What is the acceptable age range for camp participants?

-The camp is intended for high school students. We emphasize the education year more than the actual age of the student. Typically, we restrict it to students who are currently in high school. For students on either side of the cusps, (the rising 9th graders and recently graduated seniors) we urge parents to consider their student's maturity level and individual needs.

While our focus is on sparking a student's passion for the amazing world of aviation, we also want to give high school students an opportunity to experience what an aviation education experience has to offer with WMU's College of Aviation. As such, there is a high degree of maturity that we expect our prospective campers to have in order for them to fully appreciate the programming and the educational opportunities they are experiencing while at camp.

We urge parents to consider the maturity levels of their prospective campers and decide whether their student is mature enough for an overnight camp of this caliber. We also urge parents of older students to consider whether the investment of time and financial resources towards attending camp is appropriate at the stage they are in, having recently graduated high school. For example, a recently graduated senior who is interested in coming to WMU to study aviation would have already applied to attend and received their decision letter in the mail. In this case, camp may not be the best investment of their time as they will be preparing for the next steps in their education/career. However, if your student is not attending school right away after graduation and is still deciding on their next steps, they may benefit from attending camp and be able to apply for WMU for the following year.

How much does this camp cost?

-In 2023, camp costs $2,150. We understand the cost for camp is higher than it has been in previous years and is more costly than aviation day camps. Our camp is an overnight camp with all necessary expenses for transportation (while at camp), meals/snacks, extracurricular activities, day flights, and night flights included. Our camp is jam packed with opportunities for your student to explore the world of aviation not only from the flight deck of our Cirrus SR20 aircraft, but from the technical operations perspectives and from behind the scenes of airport operations. We also make sure to bring the fun with aviation inspired activities at the AirZoo, Airway Fun Center and more!
Is financial assistance or scholarship funding available?

-Partial tuition scholarships and payment plans are available, please contact tom.thinnes@wmich.edu to inquire about available financial assistance. If you are interested in being considered for a partial tuition scholarship, be sure to fill out the scholarship application form as well and turn it in with your application & registration forms.

What is the registration process like?

When registration is open, a gold button that says “Register” will populate at the top of the summer camp webpage. Clicking on this button will walk you through the process. Registration includes two downloadable forms, a brief essay, and the payment of the $500 deposit to hold your camper’s spot.

• The first form, which will ask for basic biographical and contact information, will be uploaded online with the essay. The essay will ask you to respond to the following:
  o Who are you? (Describe your family, educational background, and your career goals)
  o Have you had any previous aviation experience? (Describe your course load, extracurricular activities, and general work capacity)
  o What are your reasons for pursuing a college degree?
  o What are your reasons for registering for the Aviation Summer Camp?
  o Share fun facts about you, hobbies, interests, or other things you’d like us to know about you.
  *Thoughtful, well-constructed, honest responses are expected. The essay will only be used by camp staff to get to know you before you arrive at camp.

• The second form, which consists of medical information and waivers, must be downloaded, printed, completed, and put in the mail within one week of submitting the online application.

• Finally, a deposit is required to hold your spot. The $500 non-refundable deposit can be made online by clicking the “Make Payment” button on the summer camp homepage. We accept Visa, Mastercard, and Discover. Scholarships and payment plans are available, please contact tom.thinnes@wmich.edu to inquire about available financial assistance.

When does camp fill up?

Historically, Aviation camp has filled up by March. However, this does not predict 2023 registration. Ultimately, the earlier you register, the better. We will have a wait list after the camp has filled up. The website will be updated once a camp is full. To add your name to the waitlist, please email cadence.warr@wmich.edu. Please note that while we are happy to take names for the waitlist, we will not be adding any additional space and any openings that may arise would be due to another participant’s cancellation. There is no need to submit a deposit until WMU contacts you regarding a new open space.
**Will my student need additional spending money?**

-Spending money is not required, but campers may bring funds for souvenirs and additional items if they’d like to. The camp fee covers all necessary expenses for the week while campers are with us.

Campers will have the opportunity to purchase snacks and additional food from nearby Kalamazoo restaurants/shops some evenings. The residence hall has a microwave and refrigerator available. There are also vending machines located in the lobby. Campers will also have the opportunity purchase spirit wear or souvenirs from the WMU Campus Bookstore, the WMU Aviation Spirit Shop, the AirZoo Gift Shop, and other tour gift shops (if time allows).

Campers will be responsible for holding any spending money that is sent with them. Campers are encouraged to keep their rooms locked and their spending money kept hidden/secure. We are not responsible for the loss of camper items during their stay.

**What will my student be doing while at camp? Is there a schedule?**

-Our activities are largely based on group size, weather, and our industry partners’ staffing and visitor availability. Our camp activities are designed to provide an educational, fun, and thorough flight experience for campers, even if our plans are impacted by weather. Campers will receive a daily schedule upon their arrival, so they know what to expect while here. Among other activities, below is a list of what your student can look forward to while away at WMU’s Aviation Summer Camp–

- Cirrus SR20 Day and Night flight time
- Cirrus SR20 Frasca Simulator Flight
- Flight Planning Lesson
- Duncan Aviation Tour
- Delta Operations Tour, Detroit Metro Airport
- Airway Fun Center
- AirZoo
- Escapology
- WMU Main Campus Tour
- WMU College of Aviation Tour
- Composite Clipboard Activity
- Kalamazoo/ Battle Creek Airport Tour
- Battle Creek Air Traffic Control Tower Tour
- Movie Night

And more!

**What if my student is not comfortable with one of the activities?**

-We understand that it may not be for everyone! Campers are welcome to stay with the camp staff and not participate during an activity if it is out of their comfort zone.
Where will my student be staying?

- This is an overnight camp. Campers will be staying on Western Michigan University’s main campus in Kalamazoo. Staff will be staying in the dormitory as well so campers will always have an adult present.

How will my student be transported while at camp?

- Campers will be transported as a group in multi-passenger vans by camp staff throughout the session for the various activities.

Can my student drive themselves to camp & park their car on campus for the duration of camp?

- Yes, your student can drive themselves to camp and park their car while they stay at camp. We do not allow campers to drive to and from camp each day. Attendees are required to stay on campus with the group for the duration of camp. Please ensure you contact Cadence Joan directly to arrange a parking pass before June 1st 2023. If you do not arrange a parking pass, your car will likely be ticketed.

Who will be looking after my student?

- Campers will be supervised by WMU College of Aviation staff, including Cadence Warr and Tom Thinnes. They will also be accompanied by 3-6 camp counselors throughout the duration of the camp. Campers are encouraged to have their cellular devices with them to stay in touch with parents and guardians. In case of emergencies during the week of camp, parents and guardians will be provided with staff cellular contact information to ensure that lines of communication are kept open for emergent situations.

What will my student eat?

- Campers will be provided three meals per day. Most meals will be through our dining centers on campus. Some meals will be provided by a variety of restaurants such as Jets Pizza when we visit Detroit Metro. Snacks will be offered by camp staff throughout the day and campers will have the opportunity to purchase their own snack foods throughout the week.

My student has dietary restrictions, what do I do?

For campers with dietary restrictions of any kind, please indicate those needs in detail on your application forms so that we are able to plan accommodations for your student. We are happy to work with your student to provide alternatives as needed. Dining services has ingredient lists available and can prepare individual meals, if necessary, with enough notice. For campers with severe medical dietary restrictions or allergies of high concern, we suggest bringing a few safe alternatives from home, just in case. We also urge your student to bring any allergy medicines, EpiPens or other such medications in the event of an emergency.
Is housing available for my student if they need to arrive early or stay after camp?

- No. All campers will have to check in and check out at the assigned times. We recommend a hotel if you need to stay in the Kalamazoo area before or after camp. Visit https://wmich.edu/visit/hotels to browse the local accommodations should you need them.

Are cellphones allowed?

- Yes! In fact, we encourage the use of cell phones to stay in contact with parents/guardians. Take plenty of photos! There will be times throughout the week when we ask campers to refrain from using their phone due to policies or out of respect to the presenter or tour guide.

Is this camp safe?

- Safety is at the core of what we do and is always our top priority. Camp counselors and staff are committed 24/7 to ensuring camper safety. Our staff has completed significant training and background checks. At the WMU College of Aviation, safety is not just a rhetorical exercise. Safety is a practical exercise in risk identification, measurement, and mitigation. This focus is broad and extends from the classroom, to the laboratory, to the flight line, to the skies above them all. The equipment and training tools used by the college, and the manner that individuals utilize the equipment, demonstrates the College of Aviation’s commitment to safety. If you have any questions about specific safety procedures or precautions, please contact Tom Thinnes directly at tom.thinnes@wmich.edu.

I’d like to stay in the Kalamazoo area during the week while my student is at camp. Where can I stay?

- There are no on-campus accommodations for parents, apart from The Oaklands hotel. You can find a complete list of hotels in the Kalamazoo area here: https://wmich.edu/visit/hotels.

Can my student go running or go to the gym during camp?

- University Policy does not allow minors to use the gym facility. If time allows, campers can run around campus, pending parental/guardian approval for this to be unsupervised. We are not able to dedicate one staff member for individual supervision and do not leave campers alone with camp staff.

What is WMU’s Address?

WMU’s Main Campus Address:
1903 W. Michigan Ave
Kalamazoo, MI 49008

WMU’s College of Aviation Campus Address:
237 Helmer Rd N
Battle Creek, MI 49037
How do I get my student to camp?

- Parents and guardians are responsible for arranging their student’s travel.

Driving

- To get to the University’s main campus, take Interstate 94 to exit 74 North onto U.S. Route 131. Travel 2.8 miles on U.S. 131 N to Stadium Drive East or exit 36. Stadium Drive east about 2.5 miles. Turn left on Oliver Street. Turn right onto Ring Road South, and then left onto West Michigan Avenue. Turn right onto Ring Road North. The Western Heights Residence Halls will be on the left side of the street.

- To get to the University’s aviation campus, take Interstate 94 to exit 95 for Helmer Road, Battle Creek. Travel North on Helmer Rd S for 3.4 miles. Turn left into WMU’s College of Aviation parking lot. Use the entrance that comes directly after the aircraft display on the lefthand side.

Flying

- AZO: Kalamazoo/Battle Creek International Airport
  o 5 miles from WMU Main Campus
  o WMU Camp Staff may be able to arrange transportation from airport to campus*
  o Uber, Lyft, taxi services and rental cars are available

- GRR: Gerald R Ford Grand Rapids International Airport
  o 55 miles from WMU Main Campus
  o Uber, Lyft, taxi services and rental cars are available
  o Amtrak has trains and bus routes from Grand Rapids to Kalamazoo, but scheduling is limited.

- DTW: Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport
  o 130 miles from WMU Main Campus
  o Uber and Lyft are available, but available rides are not guaranteed.
  o Rental cars are available

- ORD: Chicago O’Hare Airport
  o 160 miles from WMU Main Campus
  o Rental cars are available

- MDW: Chicago Midway Airport
  o 140 miles from WMU Main Campus
  o Rental cars are available

Train / Bus

- Kalamazoo has an Amtrak station 3 miles from WMU Main Campus
  o WMU Camp staff may be able to arrange transportation from station to campus*

*If you would like to inquire about the use transportation from WMU staff, you must send a request to Cadence Joan at cadence.warr@wmich.edu no later than Friday, May 15th 2023 with your flight/train information, estimated time of arrival, and number of passengers to be picked up. We do not guarantee pick up for any arrivals. Please contact Cadence directly for specific questions about arrangements. There may be additional costs to you for appropriate transportation if your camper’s needs go beyond what WMU is able to accommodate.
Who do I contact with questions?

Please reach out to Cadence to answer any questions regarding general camp details, registration information, schedule information, travel concerns, dietary restrictions etc.

**Cadence Joan – Camp Coordinator**
Office Phone: 269-964-7846
Email: [cadence.warr@wmich.edu](mailto:cadence.warr@wmich.edu)

Please reach out to Tom to answer any questions regarding scholarship opportunities, safety regulations, or payment plans.

**Tom Thinnes – Camp Director**
Office Phone: 269-964-5768
Email: [tom.thinnes@wmich.edu](mailto:tom.thinnes@wmich.edu)