

Summary of All Star 1 2023 Conference Evaluations

Summary of Evaluations (based on 38 online submissions and 16 paper submissions)

- Responses were overwhelmingly positive.
- No one wanted to eliminate anything.
- The diversity of offerings was appreciated.
- There were helpful suggestions for tweaking some of the volunteer jobs.
- There were a few suggestions for introducing and integrating new shoalers.

Highlights

- Most loved events: Music, music, and more music. There were more shoutouts for social hour music than anything else, though all musical events were appreciated, as was the diversity of musical styles and performers.
- Perennial fave: Great People Hunt
- New old fave: Quadrathlon
- Chapel: Lots of positive responses about chapel. It's clearly valued.
- Stunt Night
- Talks on the Rocks
- Kids Talent Show
- Yoga
- Dementia Support Group
- Writing Group: members wrote responses, of course!
- Seth House!!! not really in our control but we will alert the Star Island Corporation that he was AMAZING and we would like him to return as Executive Chef in 2024

Thing to Drop

- Conference photo: not really in our collective control.

Suggestions for Improving the Conference (in no particular order)

- Reconsider Late Night Music locations and duration, as the combination kept conferees up past their bed times.
- Offer volunteer gardening.
- Keep Stunt Night to an hour.
- Schedule daytime peer group meetings.
- Bring back the 15x20.

- Sponsor multiple get-togethers on Sunday night or Monday morning for parents and guardians with similarly aged children.
- Offer an intergenerational activity on the last day.
- Schedule storytelling with Jen.
- Schedule more yoga, including on Saturday.
- Offer more Talks on the Rocks.
- Bring on bingo.
- Organize icebreakers (e.g. Trivial Pursuit, personal scavenger hunt, family trivia).
- Sell Choke Fest T-shirts again.
- Reinforce bedtime rules.
- Make all payments via Venmo (or checks?), as it was hard to keep track of who paid with cash.
- Offer both boxed and bottled wine.
- Announce Book Club books earlier and have more leaders.
- Sign up more kids for Morning Chapel.
- Set up a satellite Art Barn on the porch and use it for After Hours, too.
- Send the chalk board scribe updates via text message to keep it current, display the following day's schedule on Side 2 of the board for those who want advance notice, and include social hour volunteers so they don't forget to help.
- Conduct the July 4th Games on the main lawn and softball field for the enjoyment of spectators.
- Include fresh vegetables and fruit among the snacks for kids.
- Use a large font and include lanyards (\$25/100 on Amazon) on name tags.
- Use the Voice of Star to make announcements at every meal.
- Offer table sign-up for Banquet Night.
- Increase awareness and assistance for people with mobility challenges.
- Schedule the Writer's Workshop to meet before lunch.
- Match teenagers with technologically challenged older conferees who could use one-on-one assistance.
- Instruct conferees to pack their items in a plastic trash bag within each duffel bag to keep contents dry.
- Deliver the luggage of the speaker and of people with physical disabilities to their rooms.
- If luggage drops remain, make sure that locations are out of the rain.

Respectfully submitted by Michele and Matthew Cohen