

Planning and Preparing for Camp

Travel by Car, Bus, Train, Air

The University of Valley Forge is located just a few miles from Valley Forge National Park. Exit 326 of the Pennsylvania Turnpike leads directly to Route 23 and the city of Phoenixville. The university is approximately 25 miles northwest of Philadelphia. Pennsylvania Routes 29 and 113 also pass near the university through Phoenixville.

PA Turnpike from the West - Exit 312 (old 23), Downingtown

Upon exiting the toll plaza, follow signs for Route 100 South. On Route 100 South turn left at the second traffic signal onto Route 113 North. Follow Route 113 North (crossing Route 401) approximately 8 miles towards Phoenixville. Turn right at the traffic signal onto Coldstream Road, which will lead to a stop sign at Charlestown Road. Turn left onto Charlestown Road. The university's entrance is the first left.

PA Turnpike from the East - Exit 326 (old 24), Valley Forge

Upon exiting the toll plaza, immediately enter the right lane and take the first exit (at Exit 24) following signs for Valley Forge. This ramp will lead to North Gulph Road. Continue on this road (past the Sheraton Hotel and Valley Forge Convention Center), which becomes Route 23 West at the Valley Forge National Historical Park Visitor's Center. Follow Route 23 West approximately 7 miles through the national park and into Phoenixville. Continue to Bridge Street. Turn left onto Bridge Street which becomes Charlestown Road at the next traffic signal. The university's entrance is about a mile down the road on the right.

I-95 from Baltimore

Take I-95 North to Wilmington, Delaware. Take 202 North to Route 29 North. Exit right. Turn right at the traffic light and right at the next light. Follow Route 29 North until it crosses a railroad track (at a four-way intersection). At the traffic light, Route 29 makes a sharp right turn. DO NOT TURN. Proceed straight ahead up the hill on Charlestown Road. Continue to UVF (approximately 3.3 miles). The university entrance is on the left.

By Air

The University of Valley Forge (UVF) is conveniently located near major international airports. The nearest major airport is Philadelphia International Airport (PHL). This airport offers international and domestic flights from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and is about 23 miles from the UVF campus.

Other nearby airports include Lehigh Valley International Airport (ABE), which offers international and domestic flights from Allentown, Pennsylvania and is 36 miles from the UVF campus; and Lancaster Airport (LNS), which offers domestic flights from Lancaster, Pennsylvania and is 41 miles from the UVF campus.

Special Planning Considerations for Air Travel

- Airline reservations for your flight home should be no earlier than three hours AFTER the END OF THE FINAL CONCERT (i.e., if the concert ends at 2 pm, do not schedule a flight any earlier than 5 pm). Please refer to the schedule to be sure that you are leaving ample time.
- Remember to discuss the transport of large instruments with your airline carrier PRIOR to your flight.
- Students under the age of 14 traveling alone will be considered unaccompanied minors by the airlines. This means they will need to be picked up at the airport by a designated individual. The airline will require the name, address, and contact information of that person at the time of the reservation. Please contact our camp office directly to discuss the arrival and departure of unaccompanied minors.

Shuttle Service

For campers who may be traveling to camp on their own, UVF Camps will provide pick-up and drop-off service to and from Philadelphia International Airport and the Amtrak/SEPTA Paoli train and bus station.

Cost of this service:

- \$50 round trip for pickup/drop-off at Philadelphia International Airport between 8 AM – 10 PM
- \$30 round trip for pickup/drop-off at Amtrak/SEPTA Paoli train and bus station between 8 AM – 10 PM
- There is no discounted price for one way, although you may request transportation in only one direction.

Your child will be met by a uniformed member of our camp staff. They will assist in any baggage claim and then bring the student directly to check-in or the dorm depending on arrival time. To schedule a pick up or drop off, you must fill out and return the Shuttle Service Request Form (PDF). The deadline to schedule transportation is TWO WEEKS prior to the start of camp. Return the form along with a check for \$30 or \$50 made payable to "University of Valley Forge." Once we receive your Shuttle Request Form and payment, you will receive a travel voucher from us by mail. This travel voucher must be presented by the camper to the shuttle driver. By receiving this voucher you can be assured that we have the correct travel information for your child prior to their arrival, and it will also serve as a receipt of payment so they do not have to worry about paying for the shuttle on the travel day.

FOR YOUR CHILD'S SAFETY, please arrange shuttle service AS SOON AS POSSIBLE so we can verify all details of the transportation with you before your child leaves home and send you your voucher. The only way we will know to pick up your child is if you return this form.

Check-in Process

WHAT TO EXPECT AT CAMP CHECK-IN

You may arrive at any time during the designated check-in time period, but leave yourself enough time to complete the check in process (you may feel rushed if you arrive too close to the closing time). If you are unable to check-in during the designated times due to extenuating circumstances, please contact our camp office so that we can make alternate arrangements with you. If you arrive after the close of camp check-in, you should go directly to the Music Department Office located just down the hall from Flower Chapel. Late arrivals will need to complete the Administrative portion of check-in at this office.

CHECK-IN PART ONE: ADMINISTRATIVE

****LEAVE YOUR BAGS IN YOUR CAR AND JUST BRING IN ANY PAPERWORK YOU HAVE TO TURN IN AND ANY AUDITION MUSIC** (for music campers)**

Administrative check-in will be completed first. This takes place in Cardone Hall. Parking is available in the area in front of the Harrup Administration Building.

At Administrative check-in you will:

- Pick up your camp Welcome Packet. This will include your camp ID, your daily activities schedule, and a pencil.
- Confirm that all of your required forms have been received and are complete.
 - *If they have not been sent back in advance, you will need to turn them in at this time. Be sure to have your medical insurance card with you so that we can make a copy if you did not already send one in.*
 - *No camper may start camp without all required forms being completed and signed by a guardian.*
- Confirm with the cashier that you are paid in full.
 - If you have a balance, it **MUST** be paid at this time. No camper may start camp without payment in full.

OTHER STOPS: If you are a music camper and signed up for private music lessons, you will need to schedule these lessons. Music campers will also take a placement exam to determine ensemble participation and music theory classes.

Once you are done with Administrative Check-in, you can return to your car and drive over to the dorm.

CHECK-IN PART TWO: DORM

This takes place in Bongiorno Hall. There is parking adjacent to, and directly across from this dorm.

LEAVE YOUR BAGS IN YOUR CAR. DO NOT BRING LUGGAGE INTO THE DORM UNTIL AFTER YOU HAVE RECEIVED YOUR ROOM KEY.

THE ONLY THING YOU NEED TO BRING IN WITH YOU ARE:

1. Your name tag.
2. All medications (prescriptions and over the counter) that need to be turned into the camp staff.

At dorm check-in you will:

- Get your room assignment and counselor assignment.
- Get your meal card.
 - o The first meal covered under the dining plan will be lunch at 1 pm on check-in day.
- Confirm and turn in any prescription medications.
 - (Refer to the packing information section on Camp Life for more details about our medication policy and how medication should be packed).
- Get your room key
- If you drove yourself to camp, turn in your car keys.

Once you have completed dorm check-in, you are officially under the supervision of the camp. If you wish to leave the dorm (to eat, run errands, etc.) you must be permitted to sign-out by your parents or a pre-approved guardian in advance by submitting the Camper Sign-Out Permission Form (PDF).

Parking

University lots are available for parking during the week of camp. Please refer to the campus map in your packet to locate the lots nearest to the Music Building.

DAY-CAMPER PARKING:

Students who plan to commute to the camp by driving themselves each day **MUST** obtain a parking permit, which will allow them to park in designated lots around campus. Only day campers are required complete the form for the Day Camper Parking Permit (PDF). The deadline to obtain your permit is two weeks prior to the start of camp. The permit will be issued on check-in day.

OVERNIGHT-CAMPER PARKING:

Overnight campers who drive themselves to camp do **NOT** need a parking permit. Students are **NOT** allowed to drive during camp, and will need to turn in their keys to the dorm staff upon arrival. Students will receive a parking pass that will be displayed on the dash of their vehicle in the designated parking lot on check-in day. The vehicle will remain in the lot for the duration of camp.

Day Camper Drop off and Pick up

Day campers will be picked up and dropped off at the Flower Chapel.

- **PM pick up**

Parents will need to briefly park at the Flower Chapel lot (S. Maranatha St.) to meet their child in the Music Office for pick up.