

DAKOTA DREAMS SUMMER CAMP

at Black Hills State
University



Welcome To
Spearfish, SD!
Summer 2025

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Hello and welcome to Black Hills State University (BHSU) in Spearfish, SD!

My name is Jin Kim and I am the Director of Career Development for BHSU as well as the BHSU-SD Mines-WDT Dakota Dreams Career Exploration Summer Camp Coordinator.

For the next 5 days and 4 nights, we have so much planned for you! To start off, your home away from home will be Bordeaux Hall, our newest Residence Hall at BHSU! Throughout your time at camp, we will provide you delicious meals from BHSU Dining through Sodexo, which has a wide selection of food items and can cater to your dietary needs. Our transportation to and from all institutions and site visits will be done through Dakota Bus Company in 2 -56 passenger coach buses for safety and comfort. Don't worry about bringing your portable gaming device or a book because we will keep you busy in learning 23 Career Pathways at 3 different institutions of Higher Education, exploring over 4 different large employer site visits, and entertainment for every night you are at BHSU. And don't worry, our entertainment isn't just "a movie in the dorms", but much more exciting.

Feel free to take an in depth, detailed look at our schedule for each day in this guidebook, and if you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact me at BHDakotaDreams@BHSU.edu or by calling (605) 642-6608

Get ready to have some fun. Go Yellow Jackets!

Jin Kim

BHSU Career Development Director

Dakota Dreams Career Exploration Summer Camps Coordinator

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Our Purpose

The South Dakota Board of Regents is offering week-long career exploration camps on campuses for incoming 7th and 8th grade students in Summer 2025. This is a FREE camp thanks to a grant by the South Dakota Department of Education, the South Dakota Board of Technical Education, and the South Dakota Board of Regents!

Campers will be immersed in a week of “college life” designed to explore career paths through engaging activities and tours of area business and industry. By the end of this five-day residential camp, students will have a better understanding of themselves, their personal career interests, and how education connects to these professions.

Campers Will Experience:

- Exposure to 23 career paths through hands-on learning.
- A full day and two half-days at Black Hills State University.
- A day trip to Western Dakota Technical College.
- A day trip to South Dakota School of Mines and Technology.
- Afternoon tours of area business and industry.
- Transportation to and from off-campus field trip sites.
 - Transportation is being provided by Dakota Bus Service, Inc. Dakota Trailways Bus Charter
- On-campus housing (four overnights) in BHSU's Bordeaux Residence Hall.
 - Night Resident Assistants are on call.
- Campus dining facilities (all meals, snacks, and drinks included).
- Evening recreational and social activities:
 - Swimming at the Spearfish Recreation and Aquatics Center
 - Movie Night!, Northern Hills Cinema
 - HYPE! by Noah Sonie
- 24/7 counselor supervision.

Tentative Schedule

DAY 1 (SUNDAY)

10:30 AM – NOON: Check-In/Drop Off at Bordeaux Hall BHSU

11:30 AM – 12:45 PM: Student and Parent Luncheon at the Hive Dining Center

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM: Student and Parent Orientation at Student Union – Jacket Legacy Room

2:00 PM – 5:00 PM: Career Pathway Sessions, BHSU

5:30 PM: Dinner at the Hive Dining Center

7:00 PM HYPE! : by Noah Sonie! at BHSU

9:00 PM: Room Checks

Tentative Schedule

DAY 2 (MONDAY)

7:00 – 8:00 AM: Breakfast at the Hive Dining Center

8:00–9:00 AM: Transportation to Western Dakota Technical College (Rapid City, SD)

9:30–11:55 AM: Career Pathway Sessions, WDTC

NOON – 1:00 PM: Lunch (Lunch provided by WDTC Dining Services)

1:00 PM – 1:30 PM: SD CTSO Presentation, WDTC

2:00 PM – 4:30 PM: Ellsworth Airforce Base

5:30 PM: Dinner at the Hive Dining Center

7:30 PM: Private Pool Party! at Spearfish Rec & Aquatics Center

9:00 PM: Room Checks

Tentative Schedule

DAY 3 (TUESDAY)

7:00 – 8:00 AM: Breakfast at the Hive Dining Center

8:00–8:50 AM: Transportation to South Dakota School of Mines and Technology (Rapid City, SD)

9:00 AM – 11:45 PM: Career Pathway Session(s), SD Mines

NOON – 1:00 PM: Lunch at Hardrocker Cafe at SD Mines

1:30 PM – 3:30 PM: Reptiles Gardens (Rapid City, SD)

4:30 PM – 5:00 PM: TBA

5:00 PM: Dinner at the Hive Dining Center

6:15 PM: Movie at Northern Hills Cinema, Spearfish, SD

9:00 PM: Room Checks

Tentative Schedule

DAY 4 (WEDNESDAY)

7:00 – 8:00 AM: Breakfast at the Hive Dining Center

8:00 AM–NOON: Black Hills State University (Spearfish, SD)

NOON – 12:45 PM: Lunch (Lunch provided by Sodexo, BHSU Dining Services)

12:45 PM – 2:15 PM: Spearfish Police and Fire Station Tour

2:30 PM – 4:00 PM: Neiman Industries

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM: Games with the counselors

5:00 PM: Dinner at the Hive Dining Center

6:00 PM: Painting with Alexandra Hansen at BHSU

9:00 PM: Room Checks



Tentative Schedule

DAY 5 (THURSDAY)

7:00 AM - 8:00 AM: Breakfast at the
Hive Dining Center, BHSU

8:00 AM - NOON: Business Career
Pathways Sessions, BHSU

NOON - 1:00 PM: Campers Depart at
Bordeaux Hall at BHSU

WHAT TO BRING

- Medication:** Prescription medication administered by staff must be individually bagged or contained per administration (separate bag of medication for morning and evening for each day). An actual prescription bottle/container/box must be provided during check-in.
- Personal Care Items:** (vitamins, glasses/contacts, personal assistance items, etc.)
- Toiletries:** (soap, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, loofah/bath scrubbies, toothbrush, toothpaste, etc.)
- Extra blankets and pillows if you wish to have more.
- You may decide to bring your own towel/washcloth, however, please do not mix yours with the ones provided!
- Clothes To Include:** light jackets/sweaters, socks, undergarments, athletic wear including shoes for recreational activities, swimwear (and towel), and nightwear. **At least one pair of long pants and closed-toed shoes are required (due to safety at employer visit sites).**
- Money for gift shops (if desired).

WHAT NOT TO BRING

The following are provided for you:

- Linen Package:** (2 - flat sheets, 1 - light blanket, 1 - pillow, 1 - pillowcase, 1 - towel, & 1 - washcloth) per 1 camper
- All meals:** (4 - Breakfasts, 4 - Lunches, 4 - Dinners) + Snacks & Refreshments
- Transportation & admission costs to all employer, recreational, and social activities



BLACK HILLS STATE UNIVERSITY

Black Hills State University is a comprehensive regional public university located in Spearfish, northern Black Hills, South Dakota. We are a small campus that offers a personalized approach to education and where students are well-known and supported by their faculty.

BLACK HILLS STATE UNIVERSITY

Enrollment:

3,539 Students

Locations:

Spearfish, Rapid City, and Ellsworth Air Force Base in South Dakota

BHSU Mission Statement:

BHSU offers a generous number of baccalaureate and select master's degrees, generates new knowledge, promotes excellence in teaching and public engagement, and serves as a regional economic leader. Graduates make significant contributions to the workforce and the betterment of their community.

Spearfish Area:

The Spearfish Canyon area boasts a bounty of hiking and biking trails, providing numerous opportunities to take in the sights and sounds of the Black Hills.



SOUTH DAKOTA MINES®

The South Dakota School of Mines & Technology (South Dakota Mines) is committed to excellence in science and engineering academics and research and to developing the next generation of leaders and problem-solvers. The university offers a wide array of bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees.

Located in Rapid City in the beautiful Black Hills of South Dakota, South Dakota Mines offers a rigorous academic experience supported by small class sizes, committed faculty members, and many student development programs and organizations.

They're known for:

- STEM Academics
- Personal Attention
- Outstanding Internship Opportunities
- Great Value
- Our wonderful location: the Rushmore Region

South Dakota School of Mines and Technology

MISSION STATEMENT:

OUR VISION is to develop world-class leaders in science and engineering to benefit society.

OUR MISSION:

Is to educate scientists and engineers to address global challenges, innovate to reach our creative potential, and engage in partnerships to transform society.

WE VALUE:

integrity, ingenuity, inclusion, and impact.

- At South Dakota Mines, we are curious. We are tenacious. We plan to change the world with STEM, and we invite you to join us.
- Our programs emphasize hands-on learning in maker spaces and labs that feature the same equipment you'll use on the job. Break things. Build things. Then get paid to do it professionally.
- With more than 20 bachelor's degrees in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM), South Dakota Mines will open a whole world to you.

WESTERN DAKOTA

TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Western Dakota Technical College (WDTC) is the only technical college serving the western South Dakota region. The college delivers a personal, career-oriented education ideal for the student pursuing a meaningful profession and prideful future in a high-need occupation. Through active learning, simulation, internships, and industry partnerships, our students graduate ready to make a real and immediate contribution to their employers and communities.

Our Mission:

WDTC prepares students to be highly skilled professionals through accessible, career-focused programs to improve their lives, while adapting to community workforce needs and positively impacting our economy.

Western Dakota Technical College

Facts:

Enrollment: 1,300 students

Class Sizes: About a 13:1 student-to-faculty ratio

Locations: The main WDTC campus is in Rapid City, S.D., and a satellite Practical Nursing program is located in Whitewood, S.D.

Placement Rate: 99% of our most recent graduates are working, continuing their education, or are enlisted in the military. Placement information is derived from graduate surveys, faculty-collected data, placement surveys started six months after graduation, and the South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation.

Overall Placement Rate Is Figured By: (responding graduates employed, continuing education, or in military service)/(responding graduates who are seeking employment). The number of program graduates are unduplicated by CIP code.]

MEET THE COUNSELORS



Brooklyn

Hi Everyone! My name is Brooklyn Andersen, and I am a senior at Black Hills State University! I am majoring in Elementary Education, with two minors in Early Childhood Education and Reading. When I am not at work, you can find me reading books, watching movies, exploring nature, thrifting, hammocking, following my faith, and spending time with family and friends. I am most excited about having the opportunity to work with the kids; learning with them, building relationships, and seeing their curiosity grow as we travel to different locations and learn about all different career fields!



Leyton

Hello, my name is Leyton. I am currently a sophomore at BHSU. I am majoring in Biology and plan to attend dental school after completing my undergrad. I enjoy being involved on campus, hanging out with family and friends, traveling, and trying new things. I am most excited to meet the campers and explore businesses throughout the Black Hills.

MEET THE COUNSELORS



Gaige

Hello! My name is Gaige, and I am currently a sophomore here at Black Hills State University. I am majoring in Exercise Science with the ambition of becoming a physical therapist. In my free time I love to fish and hike, lucky for me the Black Hills is right in my backyard! I'm incredibly excited to get to spend some time with the kids and make their time here memorable and fun!



Connor

Hey, my name is Connor, and I am a Sophomore studying Exercise Science at Black Hills State University. My favorite things to do in my spare time are snowboarding, hiking, and lake days. I am so excited to be a camp counselor this summer because I can't wait to learn about all of the different programs the institutions in the area have to offer.

MEET THE COUNSELORS



Heather

Hi everyone! I'm Jenn, I've been at Black Hills State University (BHSU) since August 2012, wearing multiple hats. Since June of 2015, I serve as the Coordinator for Student Disability Services and Coordinator of the Spearfish Testing Center. My background includes a Master's in Clinical Mental Health Counseling, which fuels my drive to provide students with the individualized support they need to thrive.



Bell

Hello! My name is Bell, and I am a PE teacher at Spearfish Middle School. I graduated from Black Hills State University last year with a degree in Physical Education with minors in health and athletic coaching! When I'm not teaching or coaching, I love to visit National Parks and see beautiful landscapes throughout the United States. I am most looking forward to getting to meet all the great campers we are going to have during the Dakota Dreams Camps!

MEET THE COUNSELORS



Kerry

Hello Everyone! My name is Kerry Skinner. I am a middle school teacher in Sturgis. This fall will be my 33rd year teaching reading and social studies. I

had the opportunity to be a camp counselor last year and enjoyed the experience so much I wanted to come back! It was so wonderful to see students get excited about future career and educational opportunities. I can't wait to meet this summer's campers!



Whitney

My name is Whitney Muller. I am currently in my 10th year of teaching on the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation. I have taught Middle School Science for 8 years at my current school, McLaughlin School District. I live in Timber Lake, SD where I am a single mom of 2 wonderful children, Conrad age: 11 and Cecilia age: 9. This will be my second year helping with the Dakota Dreams Camps and I am so excited to meet all of the children and to explore all the opportunities these camps have to offer.

MEET THE ENTERTAINMENT



**Noah
Sonie**



**Alexandra
Hansen**

BUSINESS & INDUSTRY VISITS

Neiman Enterprises



We're committed to timber production practices driven by forest health. We believe we are caretakers of the forest, utilizing experts who understand the science of legacy-focused forestry practices and committed to take action based on sound research and experience. Since the forest involves many stakeholders, we are partners, choosing to take an active collaborative stance when it comes to the work of ensuring our forests remain a viable, thriving resource, and choose stewardship efforts in pursuit of outcomes that will improve access opportunities for all of our partners.

BUSINESS & INDUSTRY VISITS



The Spearfish Police Department is a value-driven organization committed to excellence and will partner with the community to make the City of Spearfish a better place to live, visit and conduct business.



The Spearfish Fire Department, founded in 1881, is a volunteer organization located in the northern Black Hills of Western South Dakota. The department's mission is to preserve life and property in the fire protection district and mutual aid area. The department also promotes fire safety and knowledge through fire safety education in the local schools and community.

BUSINESS & INDUSTRY VISITS



We are one of the largest reptile zoo in the world, housing more species of reptiles than any other zoo or wild animal park. But, we're not just about the animals! We also showcase a myriad of flowers and flowerbeds, orchids and bromeliads - expanding the park far beyond what Earl Brockelsby could have imagined.

Our second and third generations are dedicated to carrying on his vision, not only by having top-notch displays, but also by offering outstanding hospitality. The State of South Dakota has honored us twice with the George Mickelson Award for Great Service to South Dakota visitors (1994 and 2018), the only organization so far to be honored twice.



ELLSWORTH AIR FORCE BASE

Ellsworth Air Force Base is a United States Air Force base located about 10 miles northeast of Rapid City, South Dakota, and north of the town of Box Elder, South Dakota.

Contact Us

Have any questions, comments or concerns?
Please contact Career Development at BHSU by
the avenues below:

Phone

 605.642.6608

Message

 BHDakotaDream@BHSU.edu

Website

 <https://www.bhsu.edu/about-bhsu/community/summer-camps/Dakota-Dreams>

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