

Camp Stella Maris Stories

Sample Interview Questions

Finding Camp

1. How did Camp Stella Maris first enter your life?
2. What do you remember about your first arrival at camp?
3. Who were the people who first made you feel welcome?
4. Was there a moment when you realized that Camp Stella Maris was becoming more than simply a place you visited?

A Summer You Remember

5. Take us back to a particular summer at Camp Stella Maris. What do you see, hear, or remember most clearly?
6. What did an ordinary day at camp feel like?
7. Is there an activity, tradition, or thing that immediately brings back memories?
8. What is one camp story that you find yourself telling again and again?
9. What happened at camp that still makes you laugh?
10. Is there a small moment that may have seemed ordinary at the time but now feels important?

The People Who Made Camp

11. Who made a lasting difference in your life at Camp Stella Maris?
12. What did that person see in you, teach you, or help you understand?
13. Is there someone whose contribution to camp deserves to be remembered more widely?
14. How would you describe the friendships formed at CSM?
15. Did any of those relationships continue after your time at camp?

Growth and Belonging

16. How were you different when you left camp from when you arrived?
17. Did Camp Stella Maris help you discover something about yourself?
18. When did you feel most fully accepted or understood at camp?
19. Did camp ever challenge you, frighten you, or ask something difficult of you?
20. What did you learn at camp about friendship, leadership, responsibility, faith, service, or love?
21. Did Camp Stella Maris give you a sense of belonging that was difficult to find elsewhere?

Faith and Meaning

22. What did the spiritual life of Camp Stella Maris mean to you?
23. Were there particular prayers, Masses, songs, conversations, or quiet moments that stayed with you?
24. Did camp shape your understanding of faith, God, community, or service?



25. The name *Stella Maris* means “Star of the Sea.” Does that name carry any meaning for you?
26. Do you think of camp as a form of ministry? Why or why not?

Leadership and Service

27. Did you ever serve as a counselor, staff member, volunteer, board member, donor, or leader at camp? What did that responsibility mean to you?
28. What did you hope to give the campers or staff entrusted to your care?
29. Was there someone whose example shaped the way you led?
30. What did leadership at camp teach you that you later carried into your family, work, ministry, or community?
31. What does it mean to be a steward of a place like Camp Stella Maris?

Family and Generations

32. Does Camp Stella Maris belong to your family’s story?
33. Did a parent, sibling, spouse, child, grandparent, or friend introduce you to camp?
34. What has it meant to see another generation experience CSM?
35. Are there camp stories or traditions that have been handed down in your family?
36. What would you want future members of your family to understand about this place?

Change and Continuity

37. How has Camp Stella Maris changed since you first knew it?
38. What parts of camp do you hope never change?
39. What has allowed CSM to endure across generations?
40. How can camp continue to welcome new people while preserving what makes it distinctive?
41. What do today’s campers and staff carry forward from the generations that came before them?

The Story You Carry

42. How has Camp Stella Maris remained with you beyond the summer?
43. Has something you learned at camp shaped a decision you made later in life?
44. When you think about CSM now, what feeling comes first?
45. Is there something about your camp experience that you understand differently today than you did at the time?
46. What do people who have never experienced Camp Stella Maris need to understand about it?
47. What do you think people get right when they describe CSM—and what do they sometimes miss?

Looking Ahead

48. What do you hope Camp Stella Maris will offer the next generation?



- 49. What responsibility do alumni, staff, families, and friends have to the future of camp?
- 50. What advice would you give someone arriving at CSM for the first time?
- 51. What would you say to a future counselor or staff member?
- 52. What story, value, or tradition should never be lost?

Closing Questions

- 53. What have I not asked that you hoped we would talk about?
- 54. Is there someone else whose Camp Stella Maris story should be recorded?
- 55. Complete this sentence: "Camp Stella Maris taught me..."
- 56. Complete this sentence: "When I think of Camp Stella Maris, I think of..."
- 57. What would you like to say directly to Camp Stella Maris?
- 58.

