

When is Dawg Days?

For 2017 there are two sessions:

- August 6-9
- August 12-15

What exactly is Dawg Days?

Dawg Days is a four-day, three-night overnight retreat for incoming freshman at SIU. Our entire program is centered around building strong, positive peer networks before students move onto campus. Students participate in large group activities, such as; water tug-of-war, an adventure race, and evening socials. They also engage in small group activities, such as; broomball, lifesize Battleship, and gaga ball. Each day, students have the opportunity to partake in optional activities like ziplining, canoeing, rockclimbing, and hiking. The retreat is held at Southern Illinois University's own Touch of Nature Environmental Center, located approximately ten minutes from the main campus. Touch of Nature as an SIU entity boasts 3,100 acres of rolling hills and lush forests that students have the opportunity to explore during their time at Dawg Days and as a Saluki. Each session has about 100 incoming freshman, and 20 upperclassmen volunteers who serve as friends, mentors, and a support system for when students move onto campus.

Are there other programs that conflict with Dawg Days?

Please check directly with your organizations. We have two sessions to best accommodate students participating in other campus events or organizations.

How do I get there? Where do I park when I come to camp?

Students participating in Dawg Days will check in on the SIU campus and ride charter buses to camp. Students will meet up with staff members in the Parking Lot 56 South of the SIU Arena, where they can be dropped off or leave their vehicles.

Students can also be picked up from the Amtrak Station, located in Carbondale, IL *OR* the Williamson County Regional Airport, located in Marion, IL. Individuals taking the train, must arrive at the station at 1:45pm on the start day of the program. Individuals flying, should plan on arriving before 2:00pm. For returning home via train, please make accommodations for the train departing from Carbondale at 3:00pm. For returning home via plane, please make accommodations for flights between 3:00pm-7:00pm. If you are unsure of our ability to accommodate your travel logistics, please contact Camp Director, Katerina Medernach at 618.453.1121 or at katerinamedernach@siu.edu before making accommodations.

Specific arrival information and directions will be included in your Welcome Packet.

Who goes to Dawg Days?

Dawg Days is open to all incoming freshman that are enrolled in the fall semester at SIU and graduated high school in 2017.

How much does it cost?

The cost of the residential program is \$195. This price includes your lodging, transportation, programming, meals, and a camp T-shirt. Please see the packing list for a more detailed list of the gear needed.

There is a payment plan available that involves a \$100 down payment and then two payments of

\$47.50. Installments are due July 10th and August 4th. These dates and amounts will change as we come closer to the start of our programs.

How do I register?

You can register online at www.dawgdays.siu.edu or in person during Orientation. Our registration link will re-direct you to active.com, where you select the session you would like to participate in.

Does registration fill up?

Yes! We have limited space at Dawg Days.

When can I move into my residence hall?

All Dawg Days participants are eligible for early move-in on August 15th. Students must indicate early move-in in their Welcome Packet. Packets are due based on the session the student is participating in: Session 1 due July 28th; Session 2 due August 4th; ~~Session 3~~ due August 10th.

What do I do with my forms?

Send your permission to treat and waiver forms to the Touch of Nature office. You can email them to tonec@siu.edu or fax them to 618.453.1188. Packets are due based on the session the student is participating in: Session 1 due July 28th; Session 2 due August 4th.

I'm not 18; can I sign my own forms?

The deadline for turning in your forms is based on the session the student is participating in: Session 1 due July 28th; Session 2 due August 4th. If you are not 18 by then, you will need a legal guardian to sign your forms.

When is the last day I can get a refund for camp?

The last day to receive a refund for camp if you decide to not attend is July 24th. After this date, no refunds will be given.

How do I notify you about any special needs, dietary needs, food restrictions, etc.?

Please contact the camp director to discuss any special needs or accommodations, Katerina Medernach at 618.453.1121 or at katerinamedernach@siu.edu. After registering for the program, you will receive a Welcome Packet that asks specific needs.

What if I am having trouble with online registration?

If you are having problems with registering online, please contact our main office at 618-453-1121.

What if I'm not a camp or outdoors person?

Our residential program is active; however, there are a variety of optional activities, some of which will be indoors. This is **not** a camping trip! You will be staying in air-conditioned cabins with modern restrooms. The meeting rooms are air conditioned as well. You can also beat the Illinois heat in Little Grassy Lake.

What do I need to bring to camp?

- Linens for an extended twin bed (sleeping bag, sheets, pillow).
- Towels for shower and pool.
- Shower shoes.

- Comfortable and modest clothes for recreation and activities such as shorts and T-shirts are appropriate for all activities and you may want more than one set per day.
- Toiletries.
- Closed toe shoes for recreation and optional activities
- Protection from the sun, such as hat, sunscreen, and sunglasses.
- Appropriate swimwear.
- Optional: Evening socials will have a Pajama Party, Formal Dance, and Egyptian Festival.

You can find a more detailed packing list on our website and in your registration packet.

What should I not bring to camp?

Valuable items that could easily be misplaced such as jewelry, credit cards, or more than \$20 cash. Any drugs, alcohol, weapons of any kind, including pocketknives, are not allowed at camp. This is a sanctioned SIU event and any violations will be handled in cooperation with the university police and/or university disciplinary council (see Student Handbook). Students who violate these policies will be asked to leave the program without a refund.

Will I have cell phone service at camp?

Cell phone service is not very reliable at camp, and we offer no secure personal storage. We strongly urge you to not bring/use your phone to our programs, you will be too busy making new friends to need it anyways!

In case of an emergency where someone needs to get a hold of you while you are at camp, they can call the Touch of Nature office at 618-453-1121.

Do people really dress up for the social events?

Yes, of course we do! You do not need to have an expensive costume to participate either. The cheesier, the better!!

Who do I contact for more information?

For more information, you can call 618-453-1121 or email us tonec@siu.edu.