



Ultimate Peace US Summer Camp 2025 - Camper Frequently Asked Questions

What is the background of Ultimate Peace?

Our mission since 2009 has been: To build bridges of friendship, understanding, and leadership between divided youth, using the values-based sport of Ultimate as our tool.

The organization was formed in 2009. For the next 12 years, Ultimate Peace (UP) ran groundbreaking cross-cultural sports, education, and leadership programs in the Middle East, bringing together thousands of Palestinian, Arab, and Jewish youth. This was accomplished through facilitating year-round community-based Ultimate programs, an overnight summer camp, and a 3-year Leaders-in-Training program.

In 2023, we launched our first North America based camp, in Lawrenceville, NJ. We had 78 campers from across the continent, both far and near. In 2024 we had a 94 person camp, with participants from the Middle East, Canada, India, Colombia, and throughout the United States. We hope and expect our 2025 camp will be even better.

What principles/values guide the camp?

Camp UP is designed to be a judgment-free oasis where campers can be themselves while meeting a variety of new friends. The core principles, which are incorporated into all phases of camp, are mutual respect, integrity, non-violence, friendship, and fun.

Another guiding principle is that playing on a team is a way to build trust and friendship. Campers will spend the majority of their time on an approximately 12 camper team, with 2-3 coaches. On the daily schedule shown below, those items that are done with the team are marked with an asterisk

What are the dates of the camp?

Camp will be from Saturday, June 28 to Friday, July 4. Campers should expect to arrive before lunch on Saturday and leave early afternoon on Friday.

Where is the camp located?

Camp will be held at The Lawrenceville School in [Lawrenceville, New Jersey](#), easily accessible via train from New York City and Philadelphia, as well as Newark Liberty International airport. There is also a small airport near Lawrenceville (about 15 minutes away), Trenton-Mercer Airport. More information can be found at www.lawrenceville.org and on the [Campus Map](#)

Who will direct the camp?

The camp will be overseen by Dr. David Barkan, CEO and co-founder of Ultimate Peace, and two other Co-Directors to be named.

How many campers?

We anticipate there will be approximately 100-120 campers.

What ages will the campers be?

Campers need to have just completed 8th, 9th, 10th or 11th grade.

What does the camp cost for each camper?

A pay-what-you-can tier system will be available to campers. Standard tuition, inclusive of all costs (except travel to/from camp), is \$1,100 for the week (discounted \$100 to \$1,000 if your application is received by 2/15/2025). For those campers who receive free or reduced cost lunch at school, tuition will be \$100 for the week. For campers who don't meet that eligibility requirement but are unable to pay the standard tuition, tuition will be \$500 for the week. Assistance with travel costs might also be available.

Where will the campers be from?

As in prior years, we expect to have a camper population from throughout the United States as well as International campers. We're eager to have campers from new locations, preferably coming in "pods".

What's a "Pod"?

We are looking to have "pods", or groups of campers from the same school/team. This will give campers the opportunity to have a few people with whom they are familiar. Most of the day will be spent with people the campers have just met (i.e. we spread campers from a pod across teams to foster new friendships), and our experience shows it is helpful for campers to have some people they already know attending camp.

What if a camper wants to come from somewhere that does not have a pod?

People are encouraged to apply even if they are not in a pod. Once we have all the applications we will make determinations about the best way to fill out the camp.

Does a camper need to know how to play Ultimate prior to coming to camp?

Campers are expected to have a familiarity with Ultimate, and to be able to comfortably throw and catch the disc. We are not expecting all campers to be advanced players, but some experience playing Ultimate is required.

How many staff will there be at camp?

We anticipate 40 staff, which includes approximately 24 coaches. The rest of the staff will be for administration, camper support, activity leadership, and medical/nursing needs.

Who will be coaching at camp?

We expect to have coaches that either 1) have outstanding coaching experience at the High School, College, and/or Club level, or 2) have exceptional playing experience with leadership roles on teams. Beyond that, we are looking for a broad diversity of coaches, across racial, gender, religious, and life experience lines. Coaches must also have a track record of playing and coaching within the framework of Spirit of the Game and a commitment to coaching youth from diverse backgrounds and mentoring younger coaches.

What is the application process?

The application ([Camper Application](#)) should be completed ASAP, as spots are given on a rolling basis. If you have any questions about the application, email us at uscamp@ultimatepeace.org. We will contact everyone regarding acceptance shortly after the application deadline. We do anticipate a larger number of applicants than available spots, so it is not guaranteed that an application will lead to an acceptance.

Final acceptances will be determined by a variety of factors, primarily to ensure a very diverse group of campers. Diversity of gender, race, geography, and socio-economic status is essential to the camp culture. We regret that we won't be able to accept everyone interested, but hope to expand our number of camps and their locations in the future.

Upon acceptance, you will be sent a registration questionnaire that will include more information required for us to run camp. You will have until March 31 to complete the registration to confirm your spot at camp.

Will the camp have medical staff?

Yes. The camp will have at least one nurse present throughout the time when campers are on-site. All campers will need to provide a medical information sheet outlining all medical considerations.

Where will the campers sleep?

Campers will sleep in the Lawrenceville dorms, mostly in two person rooms. Whenever possible, campers will be assigned a room with someone else from their pod.

Can the camper choose their roommate?

As part of the registration process campers will be asked if they have a roommate preference. However, it is not guaranteed that all of these preferences will be met.

Where will the campers eat?

Campers will eat in the Lawrenceville School cafeterias. Meals will be eaten with your teammates.

Are there accommodations for food allergies/restrictions?

Lawrenceville accommodates the full range of allergies/restrictions throughout the school year and will continue to do so in the summer. The registration form will ask for any such accommodations that are needed.

How will travel be handled?

For people within driving distance from the School, it is expected that they will be dropped off and picked up. For those in the Philadelphia to NYC corridor who choose not to drive, we will offer transportation from the [Hamilton](#) and/or [Princeton Junction](#) New Jersey Transit train station, and from the [West Trenton](#) SEPTA station. For people flying to camp, arrangements will be made to pick up campers at Trenton, Philadelphia, or Newark Airport. Camp staff will talk directly with campers flying in to make the best arrangements.

What will a typical day look like?

A final schedule has not been determined, but we expect the typical day to look something like this (team activities marked with *):

- Breakfast*
- Ultimate Training / Scrimmage*
- Lunch*
- Pool / Rest Time
- Rest Time
- Free Choice among numerous Activities
- Dinner*
- Ultimate Training* or whole camp activity
- Free Time on Lit Fields
- Closing Circle*
- Bed Time

How will teams be divided?

Teams will be divided so that there is a broad diversity of backgrounds, geographies, demographics, and Ultimate experience on each team.

Is there a pool, and if so, does every camper have to swim?

There is an indoor pool, but there is no requirement for campers to swim. A lifeguard will be on duty during pool hours.

What should I do if I have additional questions?

Questions not addressed here can be sent to uscamp@ultimatepeace.org.