



Stars & Comets 2026 - 2027 Calendar

RETURNING STARS & COMETS STUDENTS REGISTRATION PACKET

© Palm Harbor United Methodist Church				
August 2026				
M	T	W	T	F
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				
September 2026				
M	T	W	T	F
7	1	2	3	4
14	8	9	10	11
21	15	16	17	18
28	22	23	24	25
	29	30		
October 2026				
M	T	W	T	F
5	6	7	1	2
12	13	14	8	15
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30
November 2026				
M	T	W	T	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30				
December 2026				
M	T	W	T	F
7	1	2	3	4
14	8	9	10	11
21	15	16	17	18
28	22	23	24	25
	29	30		
January 2027				
M	T	W	T	F
11	5	6	7	8
18	12	13	14	15
25	19	20	21	22
	26	27	28	29
February 2027				
M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
March 2027				
M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		
April 2027				
M	T	W	T	F
5	6	7	1	2
12	13	14	8	9
19	20	21	15	16
26	27	28	22	23
			29	30
May 2027				
M	T	W	T	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				
Pricing				
Biweekly Tuition Payments: AM Only (Elementary or Middle School) - \$140 PM Only (Elementary) - \$180 PM Only (Middle School) - \$160 AM and PM (Elementary) - \$230 AM and PM (Middle School) - \$190 Registration: \$79 Returning S & C Students / \$99 New Students				
Symbol Key				
○ All Schools Closed / S & C Open ⊘ All Schools Closed / S & C Closed PCS Pinellas County Schools Closed / S & C Open WCS Westlake Only Closed / S & C Open ER Westlake Early Release / S & C Open ☆ Payment Week (Bi-Weekly EFT collected)				

**INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK IN CASE
PRINTING REGISTRATION DOUBLE SIDED**

Amount Paid: _____
Check / CC #: _____

STARS & COMETS RETURN STUDENT REGISTRATION:

Child Name: _____ Grade Entering **26 / 27** School Year: _____

School Attending for **26 / 27** School Year: _____

School Attended for **25 / 26** School Year (if different from above): _____

Primary Family Email Address: _____

Second Family Email Address (if desired): _____

List Any Changes to Enrollment Record (if none write N/A): _____

Parent 1 Work Name / Address / Phone #: _____

Parent 1 Cell Number: _____

Parent 1 Home Address: _____

Parent 2 Work Name / Address / Phone #: _____

Parent 2 Cell Number: _____

Parent 2 Home Address: _____

Please add the following **NEW** Pickup Persons to Enrollment Record (Must include Name, Address, and Cell Phone #):

Please remove the following Pickup Persons from Enrollment Record (A minimum of 2 must be maintained at all times):

Field Trip Shirt Size (Circle One): Youth XS Youth Sm Youth Med Youth Lrg Youth XL Adult Sm Other: _____

If Possible, Please Place My Child With the Following Student*: _____

Please note that placements are primarily based on grade and school attending, so sadly not all requests can be honored. As such, placement requests are not guaranteed. For this request, both children should be in the **same grade level. Please limit requests to one student. Putting more than one student could negate ALL requests.*

THE NATURE OF STARS & COMETS:

While we believe Stars & Comets will be a positive experience for most children, there are some parts of the program that can be difficult for certain potential students or their families and should be considered before registering:

- Stars & Comets is a program with lots of transitions. Students change rooms / activities often. Regular routines are also often broken up by special activities or field trips. Students that struggle with transitions or having their regular routines shifted may not find Stars & Comets to be a good fit.
- Stars & Comets will have a weekly, biweekly, or monthly chapel time that will feature moving / changing / strobing theatrical lighting, live music, and a large audience (can be as many as 200 people in attendance).
- Students will have use of TV's and electronic devices (video game systems, iPads, computers, etc.) in some rooms as part of either regular before / after care or a full day experience. Program activities could also include a movie experience (on site).
- We target 18 students in each group, typically with one group leader. So, prospective students should be prepared for a large group / class format. Also, most of our staff are not specifically trained to work with students with special needs. Prospective students who need one-on-one care (or one-on-a-few care) will not find Stars & Comets to be a good fit.
- Students will go on field trips on select days as part of break weeks / full days where care is provided. Those trips are a part of the program experience and we do not have the staff or ability to offer alternate accommodations if students do not want to go (or if families do not want their child to go). Families may, of course, choose to keep their child home on a field trip day if desired. Though not often, please be aware that some field trips may leave rather early or return later in the afternoon. Transportation is typically provided on church shuttle buses or school buses, and on occasion on passenger vans or charter buses. These forms of transportation can sometimes be difficult on students that struggle with motion sickness.
- Stars & Comets is a larger before / after school care that is part of a huge campus that can be a bit overwhelming at times for new families and pickup persons coming for the first few times. Also, because of the size of the campus and number of students, drop-off / pickup can take longer than other programs at times and parents should plan accordingly.
- Stars & Comets is a church before / after school care program. Students will encounter Christian music and elements of the Christian faith while at the program (see #24 of fees, policies, and conduct page). Please note that we DO NOT provide alternate accommodations to remove students of varying faiths during those times.

I understand the nature of Stars & Comets as stated above AND all of the information I have provided above is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

LIABILITY RELEASE:

As parent and/or legal guardian, I remain legally responsible for any personal actions taken by the above-named minor ("student"). I, on my own behalf, and on behalf of the minor, agree to release, indemnify, and to hold harmless Palm Harbor United Methodist Church, and all of its Ministries; Westlake Christian School, The Robin's Nest, Stars & Comets, and Camp CUBBER, and their respective directors, officers, representatives, ministers, members, agents, guests, invitees, students, employees, and volunteers from any and all claims, including but not limited to bodily injury or property damage claims, judgments, loss, costs, and expenses arising out of or connected with attendance at all of the above Ministries, and any claim arising out of or connected with any illness or injury that Minor may incur or sustain during the program, all activities associated with the program, and while traveling to and from the site for the program. I have read and agree.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

FEES, POLICIES, AND CODE OF CONDUCT:

I have read and agree to the fees, policies, and conduct described in this 2026 - 2027 registration packet (detailed on the last 6 pages of this packet). I have also reviewed, fully understand, and have explained to my child the Code of Conduct including the behavior that is expected and the consequences if not upheld which includes the discipline and expulsion policy.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

PHOTO RELEASE:

As parent and / or legal guardian, I give permission to Palm Harbor United Methodist Church and any of it's ministries or aliases (Stars & Comets, Camp CUBBER, etc.) to reproduce and publish photographs taken of my child for any necessary or appropriate camp or church related publicity purposes which may include, but are not limited to printed publications such as brochures and newsletters, digital images, website, videos and social media. I acknowledge that neither the minor children nor I will receive financial compensation for any such publications.

Please note that similar to Camp CUBBER, there is not a social media exclusion preference. Previously, the only way to ensure students would not appear on social media was to exclude him / her from group pictures and any activities where pictures for social media may be taken. We do not want ANY CHILD to feel excluded from activities or their group. As such, students could be pictured on church / program social media as part of enrollment and the overall program experience. As a safeguard, student's name(s) will not be used in connection with their image or likeness when posting. Images posted are most often group pictures (they make the best pictures anyway). And if at any time you see a picture of your child on our social media that you would like removed, please inform our office and we will gladly edit / alter the image to remove your child / your child's face, or remove the image altogether if that cannot be done.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

FIELD TRIP PERMISSION:

I give my consent for my child, _____, to go on any field trip with Stars & Comets @ PHUMC and to make incidental stops en route and return as may be desirable or necessary. I will be notified in writing 24 hours in advance of the designated site of the field trip including necessary details. I understand that I hold Palm Harbor United Methodist Church, Stars & Comets, Camp CUBBER, its officers, agents, and employees harmless from any and all liability claims, which may arise out of or in connection with my child's participation in this activity. I authorize program representatives to obtain medical treatment for my child in case of illness or injury and agree to pay for any expense incurred for this treatment. I fully understand that students are to abide by all rules and regulations governing conduct during the trip. Any violation of these rules may result in a child's removal from part or all of the field trip and the parent / guardian may be notified to pick their child up from the field trip location.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Sign in the presence of a Notary

STATE OF FLORIDA: COUNTY OF PINELLAS

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this _____ day of _____, 20____ by _____, who is _____ personally known to me or _____ has produced the following identification -

State Issued ID #: _____ Other ID #: _____.

Notary
Stamp
or Seal:

Signature of Notary Public

STARS & COMETS 2026 / 2027 - PAYMENT AUTHORIZATION FORM

Initial Your Selected Payment Option:

_____ I will pay 2026 - 2027 school year Stars & Comets tuition:
_____ IN FULL* via check, credit (3% fee), or cash. Please note that payment is due at registration.
_____ SEMI ANNUALLY* via check, credit (3% fee), EFT (for second payment only) or cash.
Please note that half payments are due at registration and on/before Dec. 28, 2026.

**If selecting payment IN FULL or SEMI ANNUALLY via credit, check, or cash, please note that credit card information must be completed and will be kept on file to cover all incidentals.*

Name on Card: _____ Exp. Date:

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 /

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Credit Card #:

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Billing Zip Code:

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 CVV:

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Signature: _____ Date: _____
I (we) authorize Palm Harbor United Methodist Church to initiate charges and if necessary, adjustments on provided card.

_____ I will pay 2026 - 2027 school year Stars & Comets tuition:
_____ BIWEEKLY via Electronic Funds Transfer. First payment processed Aug. 10, 2026.
_____ MONTHLY via Electronic Funds Transfer. First payment processed Aug. 10, 2026.

If selecting Electronic Funds Transfer (please note):

COMPANY NAME: Palm Harbor United Methodist Church

COMPANY NUMBER: 59 - 1689278 (Tax. ID)

I (we) authorize Palm Harbor United Methodist Church, hereinafter called Company, to initiate debit entries and if necessary, credit entries for adjustments to any debit entries made in error to the account at the Financial Institution listed below:

Account Holder Name (Please Print)

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Checking Account Number (8 - 17 positions)

Bank Name

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Routing Number (9 positions)

Authorized Signature

Date

Please Note:

This year a voided check or other verification document is not required. **Please ensure that your routing and checking account number are CORRECT and LEGIBLE. If an incorrect number is written and a payment is processed incorrectly, a \$25 fee may be incurred.** Thank you for your help ensuring accuracy!

Stars & Comets **bi-weekly withdrawal will be processed every other Monday** starting on August 10, 2026. Stars & Comets **monthly withdrawal will be processed on the 10th of every month** starting on August 10, 2026. Stars & Comets offers a \$10 sibling discount per bi-weekly payment off the second and third child (\$21.00 sibling discount for monthly).

Authorized debit entries include tuition, lunch fees, late pickup fees, replacement clothes fees, non-notification fees, club / activity fees, or other additional charges that may arise including any outstanding balances. The authority is to remain in full force and effect for both the school year and summer programs until the Company has received written notification of its termination in such time and in such manner as to afford Company and Depository Institution a reasonable opportunity to act upon it.

Students Attending:

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____ Grade: _____

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____ Grade: _____

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____ Grade: _____

Office Use Only:

**INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK IN CASE
PRINTING REGISTRATION DOUBLE SIDED**

2026 - 2027 Fees, Policies, Conduct / Discipline, & Releases (Please Retain for your Records)

1. Registration Fee: A **non-refundable** registration fee is due at registration.
 \$79.00 for returning Stars & Comets students
 \$99.00 for new Stars & Comets students
 \$49.00 for new and returning students AFTER January 1, 2027 (partial year)
2. Stars & Comets Schedule: Stars & Comets starts on August 10, 2026 and runs through May 27, 2027. During that time, tuition payments cover regular before and / or after school care (depending on which coverage of care is selected) and all full days including Professional Education Days (Pro Ed Days); Thanksgiving Break / Winter Break / Spring Break, and all other holidays we are open (for list of closed holidays, see #9). There are NO additional fees for Field Trips or Special On-Site Guests / Activities. **Tuition is due REGARDLESS of whether or not the student is in attendance. There are also NO REFUNDS, DISCOUNTS or COMPENSATION for absence, illness, vacation, holidays, or school closures.**
3. Bi-weekly Tuition Payments: Tuition payments will be due every other week. The school term covers 42 weeks. There will be 21 payments throughout the school year. Payments are due **THROUGHOUT the school year including Thanksgiving Break, Winter Break, and Spring Break** REGARDLESS of whether or not the student is in attendance. Payment dates are marked on the registration calendar with a star. EFT bi-weekly payments are:
 - **ELEMENTARY AM only - \$140 / PM only - \$180 / AM & PM - \$230**
 - **MIDDLE SCHOOL AM only - \$140 / PM only - \$160 / AM & PM - \$190***Please note that current payments are based on projected 2026 - 2027 bell schedule. If the bell schedule changes drastically, it may impact the cost of tuition for AM care, PM care, or both.*
4. Monthly Tuition Payments: If desired, your annual tuition can be paid in 10 monthly installments (instead of 21 bi-weekly payments). Each monthly payment will be withdrawn on the tenth (10th) of EACH month starting Monday, August 10, 2026 and ending on Monday, May 10, 2027. Payments are due **THROUGHOUT the school year including Thanksgiving Break, Winter Break, and Spring Break** REGARDLESS of whether or not the student is in attendance. Each monthly payment is equal to **2.1 bi-weekly payments** and is as follows for EFT payment:
 - **ELEMENTARY AM only - \$294.00 / PM only - \$378.00 / AM & PM - \$483.00**
 - **MIDDLE SCHOOL AM only - \$294.00 / PM only - \$336.00 / AM & PM - \$399.00***Please note that current payments are based on projected 2026 - 2027 bell schedule. If the bell schedule changes drastically, it may impact the cost of tuition for AM care, PM care, or both.*
5. Sibling Discount: There is a tuition discount of \$5.00 per week for siblings (\$10 per bi-weekly payment / \$21.00 per monthly payment).
6. Payment Method: **Stars & Comets requires automated payment unless tuition is paid annually or semi-annually. All monthly or bi-weekly payments will be made via Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) which is a form of preauthorized withdrawal.** Doing this allows us to serve you effectively, and best allocate our time and resources. If your family has a concern about this form of payment (or your ability to commit to this form of payment) please see the Director prior to registration.
7. Withdrawal From S & C: Should you choose to withdraw your child from the program, or change status (AM & PM to just PM, AM & PM to just AM, AM to PM, PM to AM, etc.) there will be **NO REFUND of fees given for unused days. Notice of withdrawal from the program must be given IN WRITING at least two weeks in advance.** Also, should a family choose to withdraw, **ALL PAYMENTS that are due during the required two week notice WILL STILL BE DUE (even if withdrawal occurs during the middle of a payment cycle).** After notice of withdrawing from the program, the family will be eligible for care through end of payment cycle if desired.
8. Late / Missed Payments: **We reserve the right to dismiss a child whose tuition payment becomes delinquent unless arrangements are made in advance between the parent and the Director or the Board of Education Bookkeeper.** If space is still available, the student will be readmitted upon receipt of the outstanding tuition. Parents or guardians who encounter difficulty with the above payment rates are encouraged to talk with the Director or Board of Education Bookkeeper prior to the tuition date. **A \$25.00 service fee will be charged for all NSF / bounced transfers;** however, if the bank service charge is higher, the higher rate will prevail. If a family has three or more NSF / bounced transfers, they may be moved to an alternate form of payment with a 3% to 5% surcharge per payment.
9. Holidays: Stars and Comets will be **CLOSED** for the following days: Labor Day (9/7/26), Thanksgiving Holidays (11/26/26 and 11/27/26), Christmas Holidays (12/24/26 and 12/25/26), New Year's Holidays (12/31/26 and 1/1/27), Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (1/18/27), Good Friday (3/26/27), and Camp Setup Day (5/28/27).
10. Emergency Campus Closure: If / when the Pinellas County School Board, Emergency Management Services, Florida Department of Health, the Governor, or the leadership of Palm Harbor United Methodist Church determines that school is cancelled or the facilities are unsafe due to hurricanes, tornados, floods, inclement weather, unsafe building conditions, unsafe health conditions, or local / national emergency, **Stars & Comets will also be CLOSED and no refund, discount, or compensation will be given.**
11. Healthy Students / Safety Precautions: Students who are ill, whether the illness is communicable or not, should not attend the program. Students who exhibit any signs of illness (including, but not limited to a fever) will not be admitted to the program. Students who develop a fever, or exhibit any other signs of illness during the day, will need to be picked up from the program immediately. As a parent you understand and agree that you will pick up (or make arrangements to

2026 - 2027 Fees, Policies, Conduct / Discipline, & Releases (Please Retain for your Records)

have your child picked up) within 1 hour of being notified of your child becoming ill. Students who inform program staff of any illnesses or symptoms (whether verifiable or not) will also fall under this category and will need to be picked up.

Similar to Pinellas County Schools, Stars & Comets has a "no-nit" policy. Anyone with live lice or nits will be sent home from the program until all nits and lice are removed. Students will be checked upon returning to the program. Stars & Comets may also check for suspected cases of lice, check entire groups where suspected or actual cases have been reported, and / or do random lice checks as deemed necessary or appropriate by administration. If you discover your child has lice, please inform our office right away.

In addition, please note that students who test positive for COVID-19, or any communicable disease, will need to remain out of the program for the time period recommended by the CDC and / or Florida Dept. of Health. Students who have been exposed to COVID-19 will not be required to isolate, as long as that exposure is not ongoing. If exposure occurs inside the home and the student is not able to isolate from the person(s) with COVID-19, student will need to remain out until exposure has ended (everyone is healthy again). Staff, students, and parents / guardians may opt to wear a face mask on campus, if desired. You agree to comply (and have your child comply) with all current camper health expectations.

- **Notice of Risk:** In light of the ongoing COVID-19 situation, we have designed our campus to be as safe as possible and taken into account current guidelines and regulations. As a church, we have taken additional steps in the planning and implementing of all of our ministries that we hope will keep all children, families, and staff safe and protected from potential exposure to this or any other illness. With that said, there is no guarantee that illness will not occur when deciding to enroll your child in a program like ours where he / she will be around other children and staff members and where parents / guardians will be around others while picking up. Please be advised that there is a certain amount of calculated risk you are assuming by enrolling your child in this program. You should evaluate your own risk as you determine whether or not to enroll your child. In line with CDC guidelines, we specifically do not recommend individuals at high risk with severe underlying medical conditions enroll (or be utilized as pickup persons). If there is a case or cases of COVID-19, Stars & Comets will follow the recommendations of the Florida Department of Health. PHUMC, including Stars & Comets, disclaims all liability for COVID-19 on our property.
 - **Students must be healthy to attend.** In addition to students being symptom free (and fever free):
 - If your child exhibits any signs of being ill, please seek medical attention AND keep him / her home until he / she is completely symptom free for 24 hours.
 - If your child develops a fever for any reason, please keep him / her home until he / she has been fever free (without the assistance of medication) for 24 hours.
 - If your child specifically experiences nausea that includes vomiting and / or diarrhea, please seek medical attention AND keep him / her home until he / she is completely symptom free for 24 hours.
12. **Cleaning / Cleanliness / Hand Washing:** Students will wash hands regularly (and always before and after doing things like going to / from active play, going to use the bathroom, or even playing a group game in the classroom with any shared materials, etc.). Hand washing will be done in the presence of a staff member to make sure it is being done appropriately and hand sanitizer will be used if / when a staff member cannot directly observe hand washing (or a sink is not available). Classrooms will continue to be thoroughly cleaned at night and areas that are likely "hot spots" like doorknobs, handles, faucets, and shared play equipment will be cleaned / sanitized rigorously throughout the day as well.
13. **Morning Care Student Arrival:** Stars & Comets opens @ 7:00 AM. Students will be admitted in the morning using car circle drop off. Students attending morning care **SHOULD PLAN TO ARRIVE BY 7:40 AM to utilize the car circle drop off**. Parents arriving after 7:40 AM should expect to EXPERIENCE A SIGNIFICANT DELAY due to the car line for Westlake Christian (also here on campus) and will need to park and walk their child up to the Stars & Comets staff (through 8:15 AM) or utilize the Stars & Comets door and walk their child to their morning classroom (if after 8:15 AM). Also, please remember that **students must be dropped off no later than 15 minutes prior to the scheduled departure for their school** - so by 7:50 AM for all schools except Palm Harbor Middle School (and by 8:45 AM for PHMS students). Please note that **AM Car Circle will end at 7:40 AM anytime EITHER Westlake Christian OR Pinellas County Schools are in session.**
14. **Full-Day Care Student Arrival:** Students who will be attending on a full day **SHOULD ARRIVE BY 9:15 AM** (unless a designated field trip departs prior to that time). As mentioned above, please note that **AM Car Circle will end at 7:40 AM anytime EITHER Westlake Christian OR Pinellas County Schools are in session.**
- a. If you sign your child up to attend a full day and then decide to instead keep him / her home (or they will need to arrive after 9:15 AM), please notify the Stars & Comets office via phone, email, or in person in advance when possible and by no later than 9:15 AM that day. If you do not do so, the Stars & Comets office will then attempt to reach you and there will be a non-notification fee charged (See #15).
 - b. Select full days will feature an off-site field trip. Please make sure that your child arrives at Stars & Comets by the appropriate time indicated on the field trip notification (email). Students arriving late may not make their field trip. Field trip transportation needs are determined at the time of departure. Unless prior accommodations have been made through the Stars & Comets office, if your child is not present at the time of his / her field trip departure, the program considers him / her **ABSENT FOR THE DAY**. Students who miss a field trip departure will not be allowed to be dropped off at a field trip site **UNLESS** the Stars & Comets office confirms that adequate transportation back

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to Stars & Comets is available. Students arriving late cannot be left behind with another group (or left in the office). Therefore, students arriving after his / her field trip departure time WILL NOT be admitted to Stars & Comets unless advanced accommodations have been made through the Stars & Comets office. Should you have an issue with a field trip departure time please coordinate IN ADVANCE through the Stars & Comets office to see if accommodations can be made.

15. Non-Notification Fee: **Failure to notify Stars & Comets of a child's absence will result in a \$5.00 FEE. This applies to both regular school days AND full days.**
 - a. For regular school days: Parents must notify the Stars & Comets office (via phone, email, or in person) **by 1:30 PM** if the student will not be attending Stars & Comets after care for any reason (including illness, vacation, after school clubs, etc.).
 - b. For full days: Approximately 7 business days prior to any day where full-day care will be provided (or 7 business days prior to the start of any holiday break) there will be an attendance form for you to select if your child will be attending or not. That attendance form will be with your child's group leader and AM car circle (for our AM only students). In order to plan appropriately for staffing, transportation, field trips / special activities, meals, snacks, etc., Stars & Comets will need a response of whether or not your child will be attending by the date designated in the email with the details of the full day and its activities.
 - c. If you sign your child up to attend a full day and he / she will not be attending for any reason or will be arriving after 9:15 AM please notify the Stars & Comets office (via phone, email, or in person) in advance when possible and by no later than 9:15 AM (See #14). Failure to notify the Stars & Comets office in advance will result in a \$5.00 non-notification fee.
 - d. Families who abuse the non-notification policy will be charged a \$10.00 fee per instance after the THIRD (3rd) NON-NOTIFICATION and a \$15 fee per instance after the FIFTH (5th) NON-NOTIFICATION.
 - e. If your child misses the bus or van due to his / her own delinquency or gross tardiness and our vehicle must make a return trip to pick them up from school, you will be charged a \$5.00 Return Trip Fee for that pickup.
16. Check In / Out: **All students must be checked in and out WITH A STARS & COMETS STAFF MEMBER by a parent / guardian or previously authorized representative - this includes our middle school students.** Morning check in should occur with the car circle staff member. At no point should a child be dropped off when a staff member is not present. Afternoon check out should occur directly with your child's group leader. At no point should a parent pick up a child without making BOTH verbal communication and visual interaction with the group leader.
17. Afternoon Pickup: **Afternoon pickup will be available daily between 3:30 PM - 6:00 PM.** If you need to pick your child up prior to 3:30 PM, we ask that you please call or email the Stars & Comets office IN ADVANCE (preferably the day before, but at least 30 minutes prior to the time you will be picking up). To pick up, parents will need to **park, proceed to the Stars & Comets designated door** (to the right of the main double doors), **and ring the Stars & Comets buzzer** (to the right of the door under the Stars & Comets sign). **Once an office staff member verifies who is being picked up, parent will enter and proceed to the child's assigned room or playground** (group locations will be posted on the white board located on the left hand side of the first hallway corner you come to). Please remember that Stars & Comets closes promptly at 6:00 PM and that you will need to allow time to park, walk in, and get to your child's classroom prior to 6:00 PM. When picking your child up you will need to be ready to show your Driver's License (which will be checked with the information provided on this registration paperwork) to ensure you are an eligible pickup person.
18. Late Pickup Fee: Stars & Comets closes promptly at 6:00 PM. A late fee is due for families arriving to pickup after that time. The fee is **\$1.00 per minute, per family for every minute after 6:00 PM.** Should you experience an unexpected circumstance that delays you from picking up before closing, please call the Stars & Comets office prior to 5:50 PM to inform our staff what time you expect to arrive by. A ten (10) minute grace period will be given UP TO ONCE A MONTH for those special situations when we are notified by phone. **Students not picked up by 6:00 PM will be escorted to the Stars & Comets office.**
19. Evacuation Location: In the event of an emergency while students are on campus where the premises are deemed unsafe by emergency management or law enforcement, our primary evacuation plan will be to walk through the field to the Presbyterian Church of Palm Harbor, located at 2021 Nebraska Ave., Palm Harbor, FL 34683. Should we need a secondary evacuation location, we will utilize buses (if possible) to transport students to the Palm Harbor Library, located at 2330 Nebraska Ave, Palm Harbor, FL 34683.
20. Field Trips: Parents will be notified at least 24 hours in advance of all field trips including projected departure and return times. Those notifications typically come via email in the monthly email updates. No additional fees will be charged for field trips; their cost is included in your weekly tuition. Field trips may be changed due to weather, scheduling conflicts with the trip provider, illness, transportation problems, or other factors beyond our control. **NO REFUND WILL BE GIVEN DUE TO THESE CHANGES.** The cancelled trip will be replaced with an activity, special event, or a later field trip.
 - a. Stars & Comets shirts will be issued for the 2026 - 2027 school year (those will be given out in September / October 2026). Stars & Comets shirts **MUST BE WORN** on all non-swimming related field trip days **UNLESS** the field trip notification email specifically indicates it is not needed. If your child shows up on a field trip day without a Stars & Comets shirt, he / she will be given a new one and a charge of \$10 will be added to your next bi-weekly or monthly EFT payment.

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- b. Please make sure that your child arrives at Stars & Comets by the appropriate time indicated on the field trip notification email (See #14b)
- c. Return times posted on the field trip notification (email) may vary due to traffic or safety concerns beyond our control. Should extreme delays occur you will be notified as soon as possible by phone.

21. Snack / Meals:

- a. Stars & Comets strives to be a peanut and tree nut free facility. The snacks we provide should not contain peanuts or tree nuts. In addition, as a parent **please ensure that any snacks or meals brought from home are also peanut and tree nut free.**
- b. Stars & Comets offers a daily afternoon snack. On days where the students are on-site all day (full days), a morning snack will also be provided. Stars & Comets strives to provide snacks that will be nutritious while still being appealing to students of varied ages. Snacks will include items from two food groups (i.e. - pretzels with apple juice, saltine crackers with string cheese, breakfast cereal with milk, animal crackers with yogurt, etc.). A weekly snack calendar is posted outside the office and on the white board near the Stars & Comets entrance. Please consult the snack calendar regularly to ensure your child will enjoy the provided snack. **If your child is not able to eat the snack provided due to food allergies or will not enjoy the provided snack due to personal preference, a snack should be provided from home.** Snacks provided from home should also be nutritious and should not contain large amounts of sugar. Snacks brought from home should also be peanut and tree nut free.
- c. A catered lunch will be AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE on full days for an additional cost of \$5.50 per child (per day) and does not have to be signed up for in advance. Any student who arrives on a full day without a lunch will be provided with one and the \$5.50 charge will be added to your next EFT tuition payment. A menu for the meals provided will be posted in advance AND sent via email. Stars & Comets also strives to provide meals that will be nutritious while still being appealing to students of varied ages. If you do not want your child to eat the catered meal on a full day please be sure to send him / her with a lunch from home. Lunches brought from home should also be nutritious and balanced. Sugary items such as sodas and candies should not be packed for lunch. Lunches brought from home should also be peanut and tree nut free.

22. Cell Phones: **Please do not allow students to bring cell phones to the program.** They will have no need for them while they are here and all staff will have a cell phone or communication device in case of emergency. Students who bring a cell phone will be told to **TURN IT OFF (NOT ON VIBRATE)**, put it away with their belongings, and asked not to bring it back. Any student not complying with the above rules **WILL HAVE THEIR CELL PHONE CONFISCATED** and returned to the parent at the time of pickup. Students who continue to disobey the cell phone policy will face the discipline action stated in the code of conduct (#29).

23. Movies: While at Stars and Comets, **students are allowed to view movies rated G and PG that will be selected by a staff member.** Stars and Comets will make a concerted effort to screen or review any movie selected for the program. Offsite movie selections will be made in advance and posted. If there is a specific movie you wish for your child to see or not to see please notify their teacher and / or an office staff.

24. Faith Content: **Stars & Comets is a Christian before / after school care program, and a ministry of Palm Harbor United Methodist Church. While at the program, children will encounter some level of exposure to the Christian faith.** Students are encouraged to grow their faith and given core principles (through the Orange Curriculum) that focus on KEY CHRISTIAN VALUES such as Compassion, Determination, Fairness, Generosity, Gratitude, Honesty, Integrity, Love, Obedience, and many more. Other forms of faith content may include: child or instructor led prayer during chapel, kid's praise and worship songs during chapel, instructor led or group style prayer over food, Bible stories, student or instructor led discussions, and more. There may also be optional programs offered through Palm Harbor UMC that involve spiritual content. These programs could include His Kids Choir, Rise 45 (for 4th - 5th graders), Youth Group (for 6th - 8th graders), and more.

25. Dress Code: **Students are expected to dress moderately and appropriately.** Please no spaghetti straps or midriff tops. Tops must be loose-fitting and be an appropriate length. Skirts and shorts should be of a moderate length, going to at least mid-thigh. Generally speaking, shorts going to the end of your child's fingertips would be appropriate. Clothing should be worn as manufactured (not rolled up on the waistband or legs). Shirts may only be "banded" with a rubber band or hair tie if NO PORTION OF THE STOMACH is being revealed. Clothing should not have printing or graphics on it that is inappropriate for a Christian before / after school care program. If students choose to wear leggings, yoga pants, bicycle shorts, or other tight fitting bottoms, please note that the top they are wearing must completely cover their backside. **PLEASE NOTE:** Closed-toe shoes are required at Stars & Comets everyday. Stars & Comets by its nature is full of daily activities that require movement where sandals or other open-toe shoes are not appropriate. If your child is not in appropriate attire, you will be called to bring them the needed change of clothes or pick them up. **WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO REFUSE A STUDENT WHOSE DRESS IS INAPPROPRIATE.**

- Should there be a swimming or water related activity, please note that swimming apparel should also be modest. ALL GIRL'S BATHING SUITS, regardless of age, should be either a ONE PIECE suit or a TWO PIECE "TANKINI" STYLE suit that does not show student's midsection. If your child does not own such a bathing suit, a dark colored t-shirt must be worn over a suit not following these guidelines at all times. If student does not have a dark colored t-shirt to wear over said suit, student will be issued a Stars & Comets shirt and a \$10 fee will be charged to your account.

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Boys' bathing suits should be board shorts or long shorts please. Boys are encouraged to wear a rash guard or other swim top. Students not wearing appropriate swimming apparel may be restricted from swimming.

26. Change of Clothes / Toileting / Accidents: Younger students and those students prone to bathroom accidents are **strongly encouraged** to bring a change of clothes with them to Stars & Comets. If your child has an accident and does not have a change of clothes with him / her, the Stars & Comets office will issue underwear, shirt, and shorts to wear and there will be a \$5 fee. Brand new underwear will be given to each child, which is yours to keep. The shirt and shorts should be washed and returned by Friday of that week or an additional \$10 fee will be charged. As a school age care facility please note that:
- Stars & Comets expects that students will be able to go to the bathroom by themselves. This includes proper toileting hygiene and being able to undress and dress themselves in order to use the bathroom.
 - Stars & Comets expects that all students are fully potty trained. While we understand that accidents may happen from time to time, they should not be a regular occurrence.
27. Personal Property: Stars & Comets allows students to bring money on selected field trips (monthly email update will notate which field trips it is appropriate to bring money on); however, it is the sole responsibility of the student to hold, secure, and maintain said monies. Depending on itinerary and current staff, students may or may not have the opportunity to spend said monies. Stars & Comets also allows students to bring select personal property (within reason) like toys, cards, games, stuffed animals, blankets, and even personal electronic devices on select days. Stars & Comets and its staff WILL NOT be held responsible for lost, misplaced, or stolen monies or other personal property. If there is an issue of possible theft or another situation where it is deemed necessary by Stars & Comets management, a student's personal belongings may be looked through by a group leader or office staff. If there are things students would like to be kept personal or confidential, or things that you are worried will be broken or lost, please leave these items at home. Any items with a dispute of ownership will be held in the Stars & Comets office until both parents have arrived.
28. Low Enrollment: While we hope to maintain the transportation and care offered to all of the schools we currently serve, admittedly that could change if enrollment from a specific school drops drastically for some reason. Please note that if enrollment at any of the schools we serve is lower than 5 students, there is a possibility that transportation / care may be discontinued. Should that need to happen during a school year, families from that school will be given as much notice as possible (at least 20 business days) in order to find alternate care / transportation.
29. Code of Conduct / Discipline and Expulsion Policy: Reasonable rules and regulations are essential to ensure each child's safety and allow each child to experience full enjoyment of our program. PLEASE REVIEW THE PROGRAM'S CODE OF CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE POLICY WITH YOUR CHILD. Please note that physical punishment will not be used in any form at Stars & Comets. We will not subject your child to discipline that is severe, humiliating, or frightening. Neither will we associate discipline with food, rest, or toileting.
- a. Student will stay with program staff in assigned area & must have consent from staff to go to another area. Student will not wander or leave the group at any time without prior permission.
 - b. Student will show courtesy, respect, and good manners toward fellow students and staff members.
 - c. Student will not lie or intentionally mislead staff or other students.
 - d. Student will not use abusive, crude, obscene, sexual, or inappropriate language, writing, or gestures.
 - e. Student will not bring items (books, magazines, electronic devices, etc.) with abusive, crude, obscene, sexual, or inappropriate language, writing, gestures, or displays with them to the program. Student will not seek out abusive, crude, obscene, sexual, or inappropriate language, writing, gestures, or displays on program or personal computers or electronic devices.
 - f. Student will not exhibit "bullying" behavior. Stars & Comets defines "bullying" behavior as a repetition, pattern, or combination of any of the following behaviors: name calling, shaming, intimidating, targeting, being aggressive towards another student, or ostracizing / excluding / isolating another student.
 - g. Student will keep hands and feet to themselves. No kicking, hitting, pushing, inappropriate touch, etc. - ABSOLUTELY NO FIGHTING.
 - h. Student will be respectful of property belonging to the program (as well as property belonging to the church or schools) and fellow students. Student will not break or damage property through intent, malice, or careless behavior. *Parent / Guardian will be responsible for payment of any damaged or destroyed property.*
 - i. Good sportsmanship and fair play must be displayed at all times.
 - j. Student will not bring violent toys or instruments or items that could be used as such.
 - k. Student will abide by all bus / van safety rules:
 - 1. Student will remain seated and have SEAT BELT BUCKLED AT ALL TIMES
 - 2. Student will exit bus / van ONLY as the driver or staff member directs
 - 3. Student will remain in assigned loading area and will not enter bus / van until the driver or Stars & Comets staff member indicates it is safe to do so
 - 4. A quiet voice will be used at all times – NO YELLING
 - 5. Student will sit in assigned seat if designated or if the driver appoints one
 - 6. Student will refrain from eating and drinking while on the bus / van

We seek to set appropriate limits and utilize positive techniques to encourage and guide student behavior. That can be seen in a variety of ways, from color charts, positive reinforcement and public recognition of positive behavior, and the use of the treasure box or other reward systems.

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FAILURE TO OBEY THE ABOVE RULES WILL RESULT IN A PROGRESSION OF DISCIPLINARY ACTION DEEMED APPROPRIATE BY PROGRAM STAFF / ADMINISTRATION. The disciplinary action will be based on the severity of the student's action / incident that occurred. Should behavior be extreme or repeated, multiple steps will likely be skipped.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION MAY INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

- a. Verbal warning(s) and / or redirection
- b. A period of "time out" (in view of staff member) which may include missed time during a field trip / special activity or a student being relocated to an alternate group for a brief period of time
- c. A one on one behavior discussion with the group leader or administrator
- d. A written notice with details of behavior, requiring parent / guardian signature
- e. A parent conference with the Director by phone
- f. Student may be moved to a different class / group for a period of time to be determined by the Director
- g. When it is deemed necessary by the Director, parent / guardian may be called to take the student home
- h. An in-person parent conference with the Director, group leader, and student
- i. Student may be suspended from the program for one (1) to five (5) days. Length of suspension will be determined by the Director based on the behavior, situation, and any other circumstances.
- j. If the student cannot be kept safe in our care, the student is jeopardizing the safety of other students in our care, the student has shown repeated issues with the same behavior regardless of consequence, or a behavior / action (or progression of behaviors / actions) is deemed extreme the student may be expelled from the program at the discretion of the Director
- k. Any behavior that is deemed malicious, violent, sexual, or results in physical and / or property damage may result in advanced stages of discipline, including, but not limited to, immediate suspension or expulsion from the program (to be determined by Director)
- l. Should a student be sent home early, suspended, or expelled from the program, there will be no refund of tuition or cost reduction for time or days missed. For students who are expelled from the program, no additional payments should be collected or due after the date of expulsion.
- m. **Students who reach advanced stages of disciplinary action or display repeated inappropriate behavior (receiving multiple written behavior notices) MAY NOT be eligible for re-enrollment for future school years (or summers).**

Stars & Comets and its staff / administration reserves the right to implement any of the above steps deemed necessary, based on the severity of the behavior or actions taken by the student.

30. Photo Release: As parent and / or legal guardian, I give permission to Palm Harbor United Methodist Church and any of its ministries or aliases (Stars & Comets, Camp CUBBER, etc.) to reproduce and publish photographs taken of my child for any necessary or appropriate camp or church related publicity purposes which may include, but are not limited to printed publications such as brochures and newsletters, digital images, website, videos and social media. I acknowledge that neither the minor children nor I will receive financial compensation for any such publications.

Please note that similar to Camp CUBBER, there is not a social media exclusion preference. Previously, the only way to ensure students would not appear on social media was to exclude him / her from group pictures and any activities where pictures for social media may be taken. We do not want ANY CHILD to feel excluded from activities or their group. As such, students could be pictured on church / program social media as part of enrollment and the overall program experience. As a safeguard, student's name(s) will not be used in connection with their image or likeness when posting. Images posted are most often group pictures (they make the best pictures anyway). And if at any time you see a picture of your child on our social media that you would like removed, please inform our office and we will gladly edit / alter the image to remove your child / your child's face, or remove the image altogether if that cannot be done.

We know that you have many before / after school care options for your child and we thank you for selecting Stars & Comets at Palm Harbor United Methodist Church. While we believe that our program is one of the best options in the Tampa Bay area, we know it is not for everyone. We do expect families that register for Stars & Comets 2026 - 2027 to understand, agree with, and abide by our fees, policies, conduct / discipline, and releases including our payment options and the photo release. If you find that these policies are not for you, we encourage you to find a program that better suits the needs of your family.

The acknowledgment and acceptance of the fees, policies, conduct / discipline, and releases page is found on the fifth page of this packet (entitled ADDITIONAL IMPORTANT STARS & COMETS REGISTRATION INFORMATION) of this registration packet. Thank you!