

### **When is Dawg Days?**

For 2024 there is 1 session:

- August 11<sup>th</sup> - August 14<sup>th</sup>

### **What exactly is Dawg Days?**

Dawg Days is a four-day, three-night overnight retreat for new students 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, life-size Battleship, and GaGa ball. Each day, students can choose to participate in optional activities like canoeing, rock climbing, and hiking. The retreat is held at Southern Illinois University's own Touch of Nature Outdoor Education 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 can explore during their time at Dawg Days and as a Saluki. Each session has about 120 incoming students and 30 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 to see if other obligations conflict with the current offering.

### **How do I register?**

You can register online at [www.dawgdays.siu.edu](http://www.dawgdays.siu.edu). Our registration link will re-direct you to active.com to fill out paperwork.

### **Does registration fill up?**

Yes! We have limited space at Dawg Days. In the past we have had a waiting list, so we recommend signing up sooner rather than later!

### **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 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 to arrive 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 call 618-453-1121 before making accommodations.

### **How do I confirm my arrival information?**

While your initial registration through Active will ask you how you plan to arrive, with some participants registering as early as January, it is common for participants plans to change as August approaches. For this reason, all registrants for Dawg Days will receive an additional form from Active.com in July that will ask students to confirm their mode of arrival as well as whether students plan to move in early.

### **How much does it cost?**

The cost of the residential program is \$225. 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. A payment plan is available upon registration. The dates and amounts for the payment plan may change as we come closer to the start of our programs.

### **Are there scholarships available?**

Dawg Days receives a generous amount of support from partners such as the Achieve Program, the SIU Alumni Association, the Office of Diversity and SIU Credit Union. It is through their support that Dawg Days can offer both partial and full scholarships.

### **How can I apply for scholarships for Dawg Days?**

Students can apply for scholarships by visiting [www.dawgdays.siu.edu](http://www.dawgdays.siu.edu), clicking on the application in the right-hand column and submitting it by August 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **When can I move into my residence hall?**

All Dawg Days participants are eligible for early move-in on August 11<sup>th</sup>. Students will need to confirm if they plan to move-in early in a follow-up Active form by August 1<sup>st</sup> to participate in early move in.

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

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 Dawg Days if you decide to not attend is August 1<sup>st</sup>. After this date, no refunds will be given.

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

While registering through Active, students and their parents can communicate and special needs or dietary restrictions. If you have questions, please contact the Camp Director to discuss any special needs or accommodations at [ton@siu.edu](mailto:ton@siu.edu) or call 618-453-1121.

### **What if I am having trouble with online registration?**

If you are having problems with registering online, please contact our 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.

### **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 always 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 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 email us at [ton@siu.edu](mailto:ton@siu.edu).