

Not Back to School Camp is unique.

We come together to savor and support each person's gifts, and to build and celebrate community. Together, campers and staff co-create a smorgasbord of workshops, spontaneous events, and special evening gatherings. We seek unschoolers who are excited about life, eager to share in what NBTSC offers, enthusiastic about offering their own workshops and other contributions, and willing (even if also terrified) to be themselves and to bravely reach out and connect with the rest of us. Most days, most of the time, campers make their own decisions—whether to attend a workshop or talk with a new friend, whether to go to sleep at 11 p.m. or stay up till 1 playing games, whether to linger over lunch or hike up the mountain or have a nap in the sun or start a soccer game. We come to camp to change ourselves and the world, teach each other great things, and sing under the moon....

For complete information, including

- Important things for parents to know
- Our refund policy
- And all kinds of details...

See our photo-packed website, www.nbtsc.org, or send us \$10 for a packet of key documents.

What happens

We swim; talk; sing; drum; dance; hike; stare at the sky; play volleyball and softball and soccer; take creative, emotional, and intellectual risks; encourage each other to do amazing things; have talent shows; teach and learn from each other.

Workshops—a sampling: We have dozens of workshops each session, reflecting the talents and interests of all staff and campers. They range from kung fu to cob-oven building to Zimbabwean singing to college applications to surrealist games to VW engine fixing to human digestion to youth rights. In Oregon, staff also offers longer multi-day “projects” for campers who want to explore a subject in greater depth. Usually, you can decide each day what you want to do (or want not to do).

Sports: We typically play volleyball, basketball, soccer, ultimate frisbee, softball, and anything else anybody decides to initiate.

Unscheduled activities: Most of the time you're free to make your own fun if you don't feel like participating in a group activity. You can swim when the swimming hole or lake is supervised, hike on trails, talk with new friends, read, nap, swing, practice a new skill...

Talent Shows: Evening talent shows are a great highlight of camp. You can play music, dance, sing, show artwork, tell jokes, turn cartwheels, tell us the wildest thing that ever happened to your family, swallow a sword, read your poetry, or just stand up and tell us what makes you tick.

What parents should know

NBTSC is not as tightly structured as most youth camps. For example, people choose their own bedtimes and sleeping locations (which include some public spaces, though girls and boys also have separate cabins and most people sleep in their own beds most of the time). We have clear rules which we expect campers to observe, but they nevertheless have a great deal of freedom. Most campers are already accustomed to taking a lot of responsibility for themselves, so this works well overall, but some people feel a bit challenged by the open schedule. Feel free to talk with us if you're not sure whether NBTSC is a good match for your family. More on all of this and related stuff at www.nbtsc.org.

Staff

Our multi-faceted, skilled, caring, funny staff is one of the best things about NBTSC. They teach outstanding workshops and coach sports, lead group singing, facilitate discussions, wrap twisted ankles, support people who are feeling challenged in any way, cook great food, and those who aren't exhausted sometimes stay up late and join in the after-midnight revels.

One person is your “advisor” during the week. You'll meet briefly with him or her and about 10 other campers each morning to check in, play games, and get to know each other.

For more, see <http://nbtsc.org/who/index.htm>.

food

Three yummy vegetarian meals each day with vegan alternatives. We prepare our own food and use mostly organically grown ingredients.

money

If you register early (before March 31), your cost for the full 2-week Oregon session is \$1085; a half session in Oregon or a week-long session in Vermont is \$630. After March 31, the cost increases to \$1145/\$690. If you send in all your information and money on time, you get a \$100 rebate prior to camp. A \$150 non-refundable deposit is due with your registration. For details and our refund policy, see www.nbtsc.org.

how to register

You can register online at www.nbtsc.org. You can also ask us to mail you a paper registration form, but it is important that you read the details about camp on the website (or send us \$10 for our comprehensive brochure and other key information).

miscellaneous good stuff

(Non) religious orientation: NBTSC is a non-denominational, non-religious camp. We strive to honor each person's religious beliefs or lack thereof, and ask that all campers do likewise.

Not Back to School Camp loves diversity.

We welcome campers of all races, ethnic backgrounds, genders, religious beliefs, sexual orientations, economic backgrounds, political affiliations, and physical capabilities.

If you have special needs: Educate us about them, and we'll do our best to support you in having a comfortable, safe, and rich experience.

how to reach us

NBTSC, 212 Rachel Carson Way, Ithaca, NY 14850, NBTSC@cheeber.com, 607-330-1201.



“When [my son] appeared on our doorstep [after camp], he was radiant. He had had, in his words, a life changing experience. He had new friends, was exposed to new ways of doing and thinking, and was challenged by some of the accomplishments of the other campers to start making serious decisions of his own. I am so grateful for the existence of Not Back to School Camp, and hope that it continues to play a key role in the lives of other young people as they are figuring out who they are and what they want to do with their lives.”

“I have seen so many of the Vancouver kids come back from camp with subtle (or not so subtle) changes in maturity, confidence, etc. I can't thank you enough for what you do by giving these kids the chance to be together and spread their wings like this.”

—parents

Not Back to School Camp aspires to create a sanctuary

- that affirms, inspires, and mentors unschoolers...
- where campers and staff transform spiritually, emotionally, physically, creatively, intellectually...
- where profound friendships begin and grow...
- and where adventure, mystery, music, wild spontaneous fun, and magic prevail.

“I had never been in such a big group of people that were so open, nonjudgmental, loving, honest, and just wonderful to be around! The energy of it all was so incredibly awesome! It was the best experience I have ever had.”

“I'm writing to say again how thrilled I am with camp. You get together such a great group of wonderful, talented people. I'm really amazed at your ability to make it work so well.”

“I feel like a different and better person! I haven't even fought with my sister who also went to camp. Or my other siblings for that matter.”

“Camp is the high point of my unschool year. Each time I make new friends, learn new things, and leave with a beautiful feeling.”

“I was thrilled by everything: the idea, the staff, the campers, the openness, the inspiration that lasts all year. Thank you.”

—campers



Start your unschooling year with
high hopes,
new interests,
a big bang,
a loud splash,
and a tribe of new friends!

Don't miss the *fifteenth* annual

Not Back to School Camp 2010

for unschoolers ages 13-18



Oregon & Vermont

- **who:** Approx. 100 unschooled teenagers, and a staff led by Grace Llewellyn.
- **when:** *Oregon* Aug 24-Sept 7 (1st half 8/24-31, 2nd half 8/31-9/7), *Vermont* Session 1 Sept. 20-27, Session 2 October 1-8.
- **where:** *Oregon:* we meet in Eugene and travel 120 miles SW to Camp Myrtlewood. *Vermont:* Farm & Wilderness Camp, 40 miles SE of Rutland.
- **how much:** Before 3/31: 2-week session \$1085, 1-wk \$630. Price goes up \$60 on 4/1. \$100 rebate for sending in fees and information on time. Some worktrades available.
- **web site:** www.nbtsc.org