

INSTITUTE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: 2023

Will there be a housing monitor/assistant?

Yes! We will have 5 live-in resident assistants. Each will be trained to VCU standards, and we will also have VCU staff present in the building. Additional administrators will also be staying for after-hour activities.

Is the dorm co-ed?

The dorm hall is separated into two wings of the building. Boys and girls will be staying in separate wings with separate bathrooms. Roommates will be assigned based on gender and age and we welcome roommate preferences. Our resident assistants will also be separated by gender during evening monitoring.

Which meals are the responsibility of the student?

None! Students will be provided breakfast, lunch, and dinner for the duration of the camp through catering and VCU Dining options, particularly at VCU's Shafer Hall where they will be accompanied by our instructors at all times.

Will there be any activities after debate programs?

Absolutely! Some of our activities include a tour of the Institute of Contemporary Art, an afternoon of podcasting, lessons on college and career planning, gaming and movie nights held at the dorm lounge, and exercise on the lawns of the dorms. The focus of the evenings will be for additional fun workshops and practicing mastering student speeches.

What is the daily schedule and routine like for the students?

On a typical day, students will wake up at 8AM for breakfast and team huddle. Our staff will chaperone students to our main classroom facilities at 9AM located at VCU School of Business, located steps away from the Gladding Residence Center. Classes and practice sessions will take up most of the day, with a lunch break at 12PM and other recess breaks until the end of camp at 5PM. At the end of our camp day, students will be chaperoned to dinner at Shafer Hall then return to the dorm or Cabell Library for evening workshops and activities. At the end of the night, students will have time to relax and decompress prior to mandatory room checks and lights-out announcements at 11PM.

How is communication maintained with parents or guardians during the camp?

Parents will receive updates via email about their child's participation and growth and we encourage students to call their families every night. Parents will be able to see updates on our social media page, as well as email or call the camp director, Phyl Demetriou, at any point during the camp.

Will there be access to medical attention in the event of an emergency?

We plan to have an on-site nurse available for the event of any medical emergency. We reserve the right to take your child to the hospital in case of dire emergency. Masks are optional but mandated upon symptomatic students at our discretion. All instructors are vaccinated against COVID-19 and practice regular hand hygiene to discourage spread of any sickness.

What should be brought to move-in?

Move onto the next page to see a full packing list for RDI Summer Camp!



NSTITUTE 2023 SUMMER CAMP PACKING LIST

Students should bring clothes and toiletries to last them for the full 7-day camp. Students will have access to dorm laundry and kitchen. Below we created a recommended list of items for students to bring:

Clothing: Students should bring comfortable, weather-appropriate clothing that they can wear for outdoor activities. This may include shorts, t-shirts, rain jackets, and walking shoes. We recommend packing at least one formal outfit for final speech presentations.

Toiletries: Students should bring basic toiletries such as a hairbrush, toothbrush, toothpaste, shampoo, soap, sunscreen, and deodorant.

Bedding and Towels: Students should bring a pillow, bed sheets, and blankets suitable for a Twin XL bed. A foam topper is also recommended for added comfort. Students should bring at least one towel for showering.

Water Bottle: Students should bring a reusable water bottle to stay hydrated throughout the day.

Backpack or Daypack: Students may want to bring a backpack or daypack to carry their belongings and snacks during activities.

Personal Medication: If the student is taking any prescription or over-the-counter medication, they should bring enough to last the duration of the camp.

Money: Students may want to bring some cash or a debit/credit card for souvenirs or extras that may not be covered by the camp.

Writing Tools: Students may want to bring pens, pencils, and notebooks for note taking.

Laptop or Tablet: Students should bring a laptop or tablet for schoolwork or entertainment during downtime. Be sure to bring any necessary chargers or accessories.

Books or Games: Students may want to bring books or games to enjoy during downtime.