



## **Washington State Transportation Summer Camps University of Washington and Washington State University Seattle, WA and Pullman, WA**

The Washington Transportation Camp aims to promote a diverse pipeline of students pursuing degrees and careers in STEM fields related to transportation. The program seeks to address workforce shortages and foster innovation in the transportation sector.

The camp consists of a comprehensive six-day residential program held at Washington State University and the University of Washington in August each year. Participants engage in various activities designed to enhance their understanding of transportation and its related fields through lectures, hands-on workshops, and collaborative projects. The camp is generously sponsored by WSDOT and was offered free of charge to all participating students.

Both WSU and UW offer state-of-the-art facilities designed to support student learning and innovation. From advanced laboratories to collaborative workspaces, participants have the tools and resources necessary to explore their interests and develop practical skills.

The 2024 Summer Camp started with planning, promotion via physical and digital formats, online applications, review, and acceptance. In 2024, social network and partner marketing greatly expanded the outreach efficiency and we received more student applications than in 2023. The 2024 summer camp activities also encompassed more field trips and interactions, engaging the high school students.

In 2024, the camp welcomed a total of 36 high school students, with 25 at the University of Washington and 11 at Washington State University. The students represented diverse backgrounds, aligning with the program's commitment to increasing the representation of underrepresented groups in STEM.

Summer camp participants engage in hands-on projects that encourage creativity and teamwork. Students may work on design challenges or experiments that require them to apply the concepts learned during the workshops, thereby enhancing their problem-solving skills.



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The camp offers numerous networking opportunities with professionals in the transportation field. Students are encouraged to engage with mentors, which not only provides guidance but also opens doors for possible future internships and career paths.

The feedback collected from participants has been overwhelmingly positive, highlighting the engaging nature of the workshops and the effectiveness of hands-on projects. Students have expressed appreciation for the mentorship opportunities and the supportive environment that fostered learning and collaboration.

Participants reported significant gains in both technical skills and soft skills. They engaged in problem-solving activities that enhanced their critical thinking, teamwork, and communication abilities. Additionally, exposure to various transportation-related technologies has better prepared them for future educational pursuits.

The camp aims to inspire students to consider career paths in STEM fields related to transportation. Many participants indicated a heightened interest in pursuing degrees in engineering, environmental science, and urban planning, reflecting the program's success in broadening their career perspectives.

Enhancing diversity within the program is a focal point. The camp actively recruits students from underrepresented communities, providing resources and creating an inclusive environment that promotes participation and success for all students.

Plans for program expansion include increasing the number of participants and extending the duration of the camp. The aim is to accommodate more students each year while introducing additional educational components that reflect the evolving transportation landscape.

Future initiatives will focus on forging new partnerships with industry stakeholders, academic institutions, and community organizations. Strengthening these relationships will increase resources available to students and provide broader networking opportunities.

WA Transportation Summer Camp information is available online @ [watransportation.camp](https://watransportation.camp)