

Spirit of America Youth Education Program



Attention Parents, Guardians of 7th and 8th Grade Students:

We are proud to offer your middle school student a chance to take part in a national boater education program that is only offered to 7th and 8th grade students, called Spirit of America 2011 will be the fifth year this program has been offered in the state of Iowa and we are proud that it continues to be housed at Camp Foster YMCA! Spirit of America is youth-oriented, summer boater education program that is offered to you at no charge. It began as a privately-ran summer program in Mentor, OH, a suburb of Cleveland, and was the dream of Harry Allen Jr., President of Great Lakes Power. He saw the need to educate our youth in boating safety and the rules of the road; or water. For the last 14 years, Spirit of America has been serving the youth of the metropolitan of Cleveland with the help of the Metro Lake and Parks, the U.S. Coast Guard and countless volunteers. Currently, Spirit of America is only offered in a handful of states nationwide, Iowa being one of the only located in the Midwest.

We are proud to be housing the national Spirit of America program in Iowa and hope that you choose to become a part of this wonderful program. The goal of the program is to develop self-confidence, set goals, build social skills, practice self-control, responsible behavior – all while having a great time learning to operate and maintain power, sail and paddle watercrafts! The on-the-water instruction will take part in several different types of watercrafts. The students in the program will learn to operate Canoes & Kayaks, Sailboats, 14' Jon Boats, Ski Boats, PWC's and will have the opportunity to operate the Iowa DNR Patrol Boat and the Okoboji-Arnolds Park Fire and Rescue Vessel.

Students of Spirit of America – Destination Okoboji must first pass the Iowa Boater Education Program, which all materials will be mailed to the student once he/she registers. The student must study and complete the test prior to camp. The student will bring the materials to camp and tests will be collected at check-in. Tests will be graded on site and processed immediately after. Campers will complete the Pool/Water Safety Session on the first afternoon and continue with the boater education courses after. The first session of Spirit Camp will begin on **June 19th, 2011 at 2pm** and will conclude at **10am on June 25th**. The second session will take place on **August 7th – August 13th**. A graduation ceremony for the first session will take place June 25th on the Queen II, located at the State Pier in Arnolds Park. The graduation for the second session is still being planned.

Again, it is important that the student will be available for the entire length of the course. No partial credit will be given for the course. Please review the dates and the Student Application, which can be accessed online at www.campfosterymca.com. Please fill out the form and return to Camp Foster YMCA. We hope you take advantage of the Spirit of America Camp. Please call or email our office if you have any questions regarding this amazing experience. patrickymca@campfoster.org, at 800-456-9622 or 712-336-3272.

Sincerely,
Patrick Rice, Camp Foster YMCA Program Director