

Center for Talent Development

CREATING PATHWAYS FOR ACADEMICALLY TALENTED STUDENTS

2026 Summer Programs PreK- Grade 12

In-Person and Online
Enrichment and Acceleration
STEM, Leadership and More



EXPANDED
1-WEEK OPTIONS

PreK-12

Northwestern | CTD

Summer Adventure... Lifetime Impact

The Center for Talent Development (CTD) empowers students to discover their strengths, pursue their interests, and achieve their full potential. From early childhood to high school, our summer programs offer enriching experiences that challenge young minds, foster meaningful peer connections, and develop lifelong skills. Whether you're joining us for the first time or returning to continue your learning journey, we're thrilled to welcome you to an exciting season of exploration and academic challenge. CTD's summer programs bring together students from around the state, country, and the world for engaging courses offered online and on Northwestern's beautiful Evanston campus. With options for enrichment, accelerated learning, and even earning high school credit, our diverse offerings are designed to fit your interests, goals, and schedule. Start your summer adventure today at ctd.northwestern.edu/summer-programs.

91%

of new CTD students surveyed reported being satisfied or very satisfied with their program experience last year.

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES AT CTD

CTD provides programs and services for students, their families, and educators all year long. Visit our website to learn more about the following opportunities:

- Academic year online, weekend (in-person), and leadership intensive courses, PreK–Grade 12
- Above-grade-level assessment for identifying strengths, academic planning, and acceleration guidance
- Family consulting
- Professional learning, program reviews, and curriculum development for educators and administrators



— 66 —

The CTD Community is so welcoming and friendly... I made a lot of friends and learned so much!"

- CTD STUDENT

CTD Academic Summer Camps

In-Person Programs

Day Camps at Chicago Area Sites

1-Week Academic Camps (PreK - GRADE 5)

Students participate in challenging single-week, half-day (am/pm) or all-day enrichment courses offered in a variety of subject areas. Anticipated program locations are in Chicago (South Loop Middle School), and Evanston (St. Athanasius School).

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT! CTD also runs summer courses for grades 1-4 through the Avery Coonley School summer program in Downers Grove, IL. Visit their web page for registration details: averycoonley.org/summer-program

Program Dates: June 29 - August 7

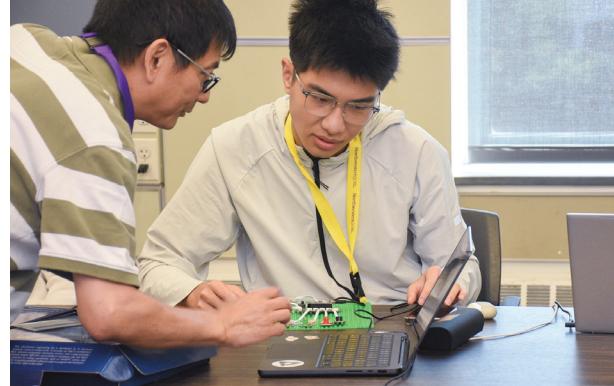
Day and Residential Camps at Northwestern University's Evanston Campus

1- and 3-Week Academic Camps (GRADES 6-8)

Academic camps offering middle school students the choice of unique, fast-paced enrichment courses and high school honors, credit-eligible courses. Courses allow students to deeply explore specialized topics and accelerate through core subject area sequences. Classroom communities offer intellectual and social development. Afternoon and weekend activities give students the chance to forge friendships in a safe, inclusive summer camp environment. Residential camp helps students develop the independent living skills required at college.

Consecutive 1-Week and 3-Week Sessions

Program Dates: June 28 - August 7



1- and 3-Week Academic Camps (GRADES 9-12)

Academic camps offering high school students the choice of unique, fast-paced, enrichment, high-school honors, AP®, leadership and service-learning, college level and career exploration courses. Honors and AP® courses are eligible for high school credit through CTD. Coursework exposes students to authentic problems central to college and career pathways and offers opportunities to accelerate through core subject area sequences. Classroom communities offer intellectual and social development. Afternoon and weekend activities give students the chance to forge friendships in a safe, inclusive summer camp environment. Residential camp helps students develop the independent living skills required at college.

Consecutive 1-Week and 3-Week Sessions
Program Dates: June 28 - August 7

Available In-Person or Online

1- and 3-week Leadership Intensive (GRADES 6-12)

CTD's leadership courses combine academics and service learning to foster civic engagement. By integrating hands-on service with structured learning and reflection, these classes help students develop critical thinking, collaboration, leadership, and a deeper understanding of their role in the community.

One week in-person leadership classes are available for grades 6-8. Three week in-person or online leadership intensive courses, which include regular live, online class time, are available for grades 7-12.

In-Person Program Dates: June 28 - July 31
Online Program Session Dates: June 10 - July 1



IN-PERSON LOCATIONS:
Evanston (Grades PreK-12)
Chicago (Grades PreK-5)
Downers Grove (Grades 1-4)

See program descriptions
on this page for details.

Online Programs

Flexibly Paced Courses

4-Week Online Enrichment Courses for Families (PreK-GRADE 3)

Interactive, shared experiences for bright, curious children and their families. Guided by expert instructors, families explore fascinating topics together through hands-on home projects and lively online discussions. Courses are open enrollment.

Program Dates: July 15 - August 12

6-Week Online Enrichment Courses (GRADES 3-8)

Motivated learners explore in-depth with the support of experienced instructors. Activities develop critical and creative thinking as students engage with inspiring content that builds deeper interest. Courses are predominantly asynchronous, allowing students to learn with flexibility.

Program Dates: June 24 - August 5

9-Week Online Core Essentials Courses (GRADES 3-8)

Courses provide access to advanced content and deep exploration of core subject areas like math, science, and English. Instructors design advanced curriculum and provide individualized feedback and support. Courses are predominantly asynchronous, allowing flexibility for other summer activities.

Program Dates: June 10 - August 12

8- to 10-Week Accelerated Summer Online Honors Courses (GRADES 6-12)

Our Honors courses are excellent for students who want to explore a professional field before college. Motivated students seeking acceleration or to earn credit outside the traditional school calendar can do so in 10 weeks. Students can earn 1- or 2- credits asynchronously along side other commitments.

Program Dates: June 3 - August 14

Enrollment Dates: June 3 and June 10

8- to 10-Week Accelerated Summer Online Advanced Placement Courses (GRADES 9-12)

College Board authorized AP® courses offered asynchronously allow motivated students to expand high school options and stand out on college applications. Students have up to 10 weeks to complete these 1- and 2-credit courses.

Program Dates: June 3 - August 14

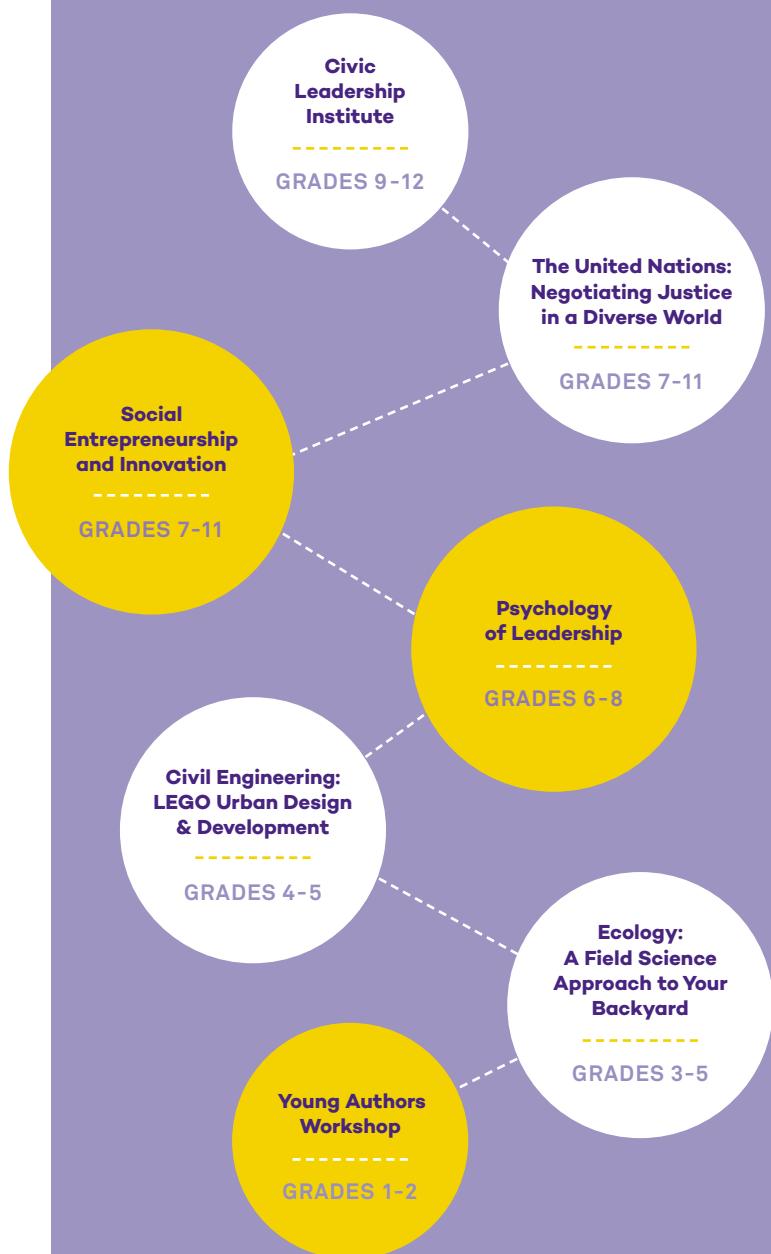
Enrollment Dates: June 3 and June 10

What Will You Discover— And Where Could It Lead?

CTD's signature Pathways approach helps students progress from discovering potential to developing advanced skills in areas of interest. They can explore broadly or dive deep into a passion.

The Civic, Service, and Leadership pathway outlined below spans disciplines, guiding students from early community contributions to identifying change, taking action, and emerging as civic leaders through the Civic Leadership Institute.

What path will your student choose this summer—and where will it lead?





In 2025,
CTD programs
had attendees from

43

countries.

Highlighted Summer Course Offerings

Grade	Course	Course Type	Duration
PreK-K	Book Talk: Tricks for Developing the Joy of Reading	Online	4 weeks
PreK-K	Fast and Faster	In-person	1 week
K-1	Our Amazing Community: Working Together	Online	4 weeks
1-2	Animal to Animal: Size, Skeletons, and Symmetry	In-person	1 week
3-4	Debate: Fairy Tale Ethics	In-person	1 week
3-5	Veterinary Science	Online	6 weeks
3-5	Pre-Algebra Prep: Data, Statistics and Probability	Online	9 weeks
4-5	Designing with Empathy	In-person	1 week
6-8	Leadership for Today	In-person, residential option	1 week
6-8	Brain and Behavior	In-person, residential option	3 weeks
6-8	Peoples and Plagues: Intro to Epidemiology	In-person, residential option	1 week
6-8	World Building: Coding 3D Worlds	Online	6 weeks
6-12	Pre-Med: Pathophysiology	Online	10 weeks
7-11	The United Nations: Negotiating Justice In A Diverse World	Online	10 weeks
9-12	Introduction to Mechatronics	In-person, residential option	3 weeks
9-12	Crafting Change: Speechwriting and Public Speaking	In-person, residential option	1 week
9-12	Contemporary Issues in Global Health	In-person, residential option	3 weeks
9-12	AP® Environmental Science	Online	10 weeks



View all summer courses and program details at ctd.northwestern.edu.

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847-491-3782 | ctd@northwestern.edu | ctd.northwestern.edu/summer-programs

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