

2026 UK Summer Leadership Experience Camp

DEVELOPED BY UK
HUMAN
DEVELOPMENT
INSTITUTE AND
SUPPORTED BY THE
KY OFFICE OF
VOCATIONAL
REHABILITATION



The UK Summer Leadership Experience Camp has built a rich history, offering the summer camp for the 10th year!

Summer Leadership Experience Camp

Camp dates **July 12-16, 2026.**

Takes place on the UK campus

Offered as a in-person camp AND as a virtual camp

Parents, educators and VR Counselors can join virtual informational sessions!

VR Counselors are welcome to visit camp in person!



Camper Profile

Campers represent multiple counties and high schools across KY

Age range
16-21

Rising Juniors/Seniors and students graduating in May/June

Campers represent a wide range of disability (ASD, AD/HD, OHI, LD, Mobility, seizure disorder, low vision...)

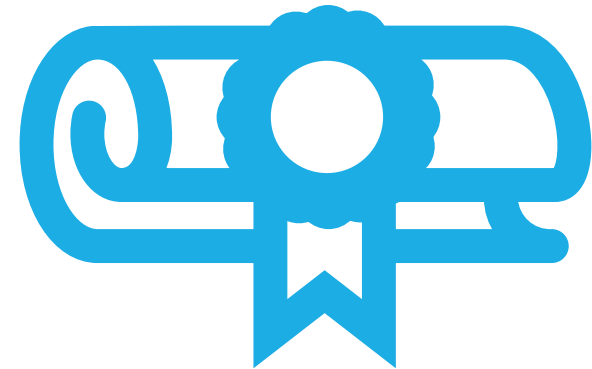
Have career interests that may include more education

Our campers

Will have idealized plans to continue their education in some capacity leading to a career.

Plans can include:

- **Community College or University**
- **Carl Perkins**
- **Technical training centers & programs**
- **Internships, apprenticeships, continuing education**
- **CTPs**



Camper Application Types

1. Student applies online as an “in-person camper”, has an **open case with a VR** Counselor, and has an Individual Plan for Employment (IEP). Camp is paid for in full by VR. Family pays \$50 application fee.
2. Student applies online as a “in-person camper”, **does NOT have an open case with VR**. Director will ask parent to complete a Pre-ETS form. Once approved by VR for Pre-ETS Services, family can send camper by paying the cost of meals and overnights (estimated at \$230.00). Family pays \$50 application fee which reduces cost to \$180.00.
3. **‘Day campers’** would be Pre-ETS approved and attend during daily sessions. \$50 application fee.
4. Student applies online as a ‘virtual’ camper. Virtual camper will be asked to complete a Pre-ETS form. Once approved by VR camp is free and there is NO application fee.



So, what happens at camp?

- Self advocacy

- Self-determination

- Self disclosure

- Team building

- Foundations of becoming a
Leader

- Utilizing assistive technology
for academic success

- How to be resilient in tough
times

- Etiquette training

Skill building
sessions and
activities

Career Options with various colleges

Training opportunities with Job Corps

Vocational Training options at Carl Perkins

Obtaining academic accommodations in a college environment

Working with college Disability Resource Centers

Vocational Rehabilitation services and supports

Utilizing transportation without a driver's license

KY Higher Education Assistance Authority information – grants/scholarships/KEES

Focused Informational sessions



Campers hear from
Institutions of Higher
Education & Vocational
Training including;

UK

EKU

WKU

KCTCS

Carl D Perkins

Job Corps



SLE Camp is all about transitions, skill building and having access to a college experience and vital resources

Typical Camp Schedule



- **Sunday July 12** program starts in the evening with ice breakers and pizza.
- **Monday July 13th – Wednesday July 15th** campers have speakers, activities both on and off campus. Overnight in the residence hall.
- Breakfast, lunch and dinner on campus and off campus.
- **Thursday July 16**, keynote speaker, family invited. Camps ends at 12 noon.
- **NOTE:** Students interested in camp do NOT need to be interested in attending UK. Our campers attend post secondary institutions and training all over the state.



BEDROOM 1
BED A
(single)

BEDROOM 2
BED B
BED C
(bunked)

Campers and Staff stay in Residence hall

Central Campus- Ball Hall

2-bedroom suite, privacy bedroom

XL full size bed or XL twin beds

Semi-private bathroom

Common area

Campers are matched according to
information provided in
application.



Campers benefit from motivational speakers that challenge them to develop interests and abilities, build career plans and work towards their dreams!



campers face personal challenges



Campers hear about the kind of support that OVR can provide.

Online application is **OPEN**

https://uky.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_74gGOHJ39I96Xps

STUDENTS WILL NEED HELP TO COMPLETE APPLICATION

PARENTS WILL NEED TO ADD SIGNATURE AT END OF APPLICATION

DEADLINE TO APPLY APRIL 30, 2026.



WHAT CAMPERS SAY ABOUT THEIR EXPERIENCE - evaluation results (on a five-point scale)

1. 4.8 / 5.0 campers enjoyed the camp.
2. 4.5/5.0 campers reported that the camp helped them understand skills needed for post high school education
3. TOP three activities at camp included Cody Clark, The Main Event venue and the movie 23 Blast based on speaker Travis Freeman

Summary

July 12-16,2026

UK Campus

Rising sophomores & juniors, current seniors

Current seniors with plans to enter continued education /training

Online application

Educators & OVR Counselors- review your case load and select students who would benefit

Send camp information to students & parents

Help students with application

Once a student applies, Director will work with family on VR process.

Deadline for registration **April 30,2026.**

