



Frequently Asked Questions

The Basics

Where will the seminar be held? The 2025 seminar will take place at Drew University in Madison, N.J. [Directions can be found here.](#)

When will the seminar be held?

Ambassadors must check in at the residence halls on campus between **8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.** on Friday, May 30, 2025. The seminar will begin with Ambassador Orientation on May 30, 2025 at 10:30 a.m.

The seminar will conclude on June 1, 2025, and check-out will be from **12:30 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

You must be present for the entire seminar, including overnight.

Who else is going? Over 250 high school sophomores from around the State of NJ will be at the seminar. You are going to meet new people who will become your lifelong friends.

Program Information

What kind of program is planned?

During your HOBY Leadership Seminar, many dynamic leaders—all volunteers from the fields of business, education, government, and other professions—will address aspects of our changing world and the challenges future leaders will confront. The program will not promote any specific political party, religion, or way of thinking; but is designed to develop critical thinking skills by actively involving participants in discussions and informal debate.

During the seminar, you will be asked to undertake a community service project(s) involving at least 100 hours during the year following your seminar, to make a difference in your school, community, place of worship, or other environments where you see a need. The program also includes outstanding speakers, leadership activities, social events, and a special closing ceremony to which your parents are invited!

Who pays for the seminar?

Your school, guardian, or sponsor has paid a Registration Fee and will provide transportation to and from the seminar. All costs for meals, lodging, and training materials have been generously provided by sponsors throughout our state, including businesses, foundations, individuals, and service organizations wishing to support leadership education.

What should I wear to the seminar?

The seminar dress code will be neat, casual dress, for example, a pair of shorts, jeans, or khakis and a shirt/blouse.

Saturday you will be provided with an N.J. HOBY T-shirt to wear for the day. See [Packing for NJ HOBY](#) for more information on what to pack.

What if I am unable to attend the seminar?

If circumstances prevent you from attending the entire seminar, including overnight, we would like to allow another student to attend.

Please notify the teacher or guidance counselor at your school who selected you and follow up with our Registration Team at registration@newjerseyhoby.org so another student may take your place.

Arrival & Pick-Up

What transportation arrangements have been made?

You are responsible for your transportation to and from the seminar. [Please use this additional map for drop-off and pick-up instructions.](#)

Where should I go when I arrive?

Enter the university from Glenwild Avenue and park in the Glenwild Lot (highlighted in yellow on the map above). There will be HOBY volunteers to guide the way to the parking lot. Someone will greet you and check you in by the entrance to the dorms.

When do I get picked up?

The seminar check-out will be on **Sunday, June 1, 2025, from 12:30 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.** Parents/guardians should pick up students at the Baldwin Gymnasium (#41 highlighted in pink on the map). Please enter the university via Route 124 and turn onto Lancaster Road and park in Lot L (highlighted in brown on the map).

Do I have to stay for the entire time?

Yes, students registered for NJ HOBY must be present for the entire event, including overnight. If circumstances arise that prevent you from attending the entire program, we ask that you immediately notify us at registration@newjerseyhoby.org so that the alternate from your school can attend in your place.

What should your parents or guardians expect when they pick you up on Sunday?

HOBY can be a life-changing experience for the students who attend. They have been exploring various topics related to leadership and service. They helped run the program by moderating panels, introducing speakers, and holding discussions on various topics. They have met students from all over New Jersey who are also future leaders and had an opportunity to participate in critical thinking discussions. They will most likely be exhausted and exhilarated at the same time and may not have much of a voice left! You may have dropped off a shy, quiet child, but you will probably be picking up an outgoing, ambitious young adult. Encourage your child to share their experience at HOBY with you, as well as pursue what they hope to accomplish as a result of their experience.

Accommodations

What are the accommodations like?

Participants will be assigned to same-gender dormitory suites with two to four participants per room on floors reserved exclusively for the seminar. Each student will have their own bed and share a bathroom within the suite. The rooms are all equipped with air conditioning.

You will need to bring your own linens (sleeping bag or blanket, pillow, sheets, and towels) and any toiletries you may need during the weekend.

All meals will be provided. Please Note: Breakfast will not be served on Friday morning, May 30th, so please eat before arriving. All dietary restrictions must be included in your pre-seminar forms in order to be accommodated.

Packing for NJ HOBY

Please see the following information when considering your packing list:

- There will be a considerable amount of walking throughout the weekend, so consider this when choosing proper footwear and attire. We suggest that you wear sneakers or comfortable sandals.
- Bring a sweatshirt or light jacket, as the conference space is well air-conditioned and there is a possibility of cool evenings in May/June.

Our rule of thumb is *if you can't wear it to school, you can't wear it to the seminar*. A [packing checklist](#) is provided in this packet for your reference.

Can I bring my cell phone/laptop/camera?

The university will not have the internet connection turned on in the dormitory therefore we insist you do **not** bring your laptop, iPad, or other expensive devices. In addition, there will be NO free time to do homework, or computer activities throughout the weekend. Social Media blasts will be incorporated into the seminar, allowing students to use their phones throughout the day. ***Cell phone use during presentations and activities will not be tolerated.***

Will I need any spending money?

You are not required to bring any money with you; however if you forgot any incidentals, you might want to bring a small amount just in case. In addition, we have an NJ HOBY Store where we will be selling HOBY HUGS and a variety of HOBY clothing and other items.

Supervision & Safety

Will there be adequate adult supervision? Absolutely! All HOBY programs have a minimum ratio of 1 adult (21 and over) for every 12 students. In addition, students are never left unattended or allowed to walk across campus without supervision.

What if I need to take medication while I am at the seminar?

Please provide information about your medication on the Medical History Records Form and Make sure to read and comply with the Policy for Use of Medication During a HOBY Event. If there are other questions about medication use during the seminar, please contact us at registration@newjerseyhoby.org.

If necessary, how may I be contacted during the seminar?

Parents, friends, and family members are discouraged from calling students during the seminar due to the disruption caused by panels and activities. In case of **emergency**, your parent(s) or guardian(s) may call the Leadership Seminar Chair and will be provided that contact information a week before the seminar or our main number at 201-503-HOBY. Please make sure your email is correct when filling out these forms, that is how we will be getting this information to you.

Please DO NOT call the Drew University Police Department unless it is an emergency. The seminar will be chaperoned by qualified adults who will be staying at the facility 24 hours a day. Students may call home during breaks or while in the dorm.

Supervision & Safety

Who may I contact should I have additional questions?

For additional questions, concerns, dietary restrictions, or medical inquiries for the seminar, please contact us at registration@newjerseyhoby.org.