

Dear Prospective Sparks Parent/Guardian(s),

CALIFORNIA here we come!!!

Here are some updates...

- This is the 7th and FINAL year of the Sparks Program as we know it for our Leadership Group.
- It has been an honor to work with the Tauck Family Foundation for nearly a decade. At this point, they are conducting a theory of change initiative. This means that they are looking to affect the most change and see the most growth in what they offer our students. This Foundation has been committed to supporting McGivney's summer camp for many years, and plan on including us on future ventures as they emerge.
- Tauck has added many aspects which have made this program special for our students, and will honor them this year as well. The curriculum, travel and lodging expenses, third year scholarships awards, and lagniappes will be provided as they have been in the past.
- McGivney is committed to offering high quality programming, and are redesigning our Leadership Group for the summer of 2013. You are important in the process and welcome your thoughts on what you and your child feel would serve your summer camp needs best. Feedback forms will be available on February 27th at the time of registration. Please take the time to complete them.

Dates to remember. Please review carefully to ensure that your child will participate fully...

Monday, February 20, 2012 -Sparks application and recommendation, report card and completed essay due

Thursday, February 23, 2012 - SPARKS NOTIFICATION BY E-MAIL ONLY – Go green!

Monday, February 27, 2012- Registration begins between the hours of 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. DEPOSIT REQUIRED

Friday, March 2, 2012 - Sparks orientation to be held in the evening

Friday , March 9, 2012-June 1, 2012 - Afternoon sessions 3:30p.m. - 5:30 p.m. at McGivney

Friday, June 1, 2012 - Remaining balance due

Monday, June 25 – August 3, 2012 - Summer camp; 8:30a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Sunday, July 15-July 20, 2012 - Travel week

Thursday, July 26, 2012 - Participate in the community presentation during camp hours

Yours Truly,

Alexis Bivens
Sparks – Trip Leader
(203) 333-2789

What is the Sparks program?

The Sparks program ties together educational opportunities with the adventure and fun of summer travel.

What's in it for me?

- Get to know your travel mates through fun and interactive team building exercises
- Learn about the places that you will visit in the summer through unique lesson plans
- Take a 6 day tour of some of the most historic places in California.
- Guaranteed spot for the McGivney 2012 summer camp upon successful completion of afterschool curriculum

What does it cost?

\$400. Once accepted into the program, we require:

- \$200 deposit to confirm your participation due at time of registration.
Registration begins on Monday, February 27, 2012, between the hours of 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
We will enroll daily until the program is filled. Space is limited
- \$200 remaining balance due by Friday, June 1, 2012
- If you are interested in extended day summer camp hours from 3:00pm-5:00pm, there is an additional \$100 fee for participation

No member will be turned away due to an inability to pay

Who is eligible to apply?

Members entering 7th, 8th or 9th grade in the 2012/2013 school year, who are ready to engage, interact and learn. We are looking for members who are ready to put their minds to work.

How to apply

First, fill out the application packet and submit it to the McGivney Community Center by Monday, February 20, 2012.
Be sure to include your recommendation, report card and completed essay.

What is required of me?

If you are selected to participate, you will be required to attend:

- Sparks orientation to be held the evening of March 2, 2012
- Attend least 9 of the 11 Friday afternoon sessions beginning on March 9, 2012; ending June 1, 2012;
Friday commitment is 3:30p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
- Summer camp, June 25 – August 3, 2012; Hours of operation are 8:30a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
- Travel the week of July 15-July 20, 2012
- Participate in the community presentation; July 26, 2012 during camp hours

Application

Applicant's Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ **Alternate Phone:** _____

Applicant's E-mail (required for notification): _____

Current School: _____

Anticipated grade level for the 2012/2013 school year:

- 7th Grade
 8th Grade
 9th Grade

Have you participated in the Sparks program in the past? _____ YES _____ NO

Do you have any other activities that would conflict with the following?

Sparks orientation to be held the evening of March 2, 2012	_____ YES _____ NO	If YES , please explain your conflict
Attend least 9 of the 11 Friday afternoon sessions beginning on March 9, 2012; ending June 1, 2012 Hours of operation are 3:30-5:30	_____ YES _____ NO	If YES , please explain your conflict
Summer camp, June 25 – August 3, 2012. Hours of operation are 8:30-3:00	_____ YES _____ NO	If YES , please explain your conflict
Travel the week of July 15-July 20, 2012	_____ YES _____ NO	If YES , please explain your conflict
Sparks students host a community presentation; July 26, 2012 during camp hours	_____ YES _____ NO	If YES , please explain your conflict

Parent/Guardian's Information (list up to two):

Parent/Guardian's Name

Parent/Guardian's Name

Relationship to Applicant

Relationship to Applicant

Phone Number

Phone Number

E-mail Address

E-mail Address

RECOMMENDATION FORM

PLEASE RETURN THIS TWO PAGE FORM DIRECTLY TO THE APPLICANT IN AN ENVELOPE SEALED BY FEBRUARY 15, 2012.

Applicant's Name _____

The above applicant is a candidate for admission to the **McGivney Community Center's Summer Sparks Program**, an educational summer travel program enrolling 28 members entering 7th, 8th or 9th grade. We are looking for members who not only are willing to work hard in this unique experience, but who will also add to the spirit of cooperation and participation that exist in the community. We are, therefore, asking you to react to the questions on both sides of this form in a candid manner. Your efforts are very much appreciated, and this form will be invaluable to us as we evaluate the candidate's application. Please feel free to call us if you would like to make additional comments. This application deadline is the 20th of February.

Place a check mark in the corresponding box that will indicate your opinion of the applicant.

RECOMMENDATION FORM

Degree of intellectual curiosity and desire for education:				
<input type="checkbox"/> Exceptional	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Average	<input type="checkbox"/> Below Average	<input type="checkbox"/> Clearly Deficient
Character and honesty:				
<input type="checkbox"/> Exceptional	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Average	<input type="checkbox"/> Below Average	<input type="checkbox"/> Clearly Deficient
Respect for teachers and authority:				
<input type="checkbox"/> Exceptional	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Average	<input type="checkbox"/> Below Average	<input type="checkbox"/> Clearly Deficient
Degree of cooperation and cooperative attitude:				
<input type="checkbox"/> Exceptional	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Average	<input type="checkbox"/> Below Average	<input type="checkbox"/> Clearly Deficient
Personality (manners, friendliness, modesty, helpfulness, etc.):				
<input type="checkbox"/> Exceptional	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Average	<input type="checkbox"/> Below Average	<input type="checkbox"/> Clearly Deficient
Reliability and sense of responsibility:				
<input type="checkbox"/> Exceptional	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Average	<input type="checkbox"/> Below Average	<input type="checkbox"/> Clearly Deficient
Ambition for self-knowledge:				
<input type="checkbox"/> Exceptional	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Average	<input type="checkbox"/> Below Average	<input type="checkbox"/> Clearly Deficient
Capacity to grasp ideas:				
<input type="checkbox"/> Exceptional	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Average	<input type="checkbox"/> Below Average	<input type="checkbox"/> Clearly Deficient
Ability to stay on task and focus:				
<input type="checkbox"/> Exceptional	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Average	<input type="checkbox"/> Below Average	<input type="checkbox"/> Clearly Deficient

RECOMMENDATION FORM

In what capacity have you related to the candidate? _____

How long have you known him/her? _____

What are the first words that come to mind which best describe the candidate?

What do you consider the candidate's strengths to be?

If the candidate has some special ability or talent, please comment as to its strength relative to the peer group.
What adjectives come to mind when you think about this candidate?

Do you have any reason to question the candidate's personal integrity? If so, please explain.

Name of individual completing this form: _____ Position _____

School: _____ School Telephone _____

Signature: _____ Date _____

**Thank you for your thoughtful comments and for the time you have taken to complete this recommendation.
Your remarks will aid us considerably in evaluating the candidate's application. We will hold your remarks in
confidence.**

CONSENT FORM

I _____ (applicant name) hereby agree that everything in this application is true. I realize that if I am chosen for this program, I will need to pay my fees by Friday, June 1, 2012. I will also be responsible for participating in all of the required commitment dates.

My parent/guardian, _____, consents to allow me to participate fully in the McGivney Community Center Summer Sparks Program and provide the necessary support to ensure my success in the program.

Applicant Signature _____ Date _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

Please submit this application by **Monday, February 20, 2012** to:

McGivney Community Center:
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 5220, Bridgeport, CT 06610-0220
Fax: 203.334.1933
Site Address: 338 Stillman Street, Bridgeport, CT 06608

Checklist

- Signed and completed application
- Recommendation form
- Report Card
- Completed essay form