- Help your child move out of their assigned cabin.

# Tuition

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**High School Session, Camp Vivace:** \$700

**Middle School Session, Camp Presto:** \$500

**Adult Session, Camp Grande:** \$100

- Tuition is due in full by the day before your camp session begins.
- Tuition payments: we would prefer if you are able to mail a check made out to 'Superior String Alliance' to our address at P.O. Box 52, Marquette, MI 49855. If you need to pay tuition via debit or credit card, you can pay online via our [Paypal donation page](#). Please send us an email letting us know that you paid online and the name of your child.

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## Financial Assistance Policy

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Every child deserves the opportunity to attend camp, no matter what their circumstances may be.

- Scholarships are available, please apply in the online registration form.
- If you are applying for a scholarship, you will receive an email from SSA within one business day of submitting your registration form letting you know the scholarship amount we are able to give you.



## Contact Info:

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**Danielle Simandl, SSA Executive Director & Music Director**

**Email:** [admin@superiorstringalliance.org](mailto:admin@superiorstringalliance.org)

**Cell:** 225-244-9059

**April Hickey & Adam Hall, SSA Camp Directors**

**Email:** [admin@superiorstringalliance.org](mailto:admin@superiorstringalliance.org)

**Cell:** 225-244-9059

**Jenna Thompson, Presbytery Point Executive Director**

**Email:** [director@presbyterypoint.org](mailto:director@presbyterypoint.org)

**Cell:** 906-869-0925

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## Camp Location:

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SSA Summer Music Camp takes place at Presbytery Point Camp.

Presbytery Point's address is:

211 Brown Road

Michigamme, MI 49861

The camp is located off of M-28/US 41 between Champion and Michigamme.

# Directions:

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**Going north** on M-95, turn left (west) on M-28/US 41.

**Going west** on M-28/US 41, continue through Champion. The camp road is about 4 miles west of Van Riper State Park. You will cross the Peshekee River and pass Michigamme Shores Campground. You will turn left (south) onto Brown Road. Stay on Brown Road, taking the right fork and following the road to the end. Presbytery Point has a sign over the entry road to camp. We will also have our black and white SSA sign on the turnoff from the highway.

**Going east** on M-28/US 41, you will pass by Michigamme. Continue east about 1 mile on M-28/US 41 watching for the "Camp Michigamme" sign, then the Methodist Church. Brown Road is the next road to the right (south). It comes very quickly after the church. Turn right (south) onto Brown Road, taking the right fork and following the road to the end. Presbytery Point has a sign over the entry road to camp. We will also have our black and white SSA sign on the turnoff from the highway.

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# Camper Mail:

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We suggest that parents who want to send letters/packages for campers bring the letters/packages to the SSA staff during camp check-in. Postal mail delivery can be slow, and Presbytery Point has been getting camper mail the week after campers leave. We can hand out letters and packages throughout the week if they are given to us at check-in time!

But FYI, the mailing address for Presbytery Point is:

<Full Camper Name>  
Presbytery Point Camp  
HC 1 Box 2030  
Michigamme, MI 49861

# Tips from the Pros

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Ahhhhhh, summertime... The sun is shining, birds are chirping, and dozens of kids are romping around camp. Summer is the heart of SSA's mission and programming. More kids, more staff, more string music and creativity!

- On the first day of camp, you'll be asked to confirm contact and health information about your child(ren).
- Please allow a little extra time for drop off on the first day of camp.
- It's not unusual for some children to have a hard time saying goodbye. One thing to remember is that a drawn-out goodbye makes the transition harder for some kids. Most campers recover quickly and end up having a good day. If there are any ongoing concerns, we'll be sure to call.
- Remember your sunscreen and insect repellent!
- Please label your child's clothes and belongings with names or initials.

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# Cancellation Policy

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Registration Cancellations: SSA Camp offers these refund options upon written request and in accordance with the following timeline:

- More than 1 day prior to the first day of camp: You will be issued a full refund, minus a \$25 non-refundable deposit.
- Less than 1 day prior to the first day of your registered session, through the end of the camp session you are registered for: partial refund based on days attended minus a \$25 non-refundable deposit.
- **Covid Cancellation Policy:** if SSA Camp is canceled due to a camp-wide COVID-19 outbreak, everyone will be issued a partial refund based on days attended minus a \$25 non-refundable deposit.

Exceptions can be made at the discretion of SSA.

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# What to Bring to Camp

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## **Camp Stuff:**

- 1 fresh cloth or single use mask for each day, plus 2 extra masks
- Sleeping bag/bedding & pillow
- Two towels
- Water bottle
- Personal bathroom items
- Swimsuit
- Flashlight
- Bug spray
- Sunscreen
- Book to read
- Notebook
- Pencils/Pens
- Ear plugs (useful if your child is a light sleeper)
- Umbrella/poncho/raincoat
- Clothing for hot and cool weather (this is the U.P., after all!)
- Clothes and close-toed shoes that *will* be permanently altered (for messy field games like paint tag)
- Second pair of shoes in case first pair gets wet
- Shower flip-flops, which can double as water shoes or beach footwear like flip-flops; the waterfront/beach at Presbytery Point is a bit rocky
- Concert dress will be an SSA tie-dyed T-shirt received and made at camp

## **Music Stuff:**

- Fully functional instrument
- Bow
- Shoulder rest/sponge for violin/viola
- Cello rockstop/strap

- Rosin
- Pencils
- Audition music (more info below)
- Solo music (or any music) to work on in private lessons
- Metronome (if you have one!)
- Wire Stand (if you have one!)

**Camp Vivace students:**

Bring piano accompaniment sheet music if you are auditioning to play a solo for the Final Concert and your solo has a piano accompaniment. If you are selected to perform a solo, SSA will provide a pianist to play with you and rehearsal time before the concert.

**What to LEAVE at Home:**

Campers **may not** bring the following items: cell phone, other electronic devices (laptop, iPod etc.), knives, lighters or matches, fireworks, firearms, and large amounts of cash (campers won't need money for any reason while they are at camp). This is for the safety of both the campers and their treasured belongings.

**Disposable cameras or non-phone cameras are acceptable.**

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## First Day Auditions

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- All Camp Presto and Camp Vivace campers will audition for orchestra and chamber ensemble placement when they get to camp.
  - The purpose of these auditions is to let us better understand each student's needs for the best private teacher and chamber music placement.
- How auditions work:
  - Parents/campers will sign up for an audition time when they check in to camp.

- Each audition will last for 3-5 minutes.
- Auditions will consist of:
  - Any kind of music the student has prepared (solos, orchestra music, scales, etc)
  - Sight-reading
  - Camp Vivace students wishing to audition for an Honors Solo for the Final Concert: bring piano accompaniment sheet music if you are auditioning to play a solo for the Final Concert and your solo has a piano accompaniment. Bring a copy of the solo sheet music if it is unaccompanied. If you are selected to perform a solo, SSA will provide a pianist to play with you and rehearsal time before the concert.
- Contact Danielle Simandl with any questions at [admin@superiorstringalliance.org](mailto:admin@superiorstringalliance.org)
- If your child has questions about the audition and does not have a private teacher, please contact Danielle Simandl.

### **Camp Vivace Honors Solo Performance:**

Camp Vivace campers will have the opportunity to audition to play a solo at the Final Concert during their first-day audition. This is a special opportunity for Camp Vivace campers to perform a prepared solo. Plan for an additional 5 minutes added to your audition time if you plan on auditioning for an Honors Solo performance. If you choose to audition for an Honors solo, please bring your sheet music as well as **the piano accompaniment sheet music**. If your solo is unaccompanied please bring a second copy of your solo sheet music for the audition panel to see while you audition. Vivace campers are NOT required to audition for an Honors solo but are highly encouraged!

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# Prescription and Nonprescription Medication Policy

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The SSA Camp Nurse may only administer medication to a camper with written authorization from a parent or guardian within the registration form. The Camp Nurse will keep meticulous notes on all administered medications in the SSA Camp Medical Log.

- Campers are not allowed to deliver medications. Please register all medications, prescription and non-prescription, directly with the Nurse during check in.
- At least one dose of medication must be administered at home before any medication can be administered at camp. (With the exception of any emergency-use medication such as inhalers, epi-pens, etc.)
- Prescription medications must be in the original container bearing a pharmacy prescription label that displays:
  - Patient's name
  - Prescribing physician's name
  - Directions for use (dosage, frequency, route of administration)
  - Date filled
  - Expiration date
- Non-prescription medication must also be provided in the original container that includes directions for use. Medication will only be administered in accordance with the written directions.

# Camper Safety

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Physical and emotional safety is always our first priority. We ensure quality programs through:

- Competitive hiring practices that result in a dedicated, responsible, and caring staff.
  - Thorough background checks on all staff.
  - Extensive staff training on child development, behavior management, emergency response, bullying prevention, and more.
  - At least 2 staff for every 8 campers.
  - Educating campers about common hazards in the camp environment (e.g. poison ivy, biting/stinging insects, snakes, ticks).
  - An organizational emphasis on engagement that places our experienced staff right next to your child while they learn, connect, and play.
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# Water Safety

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SSA Camp/Presbytery Point only offers swimming at the designated water-front area at the Presbytery Point Camp. Firm, clear boundaries and water safety rules will be explained to campers at the outset of swim time each day. Certified lifeguards and the Camp Nurse will always be on duty during swim time. Each camper and staff member is required to take a swimming assessment in order to get in the water .

While swimming, campers will always:

- Be in full sight of trained, certified lifeguards, the Camp Nurse, and extra counselors
- Routinely practice safety drills and use the “buddy” system
- Be permitted to swim in appropriate designated swimming areas corresponding to swimming ability
- Have multiple opportunities to retake their swimming assessment under lifeguard supervision



# COVID-19 Safety Policy

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SSA takes the health and safety of our employees and program participants very seriously. The current worldwide coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and associated government-mandated operational phases and similar orders in many communities underscore the risks associated with any programming. SSA is committed to remaining vigilant in mitigating this outbreak. To accomplish this, we ask parents/guardians to please understand that:

1. All SSA Camp staff members and SSA campers will be required to test negative for COVID-19 when arriving at camp. SSA will provide and administer rapid tests on SSA's campus during check-in.
2. SSA Camp participants are not required to have the COVID-19 vaccine and SSA requires parents to submit a complete, up-to-date vaccination/immunization record for their child as a part of the camp health record. This is an official document from your doctor's office that notes the comprehensive set of **all** vaccinations that your child may or may not have.
3. All SSA Camp participants will complete a Daily Symptom Screener while at camp, and continue to take rapid tests.
4. The presence of any of the symptoms below generally suggests a child has an infectious illness and should not attend camp, regardless of whether the illness is COVID-19. For campers with chronic conditions, a positive screening should represent a change from their typical health status.
  - TEMPERATURE of 100 degrees Fahrenheit or higher
  - Sore throat
  - Cough (for campers with chronic cough to to allergies or asthma, a change in their cough from baseline)
  - Difficulty breathing (for children with asthma, a change from their baseline breathing)
  - Diarrhea or vomiting
  - New onset of severe headache, especially with a fever
5. Campers should also stay home if they:
  - Are in quarantine due to exposure to an individual with a confirmed case of COVID-19 or
  - Have other signs of illness

6. All SSA Camp participants will be asked to wear a cloth or disposable mask that covers the mouth and nose during all indoor activities except meals and sleeping during the first day of camp.
7. All SSA Camp participants should bring enough masks in order to have a fresh, clean mask to use each day they are at camp, including one or two extra. Extra disposable masks for all participants will be available in the Health Office as needed.
8. Masking outside is optional for all SSA Camp participants during small group activities on the first day, as long as proper social distancing is being practiced.
9. Masking outside is required for large group or whole-camp activities on the first day.
10. On the day of Check-Out attendees of the final performances will be limited to immediate family or designated pick-up persons only. **All persons attending performances will be required to wear a mask.**
11. **All persons must wear a mask during Check-In and Check-Out procedures.**

## SSA Camper Code of Conduct

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Hello Campers!

By reading the SSA Camper Code of Conduct with your parent/guardian and by your parent/guardian signing the Code of Conduct authorization in your registration form, you are agreeing to abide by SSA rules and understand that you may be removed as a participant if you violate any of these rules.

### **BULLYING AND HARASSMENT POLICY**

Harassment is prohibited between members of the SSA community, including communication of any form between campers, parents, faculty and/or staff, and any third parties directly or indirectly. We are committed to maintaining a working and learning environment in which participants can develop intellectually, professionally, personally and socially. Bullying and harassment will not be tolerated and shall be just cause for disciplinary action.

Below are examples of poor behaviors that are prohibited, but are not limited to this list. These behaviors will result in disciplinary action.

- Abusive language towards a staff member or another participant.
- Verbal, physical, or visual harassment of another participant or staff member.
- Actual or threatened violence toward any individual or group.
- Conduct endangering the life, safety, health or well-being of others.
- Bullying or taking unfair advantage of any participant.
- Failing to cooperate with a staff member.
- Sending or posting discriminatory, harassing, or threatening messages or images.
- Sending or posting messages that defame or slander other individuals.
- Recording any class session and transmitting it.
- Recording your teacher and/or fellow students.
- Participation in cyber-bullying and/or harassment.

#### **PHOTO AND VIDEO POLICY**

It is really important to remember that only SSA is allowed to photograph or record students during virtual and in-person class activities. This rule is for the safety of everyone. So please understand that:

- Only designated SSA staff are allowed to record and photograph any SSA activities.
- Only designated SSA staff are allowed to transmit any recording or photograph of any classes.

#### **SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY**

*At Superior String Alliance we understand that the internet and social media platforms are continually changing, but there are certain principles that remain constant. To ensure that Superior String Alliance remains an emotionally safe and supportive environment for all participants the following policies are in place. Failure to comply with the policies listed below may result in disciplinary action.*

- Students under 18 years of age and/or who have not graduated from high school will refrain from friending or following staff members' private social media accounts.
- Staff will refrain from friending or following the private social media accounts of students under 18 years of age and/or who have not graduated from high school.

- No communication between staff and students will occur in private messages on social media.
- All pictures and recordings of SSA activities with campers can only be posted through SSA social media pages. You are more than welcome to share SSA's social media posts on your own social media accounts.

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## Behavior Management and Discipline Policy

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Our primary goal is to maintain a physically, emotionally, and intellectually safe environment for all participants. Our role in any behavior management situation is to promote the camper's safety, comfort, and growth. We strive to prevent problematic behaviors and we avoid punishment as it removes a growth opportunity. Being proactive and preventative, using proximity and positive messages, and giving specific feedback are constant themes throughout staff training and are easily seen in our daily interactions with children. We also try to identify what may be driving the behaviors. Is the camper hungry? Angry? Lonely? Tired?

Disrespectful behavior is often a precursor to unsafe behavior. To keep children safe, we strive to identify and redirect disrespectful behavior as it occurs. When redirection is unsuccessful or when instances of unsafe conduct occur, we follow these general steps:

1. Reconnect with the camper - stop talking and listen, communicate calmly, validate their feelings, reflect what we hear. We will reiterate or clarify expectations, making sure they understand, and let them know the next steps.
2. Give the camper a clear verbal warning.
3. Remove the camper from the group to have a longer conversation. Engage the camper with leading questions that get them to think about what's going on. e.g. "Tell me what happened?" "What do you think should happen now?" Throughout, we will maintain

connection with the camper in whatever way is comfortable and appropriate for that particular camper.

4. If the unacceptable behavior continues, or if the camper threatens the emotional or physical safety of themselves or anyone else, our staff will contact you (the parent/guardian) to build an agreed-upon action plan.

Any instance of direct physical, emotional, or sexual harm will result in the immediate removal of the camper from the group and a call home. Such instances could result in expulsion from camp. No refund will be given in such cases.

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## Make a Tax Deductible Donation to the SSA Camper Scholarship Fund

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Every child deserves the opportunity to attend SSA programming, no matter what their financial circumstances may be. SSA provides opportunities to break down all sorts of barriers and build bridges of understanding. Generous donations to SSA's Scholarship Fund allow kids to participate in our programs when they might not otherwise have the opportunity. With donor and grant support, we can help students from all walks of life:

- Make new friends.
- Have fun and create.
- Learn about music and make connections with the world around them.
- Try and succeed at doing new things outside their comfort zone.
- Become more kind, curious, and confident.

Let's work together to make SSA an equal opportunity life-changer for any child who wants to participate in our programs! This year has been financially hard for many people, and nonprofits have taken a pretty big hit as well. If you are able to donate to SSA, please know that all amounts are deeply appreciated.

You can make a one-time or recurring monthly donation on our secure website:  
<https://superiorstringalliance.org/donate/>

Or you can send a check to: PO Box 52, Marquette, MI 49855

Superior String Alliance is an IRS designated 501(c)3 non-profit corporation. Our Federal Tax ID number is 38-2938444.

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# Volunteer

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Looking for a way to support SSA with your time or expertise? Send an email to [Admin@SuperiorStringAlliance.Org](mailto:Admin@SuperiorStringAlliance.Org) to find out more about how to get involved!