



## Not Back to School Camp is unique.

We come together to savor and support each person's gifts, and to build and celebrate community. Campers and staff co-create a smorgasbord of workshops, spontaneous events, and special evening gatherings. We seek campers 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 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 bed at 11 p.m. or stay up till 1 playing games, whether to linger over lunch or hike up the mountain or 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....

## What happens at NBTSC?

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.

We offer each other dozens of **workshops**, reflecting the talents and interests of 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. At longer sessions we also offer multi-day “projects” that explore a subject in greater depth.

**Sports?** Our different sites allow for differing activities. We often play volleyball, basketball, soccer, ultimate frisbee, softball, anything else anybody initiates.

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 often swim, hike, talk with new friends, read, nap, swing, practice a new skill...

Evening **talent shows** are a highlight. Play music, dance, sing, show artwork, tell jokes, turn cartwheels, swallow a sword, read your poetry, stand up and tell us what makes you tick.

And **we eat!** Three yummy vegetarian meals each day with vegan alternatives. Except at Camp Latgawa (Oregon 1), we prepare our own food and use mostly organically grown ingredients. (At Latgawa, there are meat, vegetarian, and vegan options. Organic ingredients are less often used.)

## 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 public spaces, though most people sleep in their own beds most of the time). We have clear agreements 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 challenged by the open schedule. Talk with us if you're not sure whether NBTSC is a good match for your family.

## Staff

Our multi-faceted, skilled, caring, insightful, 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.” You meet daily with them and about 10 other campers to check in, play games, get to know each other.



## 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 and gender identities, 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.

**Details:** [www.nbtsc.org](http://www.nbtsc.org)



*When [my son] appeared on our doorstep, 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.

*To future campers, I say, come! It was wonderful to be here and I'm reluctant to go home. I've learned a lot -- about myself, my friends, academics, and life in general. I've made some large decisions I plan to enact when I get home. I will stand my ground. **I will shape my future.***

*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

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Jumpstart your life with  
**high hopes,  
new interests,  
a loud splash,  
and a circle of new friends!**

*Don't miss the 23rd annual*

## **Not Back to School Camp 2018**

Catalyst and Community for unschoolers & homeschoolers ages 13-18



### **Oregon & Vermont**

**who:** 60-100 ish teenagers plus an amazing staff

**Oregon 1:** Jul 31-Aug 8, Camp Latgawa (near Medford - bus available), \$815/915\*

**Oregon 2:** Aug 21-Sept 4, Camp Myrtlewood (near Roseburg - bus available from Eugene), \$1240/1390\*

- *1-week-only option* Aug 21-28, \$750/850\*

**Vermont:** Sept 20-29, Farm & Wilderness (central Vermont ~ local transportation available), \$875/975\*

\*These prices reflect our new 2-tier tuition system. And, they assume that you both register by March 31 and also pay by mailing a paper check. Worktrades and diversity scholarships available! See [www.nbtsc.org](http://www.nbtsc.org) for details.