

Gems Camp 2019: “Start Your Story” **Frequently Asked Questions**



When and what is Gems Camp? How do I register?

Gems Camp is a three-day, two night off-campus experience designed to help incoming Gemstone students transition into the University of Maryland and the Gemstone Honors Program prior to the first day of classes. Additionally, campers meet their other students in their cohort and begin fostering relationships with their peers, the Gemstone staff, and Gemstone upperclass students who serve as Camp Leaders. The camp takes place several days prior to the start of the fall semester, so students attending camp get to move into their residence halls earlier than the rest of the first-year students living on campus!

Gems Camp 2019 is **Tuesday, August 20th-Thursday, August 22nd**, held about 30 miles east of campus at a retreat center.

Students register for Gems Camp online via the registration link:

go.umd.edu/gemscamp19. Registration closes Thursday, August 1st, 2019 at 5pm.

What is the difference between UMD Summer Orientation and Gems Camp?

Summer Orientation is run by the University of Maryland Orientation Office and is held on campus and held over the summer. Summer Orientation is mandatory for all new students, as this is where you will register for fall courses and learn more about the University of Maryland. Gems Camp is specifically designed for new Gemstone students, is held right before the start of classes, and is run by Gemstone staff and upperclass Gemstone students. For more information regarding Summer Orientation, please visit the orientation website at orientation.umd.edu.

Why should I attend Gems Camp?

Gems Camp is attended by about 75% of the incoming Gemstone class. The advantages range from moving in to campus early, to meeting students with whom you will be participating in a three-year research project. Gems Camp is the first opportunity students have to meet other

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new and current Gemstone students and create memories. Based on past surveys, our research shows that students who attend Gems Camp have a higher sense of belonging on campus than those who do not participate!

What do we do at camp?

Gems Camp strives to provide first-year students with an introduction to the Gemstone Honors Program and the University of Maryland. During camp, students have opportunities to meet other Gemstone students in their cohort through various fun activities and games that are led by our Camp Leaders, who are current upperclass Gemstone students. Students are able to learn from their Camp Leaders about their experiences not only within Gemstone, but also at the University of Maryland. Students also participate in team-building activities and other fun events, which help students gain meaningful friendships and develop relationships that last a lifetime.

When do Gems Camp attendees get to move-in?

Only students who are registered to attend Gems Camp and living on campus will be able to move-in on Tuesday, August 20th from 9am-1pm. This is a few days before the regular move-in date for the rest of University of Maryland first-year students. Students who are not attending Gems Camp will follow the general University of Maryland Department of Resident Life Fall Move-In instructions.

Can I leave Gems Camp early or arrive late?

Students attending Gems Camp must take the provided transportation by the University of Maryland and must stay the full duration of the camp. Those who are living on campus must move-in by 1pm on Tuesday, August 20th, 2019. If you do not move-in by this deadline, you will not be able to attend camp and will have to move-in with the rest of the Honors College first-year students on August 22nd. Unfortunately, no matter the circumstances, students living on campus will not be able to move in any earlier than August 20th.

I'm a commuter/not living in Ellicott Hall. Can I still come to camp?

Absolutely! Commuters and non-Ellicott residents are encouraged to come to camp, as it's a great way to meet other people and make friends in your cohort before beginning classes. It's also an awesome way to talk to upperclass students and get to know more about the program and university! However, **all** students attending camp, including those commuting or living off campus, are still required to take the transportation provided by the university.

I am an international student or planning to attend Marching Band Camp. Can I attend Gems Camp?

Unfortunately, Marching Band Camp, International Student Orientation, and Gems Camp fall at the same time and students who attend Marching Band Camp or International Student Orientation have been unable to attend Gems Camp due to its off campus nature and schedule of events. We have had several students in the past participate in band camp, but if you would like to connect with a current student to learn more about how they made their decision, please email gemscamp@umd.edu.

What should I bring to camp?

You will receive a suggested packing list in your camp confirmation packet after completing your registration online. In general, expect to bring bedding, clothing, sunscreen, and any required health products. We highly suggest bringing a pre-packed bag with all of your camp necessities to move-in to avoid packing for camp right before departure! Please do not bring laptops or tablets because you will not have time to use them.

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Do I need to bring food? What if I have dietary restrictions or allergies?

Meals during camp will be provided to all campers, beginning with dinner on Tuesday, August 20th through breakfast on Thursday, August 22nd (total 5 meals). After returning from camp, students living on campus will be able to use their meal plan for meals at the Dining Hall beginning with lunch on Thursday, August 22nd. If you have any dietary restrictions or allergies, please be sure to list them on your camp registration information so that we may provide the appropriate meals at camp.

Where do we sleep?

There are cabins with multiple rooms with bunked beds. Remember to bring sheets and pillows or a sleeping bag, as only mattresses are provided! In the registration form, you will be able to preference either being placed in a single gender cabin or a mixed gender cabin.

Is there a fee associated with Gems Camp?

Camp is **\$195 per person**, which includes overnight accommodations, transportation to and from camp, a camp t-shirt, and all meals during camp. The registration fee is payable via check or UMD student account. There are several \$100 scholarships that are available to students who demonstrate strong financial need. If interested in applying for a scholarship, please email a screenshot of your full financial aid package along with a copy of Gems Camp registration no later than July 1st.

Am I able to cancel my Gems Camp registration?

Students who cancel their Gems Camp registration prior to the August 1st deadline will be eligible to receive a full refund. Students who cancel after the above deadline may not be eligible for a full refund.

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