



Fact Sheet for Academy Hosts - 2026



4-H Illini Summer Academies provides a rich career exploration experience while showcasing University of Illinois as the college of choice to teens in Illinois. For over a decade, the goal of ISA has been to give youth a high-definition glimpse of the college experience from within a field of study while creating opportunities for outreach and recruitment for our U of I partners. For more information, see our event webpage: [ISA Website](#)

Sign-Up: <https://go.illinois.edu/ISAAcademyHost>

Dates: June 21-25 (See schedule below for details)

Event Location: Bousfield Hall, UIUC (Academy locations TBD by host)

Host Registration: Open until Jan. 31, 2025, or until all slots are filled.

Cost:

The fee for students to attend the event is based on a formula that includes the base fee charged to all participants (\$425) + the fee each academy section chooses to charge for participation. Academies wishing to recover costs by adding a fee to the base registration fee should submit that amount to 4-H in time to be included in the total enrollment cost at the time of registration in February, 2025.

Transportation:

Academy partners will be responsible for making transportation arrangements for field trips. State 4-H will have a 14-passenger vehicle available for special needs and emergency transport. Transportation costs can be included in the fee to be charged to your participants. Typically, students enjoy walking around campus so transportation needs are minimal.

Planning Considerations:

The goals of the Illini Summer Academies event are:

1. To provide an opportunity to explore a career pathway through hands-on engagement with related scholarship.
2. To encourage a diverse group of youth participants to see the University of Illinois as a destination for college.
3. To give students a safe and supportive environment to explore what success looks like for them after high-school.
4. To encourage youth to build their leadership, communication and networking skills.

With this in mind, we encourage academy hosts to consider designing experiences that demonstrate characteristics that make study in your field, and at U of I specifically, exciting. It is ok if the concepts you chose to share are over the heads of the students as long as it has potential to inspire a student to want to learn more about the field of study or elicit awe at the rigor of the scholarship. Your sessions need not begin where a typical AP high school course ends. Nor should it be designed with the intention of making students academically stronger when they return to school in the fall.

The activities you plan are more likely to accomplish the goals of the academies if they are the kind that a student could not experience in a well-funded high school, at a summer camp, or on a typical fieldtrip. Each of you as hosts have access to equipment, research facilities, methods of inquiry, and renowned scholars that are unique to our campus. Please consider leveraging these resources during the days you have as a host of 4-H Illini Summer Academies. Additional support for designing your course and ensuring the proper PYD components will be available from the State 4-H office.

Draft 2026 Schedule (Academy Sessions in Orange):

SUN. 6/21	MON. 6/22	TUE. 6/23	WED. 6/24	THU. 6/25
2 -4 PM Check-in Welcome and Chaperone Meetings beginning at 4pm.	ACADEMY SESSIONS <u>MORNING SESSION</u> 9 am-11:45 am LUNCH @ SDRP 11:45 am - 1:15 pm <u>AFTERNOON SESSION</u> 1:15 pm-4 pm			8:30-11 AM Check-Out
Dinner & Evening Activities	Evening Activities			

Academy Host Expectations:

Our partnerships with U of I academic professionals, faculty and departments are the key to the success of ISA. The strength of the ISA model is that the 4-H program takes care of all the logistics so that you can do what you do best; teach about the topics with which you are the most engaged. Not every academy host will be involved in the day to day instruction of their academy. Frequently, they will recruit graduate students to assist in the teaching component. Below is a list of academy host responsibilities.

Academy Hosts Responsibilities:

- Ensure the proper amount of teaching staff are available and present for all academy sessions.
- Design and implement a rigorous and age appropriate level of course content.
- Determine the fee to be assessed for their respective academy.
- Determine location and reserve spaces for their academy.
- Create opportunities for hands on learning throughout.
- Greet participants in the morning as they arrive and ensure they are dismissed in the afternoon.
- Communicate with 4-H event staff regarding any needs or issues that arise before, during or after the event.
- Implement a participant assessment during the last afternoon session of ISA.
- Serve as a liaison to their academic department/unit as needed.

Student Expectations:

Working with our 4-H event staff, we will provide all the support and guidance that student participants need to be successful. We will also communicate ahead of time with their families about these expectations to ensure that they are ready to engage and learn for all three days that you have them in your academy. Given the unique developmental needs of high school students, you will not be expected to provide classroom behavior management unless you determine the issue is best handled within your academy. Below is a list of student participant responsibilities.

Academy Student Participant Responsibilities:

- Arrive to their academy on time and be ready to learn.
- Demonstrate appropriate academic behavior at all times as prescribed in the event Code of Conduct.
- Restrict use of cell phone and personal devices to the break times provided by academy hosts.
- Remain an active participant in their academy during morning and afternoon sessions.
- Ask questions and be in frequent communication with your academy host.
- Direct any personal or health issues to academy host and/or 4-H event staff directly.

Support from 4-H Staff for Academies:

Our event team will partner with you to ensure that your academy is a total success. There are several things happening before the event designed to ensure that your academy receives the support required to properly engage a high school audience.

Pre-Event Support:

Academy Host Informational Sessions: We offer several informational sessions designed to answer your question about ISA as well as provide examples of successful academies from past years. These can be scheduled at your convenience by contacting Mark Becker - mbbecker@illinois.edu

Coaching sessions will also be conducted for academy hosts who have additional questions or concerns regarding scaffolding your course content for a high school audience. These can be scheduled at your convenience to ensure that your students remain engaged during the entire three days. Any other questions or concerns you have can be directed to the contacts provided below.

During ISA:

4-H event staff will be on point 24/7 during the event to ensure that you have what you need to be successful. Should you encounter any logistical, behavioral or health issues you can communicate with us via the Remind app or cell phone and we will handle the situation promptly so as to ensure interruptions to instruction are kept to a minimum.

Post-Event Support:

Post ISA, we will provide your department with relevant survey data, pictures and other promotional materials for you to utilize for any reporting or recruitment purposes. We will also be in contact with department/unit heads to thank them and ensure they are informed as to the success of your Academy. 4-H PYD staff frequently continue collaborating with ISA Academy Hosts throughout the year on additional outreach projects or grants as well.

Contacts:

Mark Becker – Event Director & 4-H PYD Specialist

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