

## 2025 Summer Music Camp Handbook & Student Code of Conduct



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.

#### **SSA Main Office Location:**

112 W. Washington Street, Suite H Marquette, MI 49855 **Website:** superiorstringalliance.org **Phone Number:** 225-244-9059

Email: admin@superiorstringalliance.org

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Letter to Camp Families	3
SSA Camp Mission and Values	4
2025 SSA Summer Camp Calendar	5
Chamber Music Day Camp Info	6
Camp Vivace & Camp Presto (sleep-away camps) Info	7
Concert Schedule	8
Check-in & Check-out Policy	9 - 10
Tuition & Financial Assistance Policy	11
Contact Info & Camp Locations	12
Camper Mail (Camp Vivace & Camp Presto)	13
Tips from the Pros	13
Cancellation Policy	14 - 15
What to Bring to Sleep-away Camp (Camp Vivace & Camp Presto)	15 - 16
Auditions (Camp Vivace & Camp Presto)	17
Prescription and Nonprescription Medications Policy	18
Camper Safety & Water Safety	19
COVID-19 and Communicable Disease Safety Policy	10 - 21
SSA Camper Code of Conduct	21 - 22
Behavior Management and Discipline Policy	23
How to Donate	24
Volunteer	24

# Letter to Camp Families

Hello SSA Families!

We are delighted to see you this summer! This year, SSA will host sleep-away camp sessions at the new and beautiful location of Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp in Crystal Falls, Michigan. Additionally, SSA will host a one-week chamber music day camp session in Marquette, Michigan.

As you well know, the COVID-19 situation is dynamic and ever-changing. SSA will do its absolute best to keep everyone safe while we operate this summer. SSA will be adhering to a set of COVID-19 policies, which you can review in this document.

Over the past 39 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

<u> Facebook</u> / <u>Instagram</u> / <u>Youtube</u>



# SSA Camp Mission and Values



## **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

# 2025 SSA Summer Camp Calendar

SSA Summer Music Camp is open to students who currently play violin, viola, cello, or bass. Camp Presto and Camp Vivace are sleep-away camp sessions for students in grades 6 - 8 and 9 - 12, and Chamber Music Day Camp is for students in grades 4 - 12.

\*Note: 6th graders who wish to attend sleep-away session Camp Presto should have at least six months of note-reading experience.

## SSA Chamber Music Day Camp

- St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Marquette, MI
- Monday, July 21 Friday, July 25
- 9am 12pm each day (ET), and final concert at 6:30pm on July 25
- For students who will be in grades 4 12 in the fall of 2025 and who already have experience playing violin, viola, cello, or bass. Students will be organized into chamber groups based on level of ability.
- Tuition: \$250

## SSA Camp Vivace (high school sleep-away camp)

- Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp, Crystal Falls, MI
- Check-in: Monday, August 4, 1pm 2pm CT (*Crystal Falls is in the central time zone*)
- Check-out: Friday, August 8, 5pm CT
- For students who will be in grades 9 12 in the fall of 2025, and for graduating seniors in the class of 2025. Must have experience playing violin, viola, cello, or bass.
- Tuition: \$850

## SSA Camp Presto (middle school sleep-away camp)

- Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp, Crystal Falls, MI
- Check-in: Sunday, August 10, 1pm 2pm CT (Crystal Falls is in the central time zone)
- Check-out: Wednesday, August 13, 5pm CT
- For students who will be in grades 6 8 in the fall of 2025. Must have experience playing violin, viola, cello, or bass.
- Tuition: \$680

# Chamber Music Day Camp Info

What: SSA Chamber Music Day Camp

Dates: Monday, July 21 - Friday July 25, 2025

Times: 9am - 12pm every day, and 6:30pm concert on Friday, July 25

Where: St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Marquette, Michigan

**Participants:** Students who will be in grades 4 - 12 in the fall of 2025 who already have

experience playing violin, viola, cello, or bass.

**Level:** Beginner to advanced **Number of students:** 12 - 20

Instruments: violin, viola, cello, and bass

Faculty: Dani Simandl (violin, viola), Ben Campbell (violin, viola), Adam Hall (cello), Harry

South (bass).

**Activities:** Chamber groups (small groups without a conductor) organized by ability level, technique and musicianship workshops, chamber music masterclasses, final camper concert.

**Overall characteristics:** Helpful, challenging, encouraging, supportive, and sometimes a bit goofv.

Tuition: \$250

#### Other notes:

- SSA will supply chairs and stands. Campers should bring their violin, viola, cello, or bass with case, bow, and rosin.
- Ensure that your child brings a snack and full water bottle each day.
- Students should only have phones for emergency purposes if students have cell phones they will be required to put them away for the duration of class.
- We expect students to be focused, respectful, and mindful of their own and others' safety. We will go over our safety procedures on the first day, and students will be expected to follow the instructions. Staff will not be able to drive students anywhere.

# Camp Vivace & Camp Presto (sleep-away camps) Info

### **SSA CAMP VIVACE**

Dates: Monday August 4 - Friday August 8, 2025

**Check-in:** Monday, August 4, 1pm – 2pm CT (Crystal Falls is in the central time zone)

Check-out: Friday, August 8, 5pm CT

**Participants:** students who will be in grades 9 – 12 in the fall of 2025, and for graduating

seniors in the class of 2025. Must have experience playing violin, viola, cello, or bass.

Level: Intermediate to advanced

Tuition: \$850

#### SSA CAMP PRESTO

Dates: Sunday, August 10 - Wednesday, August 13, 2025

Check-in: Sunday, August 10, 1pm – 2pm CT (Crystal Falls is in the central time zone)

Check-out: Wednesday, August 13, 5pm CT

**Participants:** Students who will be in grades 6 - 8 in the fall of 2025 who already have

experience playing violin, viola, cello, or bass.

Level: Fundamental to intermediate

**Tuition:** \$680

## **BOTH SSA CAMP VIVACE & SSA CAMP PRESTO**

**Where:** Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp, Crystal Falls, Michigan

Number of students: 25 - 40

**Instruments:** violin, viola, cello, and bass **Faculty:** 15 - 25 professional string musicians

**Activities:** Orchestra, more orchestra, private lessons, chamber groups, improvisation

workshops, bonfire, fun camp activities, final camper concert

**Overall characteristics:** Challenging, pushing students to do their best, intense, yet

encouraging and very supportive, and often a bit goofy

## **Concert Schedule**

## **Chamber Music Day Camp**

- Chamber Music Day Camp Final Concert:
  - Friday, July 25 @ 6:30pm ET: St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Marquette, MI

## **Camp Vivace**

- Camp Vivace Final Concert:
  - Friday, August 8 @ 4pm CT: Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp

## **Camp Presto**

- Camp Presto Final Concert:
  - Wednesday, August 13 @ 4pm CT: Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp

## **Concert Attendance**

Camper family members and friends are invited and encouraged to attend the SSA Camp performances! FYI, Crystal Falls is in the Central Time Zone!

# Check-in & Check-out Policy

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.

## CHAMBER MUSIC DAY CAMP Check-in and Check-out

Check-in and check-out procedures will be quick for Chamber Music Day Camp. Parents are required to sign in their child every morning and notify us as to who we should expect for pick-up. Please drop off your child no earlier than 8:45am ET and no later than 8:55am ET; please also be timely in picking up your child after class and notify us of any delays via the SSA phone number (225-244-9059).

## Check-in process:

- Walk with your child to the check-in station (you'll see us next to a big SSA sign).
- You will then initial a sign-in sheet and let us know who to expect to pick your child up at check-out.
- Your child can then walk inside and get set up.

## Check-out process:

- Walk to the check-out station.
- Initial a sign-out sheet once your child is packed up and ready to go.

# CAMP VIVACE & CAMP PRESTO (SLEEP-AWAY CAMPS) Fortune Lake Check-in and Check-out

## **Arrival/Departure Times:**

Please arrive no earlier than 1pm CT when checking in your child for Camp Vivace and Camp Presto, as we will not be ready until 1pm CT. Please arrive no later than 1:45pm CT.

## **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.

### **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 (there will be signs and people directing you where to go).
  - Take a rapid COVID-19 test.
  - After presenting a negative COVID-19 test result, campers will receive a cabin assignment from the Camp Director.
  - If a camper tests positive for COVID-19 they will be sent home right away.
- Check in with the Camp Nurse in or near the Dining Hall.
  - Drop off any medications.
- Drop off any special food to Camp Cook (this is for campers with major food allergies who have made prior food arrangements with SSA).

## **Check-out Process:**

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

## **Tuition**

**Camp Vivace** (Sleep-away high school session, Grades 9 - 12): \$850 **Camp Presto** (Sleep-away middle school session, Grades 6 - 8): \$680 **Chamber Music Day Camp** (Grades 4 - 12): \$250

- Tuition due date:
  - Tuition is due in full by June 30, 2025.
- How to pay tuition:
  - We strongly prefer checks or money orders for tuition payments. If you are able, please mail a check or money order made out to 'Superior String Alliance' to our address at P.O. Box 52, Marquette, MI 49855. If you absolutely need to pay tuition via debit or credit card, you are able to pay online via our Paypal donation page. In order to offset Paypal fees, we request that you please add 2% of your tuition bill to your Paypal payment (\$250+\$5=\$255, \$680+\$13.60=\$693.60, \$850+\$17=\$867). Please also send us an email at admin@superiorstringalliance.org letting us know that you paid online, and the name of your child.
- Non-refundable deposits:
  - Non-refundable deposits are included in each tuition price. Camp Vivace and Camp Presto's tuition prices include a \$100 non-refundable deposit and Chamber Music Day Camp's tuition price includes a \$50 non-refundable deposit.

# Financial Assistance Policy

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

- Scholarships are need-based, please apply in the online registration form.
- If you are applying for a scholarship, you will receive an email from SSA a few days after you register letting you know the scholarship amount we are able to give you.

## **Contact Info**

Danielle Simandl, SSA Executive Director & Music Director

Email: admin@superiorstringalliance.org

Cell: 225-244-9059

April Hickey & Adam Hall, SSA Camp Directors

Email: admin@superiorstringalliance.org

Cell: 225-244-9059

# **Camp Locations**

**SSA's Camp Vivace and Camp Presto take place at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp**, which is located in Crystal Falls, Michigan. **FYI: Crystal Falls is in the Central Time Zone.** 

Fortune Lake's address is:

138 Fortune Lake Camp Road Crystal Falls, MI 49920

SSA's Chamber Music Day Camp takes place at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Marquette, MI.

St. Paul's address is:

201 E. Ridge Street Marquette, MI 49855

# Camper Mail

(Camp Vivace & Camp Presto)

We suggest that parents who want to send letters/packages to campers at Fortune Lake bring the letters/packages to the SSA staff during camp check-in. Postal mail delivery can be slow!

# Tips from the Pros

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 educational programming: kids, staff, and creative string music!

- 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.

# Cancellation Policy

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

## **Chamber Music Day Camp refund policy:**

- More than 2 weeks prior to the first day of camp: you will be issued a full refund, minus a \$50 non-refundable deposit.
- If cancellation occurs less than 2 weeks before the camp session, no refund will be granted.
- We will not prorate tuition fees for late arrival or for attending partial weeks. Dismissal from the camp program for behavior problems is non-refundable.

## Camp Vivace and Camp Presto (sleep-away camp) refund policy:

- A camp reservation requires a non-refundable deposit of \$100, which is included in the total camp tuition fee. If written notice of cancellation arrives 20 or more days before the first day of the camp session, all payments made, except the non-refundable \$100 deposit, will be refunded.
- If cancellation occurs less than 20 days before the camp session, no refund will be granted.
- We will not prorate fees for late arrival or for attending partial weeks. Departure from the camp program due to homesickness or dismissal for behavior problems is non-refundable.

## Your deposit is non-refundable except for the following reasons:

- A medical condition or death in the family prevents the camper from participating in the program. (A written excuse from the camper's physician may be requested.)
- Camper tests positive for COVID-19 or other communicable disease prior to arrival. Should symptoms of communicable disease appear while at camp, refunds will be prorated based on the number of nights camper was on-site.
- SSA cancels the camp session and cannot find a suitable alternative. A full refund will be issued based on payments received.

Superior String Alliance is a small non-profit organization which is funded primarily through earned income from camp tuition. Because our organization sustains significant administrative costs associated with managing operations, we wish to provide opportunities for those who are invested in supporting the mission and longevity of the camp. If you are in a position to donate any portion of your refund-eligible tuition to our organization, you can help to support our ability to meet year-round operating costs, maintain our scholarship funds, and ensure the future of our programs. Donations are tax-deductible. More info about how to donate can be found at the end of this handbook.

# What to Bring to Sleep-away Camp

(Camp Vivace & Camp Presto)

## **Camp Stuff:**

- 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 UP, 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
- 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 an Honors Solo for the Final Concert (if 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, smart watch, etc.), knives, lighters or matches, fireworks, firearms, caffeine in any form, 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 <u>non-phone cameras</u> are acceptable, but campers are prohibited from sharing their pictures on social media.

#### A note on snacks:

Caffeinated beverages and snacks are prohibited for campers. While campers are allowed to bring their own snacks, please refrain from packing excessive amounts of snacks. Cabin counselors will store all camper snacks.

## **Auditions**

## (Camp Vivace & Camp Presto)

- All Camp Presto and Camp Vivace campers will audition for orchestra and chamber ensemble placement.
  - The purpose of these auditions is to help us better understand each student's needs for the best private lessons teacher and chamber music placement.
- How auditions work:
  - Campers will receive instructions for uploading a video audition after they have registered for camp.
  - Each audition recording will last for 2 4 minutes.
  - Auditions will consist of:
    - Scales and orchestra excerpts (provided by SSA)
    - Camp Vivace students: (optional) a recording, with or without piano accompaniment, of the solo you want to play
  - If your child has questions about the audition and does not have a private lessons teacher, please contact Danielle Simandl: admin@superiorstringalliance.org

## **Camp Vivace Honors Solo:**

Camp Vivace campers will have the opportunity to audition to play an Honors Solo at the Final Concert. This is a special opportunity for Camp Vivace campers to perform a prepared solo. If you are chosen to perform 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. Vivace campers are NOT required to audition for an Honors Solo but are highly encouraged!

# Prescription and Nonprescription Medications Policy

\* This policy pertains to sleep-away camp sessions, Camp Vivace and Camp Presto. There will be no nurse to house or administer medications at Chamber Music Day Camp. We will have emergency epi-pens on hand.

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 self-administer 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:
  - o Patient's name
  - Prescribing physician's name
  - Directions for use (dosage, frequency, route of administration)
  - o 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

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.
- A staff-to-camper ratio of 1 to 4.
- 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.

## Water Safety

SSA Camp/Fortune Lake only offers swimming at the designated water-front area at the Fortune Lake Lutheran 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

<sup>\*</sup> This policy pertains to sleep-away camp at Fortune Lake.

# COVID-19 and Communicable Diseases Safety Policy

SSA takes the health and safety of our employees and program participants very seriously. The 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 any outbreak. To accomplish this, we ask parents/guardians to please understand that:

- 1. If anyone in your household has had COVID for any duration of the 12 days before the first day of your child's camp session, your child can no longer attend camp.
- 2. All SSA Camp staff members and SSA campers will be required to test negative for COVID-19 when arriving at Camp Vivace and Camp Presto. SSA will provide rapid tests at Fortune Lake during check-in.
- 3. While SSA Camp participants are not required to have the COVID-19 vaccine, SSA requires parents to submit a complete, up-to-date vaccination/immunization record for their child as a part of the camp health record (Camp Vivace and Camp Presto). This is an official document from your doctor's office that notes the comprehensive set of **all** of your child's vaccinations.
- 4. All SSA Camp participants may complete a Daily Symptom Screener while at camp, and may continue to take rapid tests depending on COVID-19 numbers in our area during camp time.
- 5. 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.
  - o Temperature of 100 degrees Fahrenheit or higher
  - Sore throat
  - Cough (for campers with chronic cough due to allergies or asthma, a change in their cough from baseline)
  - Difficulty breathing (for children with asthma, a change from their baseline breathing)
  - o Diarrhea or vomiting
  - New onset of severe headache, especially with a fever

- 6. 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

# SSA Camper Code of Conduct

## 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 without permission.
- Participation in cyber-bullying and/or harassment.

### PHOTO AND VIDEO POLICY

It is really important to remember that while campers are permitted to have disposable or other non-phone cameras, only SSA is allowed to share photographs or recordings of students taken during SSA activities. This rule is for the safety of everyone. So please understand that:

 Only designated SSA staff are allowed to transmit any recording or photograph of any SSA activities.

### **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 a 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, and only with the express permission of pictured campers and their parents provided at the time of registration. You are more than welcome to share SSA's social media posts on your own social media accounts.

# Behavior Management and Discipline Policy

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 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.

## How to Donate

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! 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: <a href="https://superiorstringalliance.org/donate/">https://superiorstringalliance.org/donate/</a>

Or you can send a check to: PO Box 52, Marquette, MI 49855. Please write 'donation' in the check memo section.

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

\* FYI: SSA is funded by 30% grants, 38% tuition, and 32% individual donations.

## Volunteer

Looking for a way to support SSA with your time or expertise? Send an email to <a href="mailto:admin@superiorstringalliance.org">admin@superiorstringalliance.org</a> to find out more about how to get involved.