

## **Dordt Discovery Days Frequently Asked Questions 2025**

### **Our family is new to DDD. What are some of the first things I need to know?**

Registration is very competitive. Most tickets are gone within 30 minutes of registration opening. By tickets, we mean Day Camper (attending 9 a.m. – 4:15 p.m.), Commuter (attending 9 a.m. – 9:30 p.m.) or Resident (overnight in the dorm) options. There is a Waiting List ticket which is free; it allows you to indicate class preferences but means you are open to taking any of the above tickets should they become available.

All ticket holders indicate their top three class preferences for the morning and the afternoon. Please do not list the same class option for all your preferences. We do our best to get students in at least one of their first or second choices. You will receive class confirmation in May.

### **What are the details of each ticket option?**

There are three types of ticket options available: Day Camper, Commuter, and Resident. Day Campers attend from 9 a.m. – 4:15 p.m. for \$300. Commuters attend from 9 a.m. – 9:30 p.m. for \$360. Residents stay overnight in the dorms for the week for \$425.

As you prepare for Dordt Discovery Days registration, please consider your child and which enrollment option you think will set them up for a successful camp experience. A Resident ticket may not be the best fit for every student. As Residents, students live in the dorms with a roommate and are given quite a bit of freedom. There will be counselors in the dorms as well, but students are expected to be responsible for their schedule and daily activities.

If you have a student who has never been to an overnight camp before, we recommend considering the Day Camper or Commuter option for the first year. These tickets are a great way to ease a student who might be nervous to be away from home into his or her first camp experience. If the student does well with this, he or she could be a great fit as a Resident the following year.

### **When does registration open?**

Registration opens at 10 a.m. CDT on Tuesday, April 8, 2025. Registration is online at <https://www.dordt.edu/events/dordt-discovery-days-2025>. The “Register Here” button goes live at exactly 10 a.m. You can register up to two students at a time by adding two tickets to your cart and proceeding through registration for each. You have 25 minutes to complete your registration once you begin. You will not lose your ticket(s) during the registration process, so please take your time and make sure all information is accurate.

### **What do I need to have ready for registration?**

To help expedite the registration process, please have the following items ready to go:

- The student’s three class choices (in order of preference) for both the morning and afternoon time slots
- The student’s T-shirt size (adult sizes only)

- Primary parent or guardian contact information for all camp communication (not the student's information)
- Secondary contact information for another adult in case the primary contact cannot be reached in an emergency
- The student's preferred roommate (please first confirm that the roommate plans to attend)
- Credit card payment information

### **What if my student doesn't have a roommate?**

Many students come without a roommate. If you leave that option blank on your registration or write "potluck," we will put your student with someone his or her age. Resident students are placed in groups of eight to ten with a college-age counselor who will make sure those students settle in and adjust well to activities.

### **Can more than two students stay in a room?**

Due to capacity limitations and bunkbed set-ups, only one roommate may be requested per student. Girls will sleep two to a room in Covenant Hall. Boys will sleep four to a room in West Hall. *Boys should still request only one roommate.* Pairs of boys will be matched up according to their age group and class interests. We do not have the capacity to offer single-room housing at this camp. We cannot change room assignments once campers have checked into camp and moved in.

### **What about liability and medical forms?**

Students cannot attend camp without completed liability and medical forms. Forms can be found on our website: <https://www.dordt.edu/events/dordt-discovery-days-2025> and must be filled out and returned by June 16. Please return forms to Becky Ringsby at [becky.ringsby@dordt.edu](mailto:becky.ringsby@dordt.edu).

### **What are DDD's policies for administering prescription medication?**

All Health and Medical Information can be found on our website: <https://www.dordt.edu/events/dordt-discovery-days-2025>.

### **What are DDD's policies for administering over-the-counter medications?**

We will have basic over-the-counter medications available with our camp nurse. Please do not bring these with you. You will need to grant permission for us to administer these on your student's medical form, which can be found on our website: <https://www.dordt.edu/events/dordt-discovery-days-2025>.

### **What healthcare is available to my student at camp?**

We will have a camp nurse on campus each day between 8 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Any medical emergencies will be handled by calling 911 or your student will be transported to the local clinic/hospital by camp staff, and you will be notified.

**What if I need to cancel?**

If you cancel before May 10, all but \$25 of your payment will be refunded. Before June 2, 50% of your payment will be refunded. After June 2, we are unable to offer any refunds, except in cases of serious illness or death in the family. To cancel, please contact [becky.ringsby@dordt.edu](mailto:becky.ringsby@dordt.edu).

**Is there financial assistance for camp?**

A limited number of grants are available to students who show financial need. Grants are awarded on a first come, first served basis with a standard grant covering half of registration costs. Confirmation of need must also be submitted by a second party (school/church). To apply, contact [becky.ringsby@dordt.edu](mailto:becky.ringsby@dordt.edu). Applications are due April 11. Expect to make the full payment when you register, knowing that some of it may be refunded by the end of April if a grant is awarded.

**How do I make arrangements for my student's special dietary needs?**

Dietary needs can be specified on our "Health and Medication Form" found on our website: <https://www.dordt.edu/events/dordt-discovery-days-2025>. While we will alert our dining staff to dietary needs, your student will be responsible for making those needs known to dining staff at mealtimes so that your student can be properly directed.

**I've registered. What's next?**

Watch for an immediate email that confirms we have received your registration. It will list the top three class choices your student has indicated for each session, your roommate preference, and your payment. This does NOT confirm that you are in these classes; that comes later. Keep this for your records. By late-May, you will receive class and roommate confirmations.

**Are cell phones allowed at camp?**

NO. Cell phones are not allowed at Discovery Days for any reason. We want to encourage campers to make memories and interact with other students while on campus, and we feel this is best done without a phone. Also, we are unable to monitor students' cell phone activity, therefore it is unsafe for them to have a cell phone on campus. Any student found with a cell phone will be required to leave camp immediately. A parent/legal guardian will need to pick up the student, no matter the time of day or night.

*New this year:* Both the student and the person dropping the student off at Discovery Days will be required to sign a statement at check-in noting that the student does not have a cell phone in their possession.

Campers have access to the phones of Discovery Days staff to call home, if needed. They may also use the Admissions phones during the hours of 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. by asking a staff member. Parents will also be provided with Discovery Days staff cell numbers in case of an emergency (these are also listed at the end of this document).

## **Can local students go off campus during the week for other activities such as ball games or appointments?**

Campers may not leave campus once they are dropped off on Monday. Do not make any dentist or other appointments during the week. If your student has athletic conflicts in the evening, he or she should be a Day Camper and get picked up at 4:15 p.m. to make those commitments.

## **How much spending money should I send with my student?**

Campers need only a minimal amount of cash at most. Along with regular meals, we provide morning, afternoon, and evening snacks, so they do not need extra cash for food. They may wish to have cash to go to the pool after their afternoon class (cost is \$8/time) or purchase something at the Campus Store.

## **Is there a dress code?**

Yes. Counselors may ask a student to change clothes if deemed inappropriate.

### **Boys:**

- No underwear showing
- No writing on the backside of shorts or pants
- No offensive words, phrases, or artwork
- No form-fitting clothing (such as tight Under Armour)
- No side-cut open tanks

### **Girls:**

- No spaghetti-strap tank tops
- No bra or underwear showing
- No short shorts
- No writing on the backside of shorts or pants
- No offensive words, phrases, or artwork
- No form-fitting clothing
- No low-cut or cropped tops
- Swimwear: one-piece or tankini-style

## **What should my student bring?**

*Note: A more detailed packing list will be emailed closer to camp.*

- Personal items
- Swimsuit and swim towel
- Sunscreen and insect repellent
- Comfortable clothes for class (see dress code in this document)
- Old clothes for evening activities (clothes may become dirty)
- Tennis shoes
- Minimal cash (pool and/or Campus Store)
- Water bottle

- Prescribed medications (over-the-counter medications will be available from the camp nurse and camp counselors)
  - If bringing prescribed medications, please also bring a clean, empty pill box for each different medication that will be taken.

Residents only:

- Pillow and sleeping bag or twin XL-size bedding
- Bathroom towel, shampoo, and soap
- Alarm clock
- Optional: a fan

Note: Some instructors may contact you via email in June to bring something special for their class.

### **What should my student NOT bring to camp?**

- Any tech devices whatsoever (this includes cell phones, smart watches, and all gaming devices)
- Pocket knives
- Dorm refrigerators
- Cases or coolers of soda or energy drinks
- Excessive amounts of snacks
- Scooters or skateboards
- Sound systems
- Over-the-counter medications (these will be available from the camp nurse and camp counselors)
- Valuables (Dordt is not responsible for lost or stolen items.)

### **What if my student loses something?**

The Information Desk in the Campus Center serves as our lost and found station. Lost items will also be shown in morning announcements where students may claim them easily. Dordt University is not responsible for lost or stolen items. Dorm buildings will be locked at all times.

### **When can Resident campers move into the dorms?**

After checking in at the Campus Center on Monday morning at 11:30 a.m., Resident campers may move into Covenant Hall (girls) and West Hall (boys). Move-in should be completed before 1 p.m. when our first session begins (or by noon for lunch, if desired).

### **Where do we go when we arrive the first morning of camp?**

Residents:

11:30 a.m. – Report to the Campus Center for check-in. Here, campers and families will receive move-in instructions, sign our cell phone policy agreement, and turn in any prescription medication to the camp nurse (please check out our “Health and Medication Information” form on our website to make sure you have everything you need: <https://www.dordt.edu/events/dordt-discovery-days-2025>).

Noon – Report to the Dining Commons for lunch. Families are welcome to join.

**Day Campers and Commuters:**

Noon – Report to the Campus Center to check in and pick up T-shirts, nametags, and other information, sign our cell phone policy agreement, and turn in any prescription medication to the camp nurse (please check out our “Health and Medication Information” form on our website to make sure you have everything you need: <https://www.dordt.edu/events/dordt-discovery-days-2025>). Lunch is provided at this time, and families are welcome to join.

**All campers:**

1 p.m. – Report to Jacob’s Ladder in the Science Building (look for signage) for our kickoff, announcements, and introduction to instructors. Families are welcome to join.  
1:30 p.m.- Classes begin.

**I need a campus map. How do I find my way around?**

Find our campus map at <https://www.dordt.edu/about-dordt/campus-map>.

**Where should Day Campers and Commuters be dropped off and picked up? What times?**

The drop off/pick-up location for Day Campers and Commuters is outside the Campus Center by the clock tower. Feel free to pull your car into the circular drive out front. Day campers are on campus 9 a.m. – 4:15 p.m. daily (breakfast and supper are not included in your package). Commuters are on campus 9 a.m. – 9:30 p.m. daily (breakfast is not included in your package). A secure location for Day Campers and Commuters to leave personal items is the Information Desk located near the main entrance of the Campus Center. *Please note: Day Campers and Commuters MUST check out with camp staff at the clock tower before leaving each day.*

**What is my student’s daily schedule?**

**Monday:**

11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.	Resident check-in, <i>Campus Center</i>
Noon-1 p.m.	Day Camper/Commuter check-in, <i>Campus Center</i>
Noon-1 p.m.	Lunch, <i>Dining Commons</i>
1 p.m.	Devotions and announcements, <i>Jacob’s Ladder in the Science Building</i>
1:30 p.m.-4:15 p.m.	Afternoon class, <i>locations vary</i>
4:15 p.m.	Day Campers check out and leave campus, <i>Campus Center clock tower</i>
4:15 p.m.-5:30 p.m.	Free time, <i>Pool (cost \$8)/Recreation Center/Campus Center</i>
5:30 p.m.-6 p.m.	Supper, <i>Dining Commons</i>
6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.	Organized group activities, <i>meet at Jacob’s Ladder in the Science Building</i>
9 p.m.-9:30 p.m.	Praise and worship, <i>Campus Center</i>
9:30 p.m.	Commuters check out and leave campus, <i>Campus Center clock tower</i>
9:30 p.m.-10 p.m.	Small group devotions, <i>locations vary</i>
10 p.m.	Residents in dorm
10:30 p.m.	Lights out

**Tuesday-Thursday:**

8 a.m.-8:45 a.m.	Breakfast for Residents, <i>Dining Commons</i>
9 a.m.	Devotions and announcements, <i>Jacob's Ladder in the Science Building</i>
9:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m.	Morning class, <i>locations vary</i>
12:15 p.m.-12:45 p.m.	Lunch, <i>Dining Commons</i>
12:45 p.m.-1:30 p.m.	Free time, <i>Campus Center/Recreation Center</i>
1:30 p.m.-4:15 p.m.	Afternoon class, <i>locations vary</i>
4:15 p.m.	Day Campers check out and leave campus, <i>Campus Center clock tower</i>
4:15 p.m.-5:30 p.m.	Free time, <i>Pool (cost \$8)/Recreation Center/Campus Center</i>
5:30 p.m.-6 p.m.	Supper, <i>Dining Commons</i>
6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.	Organized group activities, <i>meet at Jacob's Ladder in the Science Building</i>
9 p.m.-9:30 p.m.	Praise and worship, <i>Campus Center</i>
9:30 p.m.	Commuters check out and leave campus, <i>Campus Center clock tower</i>
9:30 p.m.-10 p.m.	Small group devotions, <i>locations vary</i>
10 p.m.	Residents in dorm
10:30 p.m.	Lights out

**Friday:**

8 a.m.-8:45 a.m.	Breakfast for Residents, <i>Dining Commons</i>
9 a.m.	Devotions and announcements, <i>Jacob's Ladder in the Science Building</i>
9:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m.	Morning class, <i>locations vary</i>
12:15 p.m.-12:45 p.m.	Lunch, <i>Dining Commons</i>
1 p.m.	Day Campers and Commuters check out, <i>Campus Center</i>
1 p.m.-2 p.m.	Resident check out, <i>Campus Center</i>

**How do I contact camp directors or get messages to my student?**

- Becky Ringsby (7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.): 515-450-1820 or [becky.ringsby@dordt.edu](mailto:becky.ringsby@dordt.edu)
- Kaysha Steiger (7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.): 712-441-2324 or [kaysha.steiger@dordt.edu](mailto:kaysha.steiger@dordt.edu)
- Marcus De Weerd (4:30 p.m.-7:30 a.m.): 712-441-9006
- Abby Swisher (4:30 p.m.-7:30 a.m.): 515-991-9917
- Allie Bandstra (4:30 p.m.-7:30 a.m.): 712-449-0118

**How can I keep up with what's going on during the week?**

Watch our Dordt Discovery Days Facebook and Instagram pages for pictures and updates:

<https://www.facebook.com/DiscoveryDays/>

<https://www.instagram.com/dordtdiscoverydays/>

**What time does camp end on Friday? What time do Residents need to check out?**

Camp ends at 1 p.m. All campers need to check out between 1 p.m.-2 p.m. at the Campus Center. After lunch, Residents will head to their dorms to pack before checking out. Buildings will be locked at 2:30 p.m., so all belongings need to be cleared out of the dorm rooms before then.

***If you have a question not covered above, please send an email to [becky.ringsby@dordt.edu](mailto:becky.ringsby@dordt.edu).***