

Frequently Asked Questions about Summer Academies

Does my student have a better chance of being accepted if I submit my application early?

Yes. We consider applications in the order they arrive. All applications are screened and not all applicants will be accepted. However, we give priority to earlier applicants. Please observe that each week of Academies has a separate deadline to apply.

Does my student have less chance of being accepted if s/he was accepted last year?

No. Many students return for Summer Academies more than one year in a row. If they attended last year's Summer Academy or attended a Short Course this school year, their application may still be valid. Even if they are returning, please complete the brief [CSB Summer Academy Interest Form](#) to indicate which Academy you are interested in and start the process.

I'm not sure we can provide transportation. Can you provide financial help with this?

We are not able to help students with transportation to CSB for Summer

Academies. This is different from our school year Short Course programs. There are certain circumstances where you may be able to carpool with other families attending, but you should not rely on this. When a child accepts a spot and then fails to arrive, it means another student did not get to come. Also, organizations such as a local Lion's Club, or your child's school district may be able to help.

I have a 13-year-old and I don't know whether to request the 13-17 year old group of [Tech and Sports](#) or the 9-13 year old group.

The most important decision is the child's level of maturity. Which age group would they be better suited to? The content of this Academy is essentially the same for both age groups, but with higher expectations for the older student group.

Can a student attend a Summer Academy if they have graduated or are over 18 years of age?

Students can attend a Summer Academy the summer after they graduate from high school (if they are not yet 22 years old). Students who have not graduated may attend until they are 22 years old. This summer, that would only apply to the final week of Academies which are offered to Middle School and High School age students.

Do you serve students in wheelchairs?

Many of our past programs have served students who use wheelchairs. We do need to consider the amount and type of individual service a student requires, because we do not have the staff to provide frequent one-on-one or highly specialized support. Please describe on the application the situations in which the student does and does not require additional support, as

well as the types of support needed. There is a specific section in the application just for that purpose.

Can my child attend two Academies, in the same summer?

Yes, a student may attend more than one Summer Academy in the same year. Please be aware that we do not offer any programs over the weekend. Students attending two weeks in a row must return home for the weekend. Note that the application allows you to select more than one Summer Academy.

I worry that my child will become homesick or not get the support we provide at home. How will I know that my child is safe and properly supervised?

Most children have some fear about being away from home, especially when it is their first time. Parents can also experience concerns about their children being away from them. Once children get here, they usually have a wonderful time participating in a wide range of enjoyable activities, and being around children (and adults) who experience similar visual and social challenges. At the end of a program, it is common for a child to announce that they want to stay longer!

We provide supervision day and night, by staff that are employed here throughout the school year and are specifically trained to work with visually impaired students, including those with additional disabilities.

Children are permitted to call home any day after school, and parents can call them in the dorm.

We encourage parents to use CSB to support their children's beginning steps towards independence – one of the most important things we can teach our children over the course of their young lives! When parents provide support and encouragement to their homesick child, students usually thrive and feel very proud of themselves for succeeding on their own. CSB is likely one of the safest and most supportive places to do this.

We would like to take our child out of school for a day or two, for a special event. Will that be okay?

The nature of the request will of course influence our answer. If it's a two-hour dentist appointment, or a day off to attend a wedding or a funeral, we would excuse the student without further question.

Our application form requests that parents let us know in advance if they intend their child to miss any part of the program. We highly discourage absences for the following reasons:

- Our programs are short, and when a student misses even one day, it is a significant part of the time. We want all the students to remain with the group the entire time, to maintain group cohesiveness.
- Some students can feel homesick or envious when one student gets to leave with their family and they do not.

- It can be disruptive to the class (or dorm) when they have to plan their activities around a parent pickup and return.

If you know that a student is going to miss any part of a program, or needs to leave early, please let us know when you submit the application, or as soon as you know. We will try to work with you to accommodate your needs.

Credit to Texas School for the Blind for some FAQ content.