

**Becket-Chimney Corners YMCA
2024 Travel & Service Programs
Enrollment Guide**

INTRODUCTION

The Becket-Chimney Corners YMCA offers a wide variety of leadership development programs for teens. Travel and Service Programs are educational experiences requiring a high level of commitment and responsibility, as each participant will be challenged mentally, physically, and socially. By the very nature of these experiences, campers must be able to exercise a high degree of decision-making and accept greater responsibility for their personal actions.

The goals and objectives of Travel & Service Programs follow closely with the mission of the Becket-Chimney Corners YMCA to help youth discover their potential through life-changing experiences and relationships. These programs have been designed to offer opportunities which foster responsible citizenship, healthy lifestyles, environmental stewardship, international understanding, service, and respect for individual differences.

Becket-Chimney Corners YMCA welcomes and encourages participants of all races, nationalities, socioeconomic conditions, and religious faiths.

ENROLLMENT INFORMATION

Admission to all Travel and Service Programs is limited and based on demonstrated leadership potential, past camp experience, good health, maturity, successful cooperation with others, willingness to serve others, attitude, ability to meet registration/application deadlines, and the desire to experience and understand other cultures. **Only the most mature, responsible teens should apply.** Participation in Travel & Service Programs requires full attendance unless authorized by the Director.

TSP Application Timeline

	Description	DATE
TSP Registration Process Begins	All Eligible Participants Emailed Application Materials	September 18, 2023
TSP Registration and TSP Participant Application Due	Parents/Caregivers register online for Travel and Service Programs. Once registered, applicants complete the TSP Participant Application.	Both steps must be completed by October 20, 2023
Financial Aid Applications Due	Anyone who anticipates needing additional support for tuition should apply for Financial Aid. Awards will be applied to tuition once a participant is accepted to a specific program.	November 1, 2023
Acceptance Notification	Applicants are notified via email of acceptance into ICEP, DCEP, or NOLS.	Late November

Deposit + First Payment Due	The Travel & Service Program Agreement and the first tuition payment, including the \$500 non-refundable deposit must be received by camp to secure space.	December 1, 2023
ICEP Information Packet	ICEP Participants receive detailed information about all ICEP programs including dates of trips via email	Early December
ICEP Trip Rankings Due	Trip preference forms are due	January 5, 2024
Trip Placements Notification	ICEP participants will receive their trip assignments via email	January 19, 2024
Additional Program Information Email	Participants emailed additional program paperwork including packing lists, health documents, and camper profile forms.	Early February

An applicant must complete the following forms by **October 20, 2023** to be considered:

- Online registration for Travel and Service Programs
- TSP Participant Application (completed by applicant)

Participant Selection

BCCYMCA requires all participants on TSP to complete an application. Not all participants who apply will be selected for the program.

Criteria

- Finishing the 10th grade
- Good physical and mental health*
- Ability to manage personal belongings including passport and money
- Prior camp experience at Becket Chimney Corners YMCA
- Demonstrated cooperation with others and ability to follow instructions
- Interest in TSP program goals including cultural/environmental learning, service work, and leadership development
- Emotional Maturity*
- Ability to meet registration/application deadlines

*Acceptance into these programs is a privilege and based upon readiness and the applicant's maturity. From experience, we have found that not all applicants will necessarily be ready for this experience. Teens with emotional or behavioral disorders, chemical dependency, or who routinely violate rules and policies should not apply for a Travel and Service Program. In addition, any teen who struggles with self-care including remembering to take medication, shouldn't apply.

Due to the nature of a travel program, participants will sometimes be further than one hour from medical facilities. Teens with medical or dietary restrictions should consult their family physician and/or a travel physician to discuss the health risks for the Travel and Service Program.

Tuition and Payment Structure

Program	Duration	Tuition Range			
		Tier I	Tier II	Tier III	Tier IV
DCEP	28 Days	\$8,970	\$8,360	\$7,830	\$7,220
NOLS	28 Days	\$11,500	(NOLS has 2 tiers)		\$10,435
ICEP	30-35 Days	\$11,985	\$11,560	\$11,130	\$10,595

TSP Tuition covers full participation in the program including room/board, airfare, bus transportation to/from airports, visa expenses, program activities, and traveler's insurance (ICEP only). Unexpected costs related to individual campers such as a lost passport, medical expenses, lost or stolen personal property, or expenses related to travel if a participant is sent home* etc. will be billed to families at the end of the program. Please note that families may choose which of the Tiers I - IV is appropriate for their family. If you need more assistance with the cost of tuition, you may apply for financial assistance (see section below for more instructions.) Payments for the program must be made monthly from December 1 - May 1 unless electing to pay for the program in full at the time of acceptance.

No deposit is required for the application phase of the program. Once a camper has been accepted into the program, parents/caregivers will need to sign the **Travel & Service Program Agreement** and return it to camp by **December 1, 2023** with the first tuition payment, including the \$500 non-refundable deposit to secure space. (Deposit and payment will be adjusted for those receiving Financial Aid.)

Financial Aid (Campership)

Financial aid is available to qualified families to assist with the payment of camp tuition. Grants are awarded on the basis of financial need. A new campership application with the most current supporting financial documentation is required each year. **Tier 5 financial aid applications are due November 1, 2023.** After this date, we will make awards on a rolling basis as our funds allow. Financial aid for TSP is only awarded to participants who have attended Chimney Corners Camp or Camp Becket for at least one summer.

If your child leaves the program early for any reason (voluntary or not), there will be no refund of tuition.

PLEASE NOTE: ANY participant who:

- Fails to follow the rules and guidance set forth by the leaders;
- Chooses to use drugs or alcohol during the program;
- Behaves in a manner that endangers themselves or other members of the group, including leaving housing after established curfews;
- Significantly disrupts the progress of the group through their behavior and/or inability to fully participate;

Will be removed from the program immediately and sent home, unaccompanied, by the most expedient method available at the expense of the participant and their family. If a family does not want the participant to travel alone, the family will need to provide someone to accompany the participant, again at the expense of the participant and their family. This could result in significant expense and should be considered before enrolling in the program. In addition to dismissal from the program, participants may be excluded from future participation in BCCYMCA programs (i.e. The Aides Program).

INTERNATIONAL CAMPER EXCHANGE PROGRAMS (ICEP)

ICEP program dates are staggered throughout the summer. See below for details.

Teens have enriched their cultural knowledge and international awareness through ICEP since 1966. ICEP experiences are designed to broaden each participant's appreciation of differing cultures in a way seldom achieved by tourist excursions. During the approximately five week programs, participants will live and travel as a group, complete social and physical service projects that benefit local communities, engage in youth to youth interaction, and live

independently with a local family for an extended period of time. Participants will partake in organized activities that foster cross-cultural understanding and will develop an appreciation for other cultures, history, and geography. The purpose of all ICEP programs is to challenge each participant to develop a stronger sense of self-confidence, independence, and cooperation. 2024 summer programs tentatively include **Australia, Chile, Japan, New Zealand, Peru, Sweden, Spain, and Uruguay.**

The ICEP program requires a high degree of commitment, as each participant will be challenged mentally, physically, and socially. Keep in mind that this program is very different from the in-camp experience at Chimney Corners Camp and Camp Becket. By the very nature of the experience, campers must be able to exercise a higher degree of decision-making and accept greater responsibility for their own personal actions. Only the most mature, responsible teens should apply.

Please note that all trips for 2024 are still in the planning stages and are subject to change. We monitor State Department and other information for each country and reserve the right to cancel a destination if we feel there are significant concerns with the destination. A program may also be withdrawn if we do not have enough interest in the program.

Program Components

Not all of the following program components are equally weighted in each ICEP Program. Differing social, economic, and political circumstances will create a unique blend for each destination.

- ***Youth-to-Youth Interaction***

ICEP participants interact with youth from the host country through organized activities that foster friendships and welcome cross-cultural understanding.

- ***Leadership Development***

All participants on ICEP will go through our leadership program. Participants will be asked to set goals with the guidance of their trip leaders at the beginning of the program and work throughout the experience to identify strengths and develop new leadership abilities. Participants will meet with leaders three times (formally) to discuss their progression and get advice and feedback, which will be documented in our Camper Cumulative Leadership Forms throughout the program.

- ***Homestays***

Each participant will live with a local family for an extended period, experiencing family and community life first-hand. The host organization is responsible for selecting and screening families that will provide ICEP participants with the chance to experience everyday life in a family environment. Homestays are normally arranged with YMCA families. Group members will be assigned individually or in pairs to a host family. Participants may experience portions of the homestay independently from the rest of their ICEP group. ICEP participants will be given a list of phone numbers so they can contact the director, their leaders, or program hosts if they so desire. **Please note, not all ICEP programs will have homestays. Destinations with homestays will be designated in the list that will be sent in December.**

- ***Service Learning***

In collaboration with the host organization, ICEP participants will assist with service projects designed to benefit the local community. Projects may involve manual labor, such as cleaning a beach, collecting firewood, restoring a historic site; or human service, such as working in a day camp, visiting a nursing home, teaching English, or working with local

volunteer organizations. The main objective of the service projects is to foster cultural communication and help our participants engage in a positive and direct way with the communities they visit.

- ***Educational/Cultural Travel***

An appreciation of other nationalities—culture, history, and geography—is gained through a planned itinerary of travel in the regions visited. The host organization in collaboration with the Becket-Chimney Corners YMCA plans an itinerary that will allow participants to gain knowledge and an appreciation of the host culture. In most cases, ICEP participants will visit a main city and have a chance to see the major sites there.

Dates

Dates are to be determined, but generally, participants will arrive at camp between June 25th and July 16th and be picked up by their parents/caregivers between August 3rd and August 13th. The schedule for each program will consist of two days of orientation at Becket-Chimney Corners YMCA, followed by about 30 traveling days abroad, and then one to two days of debriefing at camp after returning to the United States. 2024 programs may follow a similar schedule to 2023. Not all destinations were offered in 2023.

The following are the dates from ICEP 2023:

- ICEP Chile: July 1, 2023 to August 5, 2023
- ICEP Japan: July 4, 2023 to August 8, 2023
- ICEP New Zealand: July 11, 2023 to August 15, 2023
- ICEP Sweden: July 11, 2023 to August 15, 2023
- ICEP Spain: July 14, 2023 to August 12, 2023
- ICEP Uruguay 1: June 27, 2023 to August 1, 2023
- ICEP Uruguay 2: July 11, 2023 to August 15, 2023

Orientation at Camp

All ICEP participants will take part in two days of orientation at the Becket-Chimney Corners YMCA prior to departing on their journey. During this time, ICEP participants will develop group-building skills and learn how to be ambassadors for the YMCA and our country. The group will discuss the basics of international travel as well as potential cross-cultural situations. They will become acquainted with fellow group members and discuss program goals and regulations, thus setting the standards for the success of their adventure. Participants will review how to pack their luggage, communicate with another culture, lead cabin chat, and effectively participate in a community service project.

Program Assignment

Once accepted into ICEP, participants will receive a packet in December with more details about each ICEP program, including dates. At that time, participants will be asked to rank their top program choices. **Participants are not guaranteed placement in their first choice. It is important for participants to understand that the focus of ICEP is on the experience, not on the specific destination.** In addition to considering a participant's preferences, BCCYMCA will take the following factors into account:

- The ability of the individual to cope with and benefit from the unique demands of each program.
- A combination of individuals that will produce a cohesive and successful group experience.
- Special interest in a particular country (ie – language skills etc.)
- To the degree possible, a suitable ratio of males and females.
- Participants availability for the dates of the program.

In the past few years, we've had issues with participants coordinating program preferences with friends. This results in gender imbalances on programs and ultimately leads to more kids getting second and third choice programs. Please be mindful of this as you make your program selections.

DOMESTIC CAMPER EXCHANGE PROGRAM (DCEP)

DCEP I dates are June 23 – July 19. DCEP II dates are July 21 – August 16

Similarly to our international programs, DCEP experiences are designed to broaden each participant's appreciation of differing communities in a way seldom achieved by tourist excursions. During the four-week programs, participants will live and travel as a group, complete social and physical service projects that benefit local communities, and engage in youth-to-youth interaction. Participants will partake in organized activities that foster cross-cultural understanding and will develop an appreciation for other communities, history, and geography. The services our teens will provide may involve working with local day camps, assisting on local farms and gardens, working with state and national parks on trail and maintenance projects, and volunteering at community sponsored events. To align our Domestic programs with our International programs, we partner with resident and day camps to enhance our youth-to-youth interactions with like-minded camps. DCEP participants will have the opportunity to explore and volunteer in an Urban area setting. The purpose of all DCEP programs is to challenge each participant to develop a stronger sense of self-confidence, independence, and cooperation.

Please note that all trips for 2024 are still in the planning stages and are subject to change. We reserve the right to cancel a destination if we feel there are significant concerns with the destination or if we do not have enough interest in the program.

Program Components

- ***Youth-to-Youth Interaction***

DCEP participants interact with youth from partner YMCA camps through organized activities that foster friendships and welcome cross-cultural understanding.

- ***Leadership Development***

All participants on DCEP will go through our leadership program. Participants will be asked to set goals with the guidance of their trip leaders at the beginning of the program and work throughout the experience to identify strengths and develop new leadership abilities. Participants will meet with leaders three times (formally) to discuss their progression and get advice and feedback, which will be documented in our Camper Cumulative Leadership Forms throughout the program.

- ***Service Learning***

In collaboration with the partner YMCA and BCCYMCA, DCEP participants will assist with service projects designed to benefit the local community. Projects may involve manual labor, such as collecting firewood, tending to farms, and painting; or human service, such as working in a day camp, learning about food insecurities and preparing food for food banks, or working with local volunteer organizations. The main objective of the service projects is to foster cultural communication and help our participants engage in a positive and direct way with the communities they visit.

- ***Educational Travel***

An appreciation of other communities—culture, history, and geography—is gained through a planned itinerary of travel in the regions visited. Becket-Chimney Corners YMCA plans an itinerary that will allow participants to gain knowledge and an appreciation of the region being visited. In most cases, DCEP participants will visit a main city and have a chance to see the major sites there.

DCEP Northeast

- Participants will travel from camp by bus to areas throughout Northern New England including Upstate New York, New Hampshire, and Maine.
- Develop front-country camping skills such as setting up a camp, cooking outside, and building fires.
- Adventure activities such as sea kayaking, rock climbing, and day hikes.
- Opportunities to meet and work with other teens and youth from the partner YMCA camps
- Visit and stay at two resident camps, YMCA Camp Coniston and YMCA Camp of Maine, and one day camp, Plattsburgh YMCA, and learn about the programs offered at each.
- Help lead programs at day camp.

DCEP Pacific Northwest

- Participants will fly from camp to Seattle and travel by bus throughout Western Washington State and Oregon.
- Opportunities to meet and work with teens and youth from the Greater Seattle, Tacoma and/or Portland area.
- Spend time at a YMCA resident camp connecting with other youth.
- Participate in outdoor adventure activities such as hiking, kayaking, rafting, and/or biking.
- Volunteer in a social service project in Seattle.
- Explore Seattle and other areas in the Pacific Northwest.

Orientation at Camp

All DCEP participants will take part in two days of orientation at the Becket-Chimney Corners YMCA prior to departing on their journey. During this time, DCEP participants will develop group-building skills and learn how to be ambassadors for the YMCA. The group will discuss the basics of travel as well as the adventure and camping activities for this program. They will become acquainted with fellow group members and discuss program goals and regulations, thus setting the standards for the success. Participants will review how to pack their luggage, set up tents, communicate with others, lead cabin chat, and effectively participate in a community service project.

NOLS ALASKA

Dates are June 23 – July 19.

Working in partnership with the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS), BCCYMCA offers participants a true wilderness experience in Alaska. With guidance from experienced NOLS instructors and a BCCYMCA leader, participants learn foundational mountain travel skills such as navigation, backcountry cooking, leadership, and decision-making. They will hike across varied terrain including tundra and glacier-fed rivers, experience near 24-hour daylight, encounter wildlife such as caribou, bears, and moose, and learn to live simply, and care for one another. This program is designed for participants who wish to develop technical outdoor leadership skills, learn how to work together under challenging circumstances, and see part of the country few

people will ever experience. While this program is primarily in the backcountry, participants will have the opportunity to spend the day exploring the city of Anchorage.

Program Highlights

- Learn the fundamentals of backpacking from experienced NOLS instructors
- Travel through tundra, shrub thickets, gravel river bottoms, snow, and possibly on boulders
- Explore Anchorage and learn about the history of Alaska
- Earn course credit

Orientation

All NOLS Alaska participants will take part in one-two days of orientation at the Becket-Chimney Corners YMCA prior to departing on their journey, and a one-two day debrief at camp upon their return. During orientation, NOLS Alaska participants will develop camping and group-building skills. They will become acquainted with fellow group members and discuss program goals and regulations, thus setting the standards for the success of their adventure. Participants will also learn about "Leave No Trace" camping principles and participate as an effective group member.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

When will the dates be posted for the ICEP programs?

ICEP dates will be set in December. ICEP participants will be emailed the Trip Destination Description packet in December, which will list the program dates. At this time, you will be asked to rank your top ICEP destination choices. We expect (but do not guarantee) a very similar schedule for next summer.

What if I have scheduling conflicts with some of the programs?

If you have a date conflict, please note this on your initial application so that we can consider this when finalizing trips. Once the final trip dates are set, when ranking your ICEP preferences in December, it's very important to only list programs that you can fully attend. For participants applying to domestic programs, it is also important for you to note on your application if you have a date conflict with one of the sessions so we consider this when placing you in a program.

If I apply for a domestic program (DCEP/NOLS), is it possible that I will be placed into ICEP or vice versa?

On your TSP Application, you are asked to rank your program choices out of DCEP, NOLS, and ICEP. If selected into TSP, you would be placed into your first choice program. The only exception would be if a program does not have enough room, in which case we would call you to confirm your second choice program before sending you a placement.

Can I be guaranteed placement with my friend?

No – due to our small group sizes, we do not take requests for friends to be placed together on a program. We strongly encourage participants to pick trips they are interested in and to be open to meeting new people.

I'm applying for ICEP, but I only want to go on my first choice program. Can this happen?

It is important that you are willing to go to any of the program choices you select on your ICEP preference form in December. About 80% of our participants will receive their 1st or 2nd choice program, but it is not a guarantee. If you only put down one option and it fills before you get a space, you will be placed on a waiting list and may not get a spot in the program.

Where can I learn more about the programs?

We will be hosting a Travel and Service Program Information Meeting via Zoom on September 26 at 7 PM. We will record the meeting for those who cannot attend and will send out a copy following the event. You can contact Brittany James, Travel & Service Program Director, at bjames@bccymca.org with questions or to arrange a time to meet.