



GUIDE
TO THE EDUCATION SYSTEM
IN THE UNITED STATES

BY

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ISSS

International
Student & Scholar
Services

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

SUMMER CAMPS

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The following is a list of summer camps available in the TwinCities and surrounding areas. This list is just meant as a resource you can use to check some of the opportunities available. Our office in no way endorses any of these programs. In fact, there are many more options out there and we invite you to look for them. Check your child's school district website to see whether they offer summer programs. Also, ask your child's school teacher(s) and other parents you know what summer camp opportunities they are familiar with and/or recommend.

Generally, many schools start advertising summer camps starting the month of February. You can contact the program directly to learn when summer camp options will be available,

Many of the following summer camp opportunities in the TwinCities and surrounding areas are NOT free. However, most of them offer Financial Assistance. Each program defines Financial Assistance eligibility criteria differently (some might be need based and others might be based on merit). If Financial Assistance is not mentioned on the website, our suggestion is that you contact the program directly and ask. Some programs do not advertise Financial Assistance and offer it only upon request. Also, some program's financial assistance might be limited. Therefore, to be able to receive it you need to apply early (as soon as you are allowed to).

Many programs also offer Early Bird discounts (those are discounted rates for people that register early, by a specific date set by each program).

Most programs might fill up fast. Therefore, to ensure your child can participate, you need to apply early.

Some available programs are:

[The Art Academy](#)

The ArtAcademy's goal is to improve students' drawing and painting abilities dramatically in a short period of time. They accomplish this by teaching time-honored techniques in classes with very low student-to-teacher ratios. The Art Academy offers year-round programs, averaging 300 to 475 students per term, with special summer class and camp offerings designed to satisfy the needs of a variety of family schedules and age groups, beginning as young as age 5. A unique Create Your Own Schedule Option makes it easy for parents to fit the school's art classes around other summer activities and vacations.

The Summer Teen Workshop at the [Arts Institute International Minnesota](#)

The Summer Teen Workshop is ideal for teen age students interested in exploring one of the following creative programs: Advertising, graphic design, interior design, photography, culinary arts, media arts and animation, visual effects and motion graphics, or interactive design media.

[The Blake School](#) Summer Programs



Photo Courtesy of the InternationalSchool of Minnesota Kids Camp

The summer programs at The Blake School allow pre-kindergarteners through high school seniors to engage in activities that stimulate their curiosity, nurture their interests, challenge their minds, and foster their growth.

Residencies and Workshops at the [Children's Theater Company](#)

The Children's Theatre Company provides challenging, innovative, high-quality arts education to students of every cultural heritage, ability, and level of interest. Whether during a single workshop or an extended residency involving multiple artists and disciplines, we always aim to stretch, challenge and enrich

[The Germanic American Institute](#) Sommerschule

The Germanic American Institute Sommerschule is for students interested in learning or practicing the German language. Kids anywhere from 5 to 12 have four different weekly Sommerschule camp options combining language with a highly interactive, hands-on theme. Camps are available for everyone from the beginner to the bilingual child, with different activities based on age and proficiency levels.

International Kids Camp at the [International School of Minnesota](#)



Photo Courtesy of the International School of Minnesota Kids Camp

Campers at the International Kids Camp, offered weekly at The International School of Minnesota (ISM), will experience the “flavor” of different cultures by exploring the unique languages, food, games, music, sports, songs, crafts, literature, and customs in a variety of Gaelic, Dutch, Hebrew, and Hindi speaking communities. Campers can choose from The Explorers (age 3 1/2 through students entering first grade); The Pioneers (students entering second through sixth grade); Sports Adventurers (students entering second through seventh grade); and Counselor in Training (students entering seventh, eight, or ninth grade). The sports camps include baseball, soccer, tennis, golf, basketball, fishing, water sports and safety, and outdoor adventures such as canoeing, archery, and hiking.

ID Tech camps at [Macalester College](#)

ID Tech Camps is America’s #1 summer computer camp and one of a handful of elite summer camps in Minnesota’s twin cities. The summer kids’ camps and teen camps are designed for beginner to advanced learners. Popular Macalester College summer day camps and overnight camps average 6 students per instructor for customized instruction delivered by highly trained adult-only staff. They offer real-world instruction on the hottest technologies from Adobe®, Apple®, Autodesk®, Microsoft® and more. Students receive our gold standard 1-on-1 instruction (average 6 students per staff) from cool, energetic staff at prestigious universities nationwide including Stanford, MIT, Brown, Northwestern, UT Austin, Emory, and UCLA. You can choose from many summer camps.

Summer Camps at [MacPhail Center for the Arts](#)

MacPhail’s summer camps provide a fun and unique learning opportunity for students to explore music in a creative environment and develop skills that will last a lifetime. Each camp is specially designed to meet the needs of the student and to create a nurturing environment that promotes cooperation, creativity and self-discovery. Camps are a great opportunity for social interaction with students of similar level and interest.

Summer Youth Program Classes at the [Minneapolis Institute of Arts](#) The MIA’s ongoing program of classes provides children and young adults with challenging art experiences. Programs focus on works of art in the permanent collection and special exhibitions, giving young people a broad cultural view of the history of art. Studio activities are designed to

develop basic art skills and to offer individualized instruction for beginning, intermediate, and advanced students. Selected works by students are displayed in Gallery 110.

[Minnesota Institute for Talented Youth](#)

The Minnesota Institute for Talented Youth offers summer programs for school age students. The ExplorSchool program is designed for students in 4th, 5th or 6th grade who have subjects in school that they wish they could explore more deeply. ExplorSchool classes are all-day programs that last two weeks. Students take two classes – one in the morning and another in the afternoon. All classes are taught by teachers who are experts in their fields and passionate about helping students learn. And because each class last for half a day, students have plenty of time to explore.

The Expand Your Mind program is designed for students in grades 7 to 12 and gives bright, intellectually curious teenagers the opportunity to spend time in an exciting, challenging atmosphere focused on hands-on learning, shared experiences and building friendships. Students can immerse themselves in a variety of courses ranging from acting to chemistry, jazz band to math, architecture to constitutional issues, psychology to journalism, video to forensics. All of our Expand Your Mind (EYM) courses are held on the campus of MacalesterCollege in St. Paul, Minnesota.

[The Perpich Center for Arts Education](#)

The PerpichCenter for Arts Education is an agency of the state of Minnesota with the mission of providing leadership for arts education statewide. Every year the Center publishes the Arts in Minnesota (AIM) Summer Programs Guide. This guide contains a diverse array of lively summer arts programs for K-12 students and teachers, and is compiled from responses to a listing request distributed to arts and education organizations throughout Minnesota. The AIM Guide can be downloaded from the Center's website or can be requested by calling (763) 591-2049.

Youth Classes and Camps at the [Science Museum of Minnesota](#)

The Science Museum of Minnesota provides a wide range of programs for youth ages 3 to 16. Programs combine science, art, drama, and literature in ways that encourage kids to actively discover and examine concepts for themselves. Our staff strives to inspire a life-long passion for learning and teaches kids creative problem solving skills, teamwork skills, persistence and follow through. We also offer family classes that provide opportunities for adults and young people to learn together.

Summer and Extended Programs at the [St. Paul Academy and Summit School](#)

Exercising the brain can be as simple as taking a summer class in reading, writing, math, study skills, spelling, or test preparation—classes available at St. PaulAcademy and Summit School (SPA). SPA also offers summer classes in fine and performing arts for children ranging in age from 4 to 14, and tennis for all ages, starting with 3-year-olds.

A particularly unique program is an early childhood multi-arts program designed for children ages 4 through 8 (with this year marking the 20th anniversary). Teachers are practicing artists who are in tune with young children. Kids participate in music, movement, theater, visual arts, and creative writing activities. The program is organized around a theme. Kids participating in

the Academic Action program will work in small groups (no more than four per group) to brush up on or improve skills in reading, math, and writing. This program is particularly well-suited for children with learning disabilities or other learning differences, but it's been extremely successful with learners of all kinds who need an extra boost to be successful in school.

Henjum Creative Study Institute at the [University Of Minnesota Morris](#)

Gifted and talented students ages 12 to 17 can explore the arts, music, and technology during these two weeks. Outstanding teachers, unique classes, bright and motivated students, college facilities, and fun activities make the Institute a great place to go for exciting summer study. Students can choose three courses from a variety of subjects in radio broadcasting, printmaking, robots, computer science, painting, theater, jazz and vocal music, digital media, and more. Family and friends are invited to attend a showcase program of student projects and performances.

Summer Scholars at the [University of Minnesota Morris](#)

Students can get a jump-start on their college education by attending a nationally recognized Summer Scholars program at the University of Minnesota, Morris (UMM). Current high school sophomores and juniors who rank in the upper 20 percent of their class are invited to be part of this highly regarded program. Summer Scholars offer scholastically talented students an introduction to college academics and life through an emphasis on writing, critical thinking, discussion, individual and group projects, interdisciplinary perspectives, and campus life. Summer Scholar participants choose one of two courses. The courses can help students earn two college credits in two weeks.

Youth Programs at the [University of Minnesota Twin Cities](#)

University of Minnesota Summer Youth Programs offer unique fun, enrichment, and activity in a variety of settings for ages 5-15.

Kids' University offers discovery in common University studies such as agriculture, ecology, language, math, and sciences presented through fun, hands-on activities.

Take aim at a lifetime activity with a bow or a rod and reel, reach new heights with a pair of rock-climbing shoes, challenge your time and distance, and more at a Minnesota Sport Schools camp. Sports instruction is available in a wide variety of traditional, adventure, and aquatic activities.

Discovering 'U' is a group of exciting creative programs that allows youth opportunities to explore more about themselves and the world through artistic endeavors.

Gopher Adventures could be the event of the summer! This camp combines recreational activities, top-quality leadership, and state-of-the-art facilities all summer long. This program is known for providing fun and active days filled with exploring the unique features of the campus and beyond.

ThreeSixty's Youth Editorial Board Summer Journalism Camp at the [University of St. Thomas](#)

Minnesota high school students interested in news reporting and writing are urged to apply for a two-week summer workshop at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul.

The free workshop includes food and lodging on the St. Thomas campus, with a stipend for

students with financial need. Students completing grades nine through 12 this spring are eligible to apply for one of the 16 workshop spots. The workshop is targeted at students of color in hopes of encouraging greater diversity in the profession. No prior experience with journalism is necessary.

The workshop also includes an extra week for up to 10 of the students who want additional work in broadcast news. They will commute to campus each day during that week.

Applications must be postmarked by April. 15.

[YMCA](#) Summer Programs



Photo Courtesy of the YMCA

So much of what we do today is indoors. YMCA Day Camps encourage old-fashioned outdoor play and help reacquaint kids with Mother Nature in a safe, cared for, fun environment away from TV, video games, and passive activities.

There are six Minneapolis and five St. Paul Day Camps for kids ages 4 to 14, with a typical camp day from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. with before and after care from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Traditional camp activities such as arts and crafts, swimming, canoeing, archery, games, hiking, outdoor cooking, songs, and skits are offered at all Day Camp locations. Bus stops are available at most locations each day.

Specialty Camps, available for kids ranging from 6-14, are available based on each site of location. For example, CampManitou in Monticello has 1,200 acres of property with four private lakes, and with the help of a donated boat, YMCA is able to offer water skiing and tubing, activities that are hugely popular with the campers. The St. Paul Northeast Day Camp in White Bear Lake has an ongoing relationship with a sailing school in White Bear, making it possible to offer a sailing specialty.

Another well-attended program is the Wee Backpacker program for 4 and 5-year-old campers. YMCA Day Camps are unique in that most offer Leaders-in-Training for teens in grades seven through nine, learning confidence building skills, responsibility management, and group development through planned activities. If a LIT receives a reference from a camp counselor, then they may apply to be a Counselor-in-Training or Junior Counselor, some volunteer positions; some paid.