

DDD Frequently Asked Questions 2024

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 10 minutes of registration opening. By tickets, we mean Day Camper (attending 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.), Commuter (attending 9 a.m. – 9 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 p.m. for \$300. Commuters attend from 9 a.m. – 9 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 9, 2024. All registration is online at <https://www.dordt.edu/events/dordt-discovery-days-2024>. 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 account and proceeding through registration for each.

What do I need to have ready for registration?

- 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)
- Parent or guardian contact information for camp communication
- Contact information for a second adult
- 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.

What about liability and medical forms?

Students cannot attend camp without completed liability and medical forms. Forms can be found online at <https://www.dordt.edu/events/dordt-discovery-days-2024> and must be filled out electronically by May 1. A reminder email will be sent to all registrants in mid-April. Any student who has not submitted the forms by May 1 cannot be guaranteed a spot at camp.

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 if I need to cancel?

If you cancel before May 10, all but \$25 of your deposit will be refunded. To cancel, contact becky.ringsby@dordt.edu.

Is there financial assistance for camp?

A very 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. Applications are due April 12. 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?

The registration form has a category where any special dietary needs or other health concerns may be indicated. You may also indicate these needs and concerns on the medical form. Your student will be responsible for making any dietary needs known to dining staff at mealtimes.

I've registered. What's next?

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

In mid-April, we will send you an email asking you to sign our liability form and medical form on our website, both of which must be completed by May 1 to secure your spot in camp. In May, you will receive class and roommate confirmations.

What healthcare is available to my student at camp?

We will have a camp nurse on campus each day between 9 a.m. – 4 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. Students must handle their own medications and be responsible for their safe keeping.

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 caught 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.

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. – 9 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 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 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.

What should my student bring?

- Personal items
- Swimsuit and swim towel
- Comfortable clothes for class (no short shorts, bare midriffs, or inappropriate necklines)
- 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 are available from the camp nurse and camp counselors)

Residents only:

- Pillow and sleeping bag or twin-size bedding
- Bathroom towel, shampoo, and soap

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)
- Dorm refrigerators
- Cases or coolers of soda or power drinks
- Excessive amounts of snacks
- Scooters or skateboards
- Sound systems

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. Residents must lock their dorm rooms at all times.

When can Resident campers move into the dorms?

Resident campers may move into Covenant Hall (girls) and West Hall (boys) on Monday morning at 7:30 a.m. Move-in should be completed before 9 a.m. when our first session begins (or by 8 a.m. for breakfast, if desired).

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

Residents:

7:30 a.m. – Report directly to assigned dorm to move in. Shirts, nametags, and other information will also be available for pick up here.

8 a.m. – Report to the Dining Commons for breakfast. Families are welcome to join.

Day Campers and Commuters:

8:30 a.m. – Report directly to the West Commons (look for the building with the flagpole in front) to pick up t-shirts, nametags, and other information.

All campers:

9 a.m. – Report to the Campus Center (lower level) for our kickoff, announcements, and introduction to instructors. Families are welcome to join.

9:30 a.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 p.m. daily (breakfast is not included in your package). Commuters are on campus 9 a.m. – 9 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. Day Campers and Commuters must check out with camp staff at the clock tower before leaving each day.

What's my student's schedule for the week?

8 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.	Breakfast for Residents, <i>Dining Commons</i>
9 a.m.	Devotions and announcements, <i>Campus Center</i>
9:30 a.m. – Noon	Morning class, <i>locations vary</i>
Noon – 12:30 p.m.	Lunch, <i>Dining Commons</i>
12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.	Free time, <i>Game Room/Recreation Center</i>
1:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Afternoon class, <i>locations vary</i>
4 p.m.	Day Campers leave campus, <i>Campus Center clock tower</i>
4 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.	Free time, <i>Pool (cost \$8)/Game Room/Recreation 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 Campus Center</i>
9 p.m.	Commuters leave campus, <i>Campus Center clock tower</i>
9 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.	Praise and worship/Small group devotions, <i>Campus Center</i>
10 p.m.	Residents in dorm
10:30 p.m.	Lights out

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

Becky Ringsby: 515-450-1820 or becky.ringsby@dordt.edu

Alicia Bowar: 605-216-5165 or alicia.bowar@dordt.edu

Bethany Ten Haken (4 p.m. – 11 p.m.): 320-362-1699

Bryce Enger (4 p.m. – 11 p.m.): 605-254-1630

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.

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

Camp ends at 4 p.m. Resident check-out time is 4 p.m. – 5 p.m. in the lobby of your student's dorm. Keys **MUST** be turned in to the counselors at this time. Buildings will be locked at 5 p.m.