

Becket-Chimney Corners YMCA

2025 Travel & Service Programs

Enrollment Guide

INTRODUCTION

The Becket-Chimney Corners YMCA offers leadership development programs for teens. Travel and Service Programs (TSP) 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 that 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.

Enrollment Process:

Step 1: Register your participant for the Travel and Service Program through [UltraCamp](#). There is no deposit due for the initial application. Once registered, the **TSP Participant Application** will be available in UltraCamp.

Step 2: To be considered for the Travel and Service Program, the participant must complete the **TSP Participant Application** by **October 1st, 2024**. The application will ask each applicant to select their top destinations and note dates of availability for the following summer. Applicants are encouraged to choose all destinations that they would consider participating in. Only destinations for which there is sufficient interest will be offered.

Notification of Acceptance to the Travel and Service Program will be sent in November. At this time, participants will be assigned to a destination with tentative dates. On acceptance to a Travel and Service Program, participants will be asked to sign a Travel & Service Program Participant agreement, update payment information in Ultracamp, and pay a \$500 non-refundable deposit no later than **December 2nd, 2024**. Travel and Service Program participants will follow the same deadline for payments as listed above for the resident camp program. The final dates will be sent in January.

Please note that this is a selective application process, and **not all applicants will be accepted to the program**. We are looking for participants who have demonstrated leadership potential, good health, maturity, successful cooperation with others, willingness to serve others, and the ability to meet registration/ application deadlines.

An applicant must complete the following forms by **October 1st, 2024** 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.

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 the ability to follow instructions
- Interest in TSP 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

	Tier I	Tier II	Tier III	Tier IV
ICEP	\$12,500	\$12,060	\$11,610	\$11,055

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. 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 2nd, 2024** 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.)

Tuition Due Dates: 50% of tuition is due by February 1, 2025, and the remaining 50% is due by April 1, 2025.

Payment Plans: A payment plan must be selected and scheduled with a form of payment at the time of enrollment. We strongly recommend setting up a monthly payment plan; however, you may choose from the following payment plans:

- **Pay in full at the time of enrollment.**
- **Monthly Payment Plan** — Pay the deposit now. Monthly payments will be automatically charged to your credit card or ACH account on file in your camp account on the 3rd of the following month until the balance is paid in full on April 1, 2025.
- **Payment in full February 1** — Pay deposit now – The remaining balance will be charged to your credit card or ACH account on February 1, 2025.
- **Payment in 2 installments** — Pay deposit now – The remaining balance will be charged to your credit card or ACH account in 2 installments: February 1 and April 1, 2025
- **Applying for Aid – Tier 5** — Pay deposit now - only to be chosen by those applying to SSS for financial aid. The application must be completed within 30 days.

Financial Aid: Financial Aid applications for Summer 2025 will open on **September 1st, 2024**. If you are applying for financial aid for 2025, please go to [SSS Family Portal](#) to begin this process. Please be prepared to pay a non-refundable processing fee. Financial Aid will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis until funds are depleted.

Refund Policy: 10 business days after enrollment, the deposit becomes non-refundable. If you cancel before February 1, any tuition above your \$500 non-refundable deposit will be refunded. After February 1, 50% of the tuition becomes non-refundable and non-transferable, and the full tuition becomes non-refundable and non-transferable after April 1, 2025. If your child leaves the program early for any reason (voluntary or not), there will be no refund of tuition.

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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. 2025 summer programs tentatively include **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 2025 are still in the planning stages and are subject to change. We monitor the 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. Homestays on ICEP are not the entirety of the program. They can run anywhere from 4 nights to 12 nights. **Please note, not all ICEP programs will have homestays. Destinations with homestays will be noted.**

- ***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 23rd and July 11th and be picked up between August 2nd and August 12th. 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. 2025 programs may follow a similar schedule to 2024. Not all destinations were offered in 2024.

The following are the dates from **ICEP 2024**:

- **ICEP Chile 1 (homestays): June 29, 2024 to August 3, 2024**
- **ICEP Chile 2 (homestays): July 8, 2024 to August 13, 2024**
- **ICEP Japan (homestays): July 1, 2024 to August 6, 2024**
- **ICEP New Zealand: June 29, 2024 to August 3, 2024**
- **ICEP Spain: June 30, 2024 to August 5, 2024**
- **ICEP Peru (homestays): July 9, 2024 to August 13, 2024**
- **ICEP Sweden: July 9, 2024 to August 13, 2024**
- **ICEP Uruguay: July 9, 2024 to August 13, 2024**

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 TSP, participants will be assigned to a destination with tentative dates.

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.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

When will the dates be posted for the ICEP programs?

Tentative ICEP dates will be set in November. Finalized dates will be shared in January. 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 application so that we can consider this when finalizing trips. Once the final trip dates are set, it's very important to only list programs that you can fully attend.

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 TSP Participant Application. 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 in the Fall. 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.