USDAN SUMMER CAMP FOR THE ARTS
SUMMER 2026 CALENDAR

Students from last summer's inaugural DJ Composition class pose after sharing their original DJ sets at Festival. Join us July 21 for this year's performance.

USDAN SUMMER TRADITIONS

YOUR VOICE

The theme of 2026 is VOICE.

We strive to develop singular and collective VOICES, to allow us to contribute creatively to the world as individuals and as a community.

A theme offers the whole campus a common creative constraint for critical thinking across studios, departments, and age groups.

Introducing the 2026 Microphone "U" — inspired by submissions by 2025 students Anjelina, Jacob, Mattheos, Raquel, Takoda, Zack, and Zoe. This year's "U" also complements VOICE as the theme of the summer.

Since 2016, students have had the opportunity to submit ideas for the "U" of the following summer. The Microphone "U" can be found on official 2026 patches, t-shirts, and keychains.

EARTH & ANT

Every year, we cycle through a different element. This year's element, EARTH, reminds us to appreciate and collaborate with our shared home.

To help students see campus insects in a new light, we choose an insect each summer. This year's insect, ANT, can be found building little hills on paths and plants across campus. This summer and beyond, we encourage curiosity and appreciation of the little creatures that help our biodiverse campus thrive.

WINEBERRIES

Rubus phoenicolasis

When Usdan's wineberry bushes fruit in July, students across campus enjoy the sour-sweetness of these edible red berries.

DID YOU KNOW?
Usdan's Nature & Sustainability Department planted wineberries years ago so that students would be able to experience food found in nature.

BEE was our 2024 featured insect and helps plant life across campus through pollination.

ANT is our 2026 insect and a generous caretaker of Usdan's biodiverse campus.

USDAN'S EARTH

See if you can identify these plants and insects on campus this summer!

SASSAFRAS

Sassafras albidum

Sassafras trees can be easily identified among the swamp oaks by their polymorphic, mitten-like leaves and their aromatic smell.

DID YOU KNOW?
Sassafras root was one of the original botanical ingredients in root beer.

SWAMP OAK

Quercus bicolor

Swamp oaks make up most of Usdan's glorious canopy. Native to North America, these trees help keep Usdan's young artists cool during the hottest days of summer.

DID YOU KNOW?
Swamp oaks live up to 350 years.

BUTTERFLY was our 2025 featured insect and a reminder of every young artist's potential for transformation.

JUNE 29

Festival Performance
12:10 p.m. & 12:35 p.m.
Black to Gold

Alumni Performer

First Day of the Season

JUNE 30

Festival Performance
12:10 p.m. & 12:35 p.m.
IMGE Dance

Back by Popular Demand

JULY 1

Festival Performance
12:10 p.m. & 12:35 p.m.
The Found Sound Ensemble:
Featuring Lisa Schonberg
& Sara Wentworth
of Mount Right*

JULY 2

Festival Performance
12:10 p.m. & 12:35 p.m.
42nd Division Infantry Band

Back by Popular Demand

Alumni Performer

Spirit "Friday:" Crazy Sock Day

JULY 3

Usdan Closed

Spirit Fridays
Every Friday, our campus community is encouraged to creatively interpret the week's "Spirit Friday" theme through their outfits. G-rated attire only.

FESTIVAL

Since Usdan's founding in 1968, Festival has been a cornerstone of the Usdan experience, giving students the daily opportunity to grow their passion and appreciation for diverse forms of artistic expression.

Festival comes alive with performances from special guest performers, professional staff artists, and talented students from every corner of campus.

When: 12:10 p.m. & 12:35 p.m.

Where: The McKinley Amphitheater Dale Lewis Stage

See the back page for more info on attending Festival.

*Lisa Schonberg is a composer, percussionist, ecological sound artist, and one of Usdan's Artist in Residence since 2025.
For more information about the Artist in Residence program, visit: **usdan.org/artist-residence**.

JULY 6

Festival Performance
12:10 p.m. & 12:35 p.m.
Zack Zadek & Friends

Alumni Performer

First Day of Week 2 Rec Camp

JULY 7

Festival Performance
12:10 p.m. & 12:35 p.m.
Gisele Silva of Syncopated Ladies featuring Chloe & Maud's Sole Talk

JULY 8

Festival Performance
12:10 p.m. & 12:35 p.m.
Javan Howard + Daemond Arrindell + JRose + Dale Novella

JULY 9

Festival Performance
12:10 p.m. & 12:35 p.m.
Voices of Broadway

Back by Popular Demand

Alumni Performer

JULY 10

Festival Performance
12:10 p.m. & 12:35 p.m.
Long Island Brass Guild

Spirit Friday: Rainbow Day

JULY 13

Festival Performance
12:10 p.m. & 12:35 p.m.
Junior & Senior
Creative Writing
Majors & Minors

First Day of Week 3 Rec Camp

JULY 14

Festival Performance
12:10 p.m.
Junior Vocal Ensemble
Majors & Minors

12:35 p.m.
Senior Vocal Ensemble
Majors & Minors

JULY 15

Festival Performance
12:10 p.m. & 12:35 p.m.
Usdan Festival
Showrunners Present

10:30 a.m.
"Once Upon a One More Time"
Senior Musical Theater

1:30 p.m.
"Once Upon a One More Time"
Junior Musical Theater

5-Year Lunch for 4A Students
Camp Kindness Day*

JULY 16

Festival Performance
12:10 p.m. & 12:35 p.m.
The Knights

Back by Popular Demand

1:30 p.m.
"Disney's 101 Dalmatians Kids"
Children's Theater

JULY 17

Festival Performance
12:10 p.m. & 12:35 p.m.
Senior Classical Composition
Majors & Minors
Performed by The Knights

10:30 a.m.
"Alice by Heart"
Senior Musical Theater

1:30 p.m.
"Alice by Heart"
Junior Musical Theater

Spirit Friday: PJ Day

THEATER SEASON

Across our stages and rehearsal spaces, young artists are using their VOICES to tell stories, share ideas, and connect with others. This season also includes two original shows created just for our community.

Together, these performances celebrate creativity, confidence, and the power of every VOICE to make a difference.

See the back page for more information on attending Theater performances.

*Check out **acacamps.org/campkindnessday** to learn more about this nationwide tradition of celebrating values of kindness, compassion, and generosity at summer camp.

COMMUNITY DAYS

WEDNESDAY, JULY 22 | WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19
10:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.

Whether you are a current parent/caregiver, a proud alum, a longtime supporter, or a local friend of Usdan, this day is for you! Witness the magic of Usdan's diverse group of passionate young artists while supporting the transformative power of the arts. The day includes: **live performances, a community art project, raffles, treats, and surprises galore!**

All ages are welcome! RSVP and donate at **community.usdan.org**.

JULY 20

Festival Performance
12:10 p.m.
Junior Orchestra Majors

12:35 p.m.
Senior Orchestra Majors

First Day of Week 4 Rec Camp

JULY 21

Festival Performance
12:10 p.m. & 12:35 p.m.
DJ Composition Minors

10:30 a.m.
"Evita"
Senior Musical Theater

1:30 p.m.
"Evita"
Junior Musical Theater

JULY 22

Community Day
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Everyone's invited to join the magic of Usdan!
RSVP and donate at **community.usdan.org.**

All Day Events
Exhibitions, Fashion Show & Comic Con in the Art Department

Performances in the Dance, Theater & Music Departments

Studio Visits Throughout Campus

Raffles
Community Art Project & More!

Festival Performance
12:10 p.m. & 12:35 p.m.
2026 Award Ceremony

10:30 a.m.
"Emma! A Pop Musical JV"
Senior Musical Theater

1:30 p.m.
"How I Became a Pirate: Younger@Part"
Children's Theater

JULY 23

Festival Performance
12:10 p.m.
Junior Band Majors

12:35 p.m.
Senior Band Majors

10:30 a.m.
"Sleepy Hollow Awakens: A Washington Irving Remix"
Senior Musical Theater
World Premiere

11:00 a.m.
Discovery Performance & Exhibition

1:30 p.m.
"Sleepy Hollow Awakens: A Washington Irving Remix"
Junior Musical Theater

JULY 24

Festival Performance
12:10 p.m.
4A Lifer Ceremony + Junior & Senior Dance Major & Minors

Spirit Friday: Dress as Your Favorite Character Day

Last Day of 4A Session
Enroll for 2027 at usdan.org/return2u.

JULY 27

Festival Performance
12:10 p.m. & 12:35 p.m.
The Red Trouser Show

Back by Popular Demand

First Day of 4B Session
Week 5 Rec Camp

JULY 28

Festival Performance
12:10 p.m. & 12:35 p.m.
Tribute to Ralph Peterson Jr. by Mr. Nekrutman + Brand New Past

Alumni Performer

JULY 29

Festival Performance
12:10 p.m. & 12:35 p.m.
Nai-Ni Chen Dance

Back by Popular Demand

JULY 30

Festival Performance
12:10 p.m. & 12:35 p.m.
The Knights

Back by Popular Demand

JULY 31

Festival Performance
12:10 p.m. & 12:35 p.m.
Aubrey Alvino + Docacappella + Kara DeBruin

Alumni Performer

Spirit Friday: Dream Job Day

HIP-HOP POOL PARTY

SATURDAY, AUGUST 8, 2026 | 12:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.
THROWN BY DJ KOOL HERC AND
THE "FIRST LADY OF HIP–HOP" CINDY CAMPBELL

Grab your bathing suit, shake off your dance moves, and save the date for what promises to be a party for the history books. For the third year in a row, Usdan Artists in Residence* and the founders of Hip-Hop are throwing an epic, multigenerational pool party at Usdan. Enjoy live music, food trucks, performances, art activities, and more! Tickets and more info can be found at **usdan.org/poolparty**.

At 6 p.m., the Hip-Hop Pool Party will evolve into a 18+ Hip-Hop Dance Party at a secret second location on campus. Stay tuned for details on how to join this afterparty featuring the musical contributions of Black, Jewish, and Blewish artists.

*For more information about the Artist in Residence program, visit: **usdan.org/artist-residence.**

AUGUST 3

Festival Performance
12:10 p.m. & 12:35 p.m.
Voices of Broadway

Back by Popular Demand

Alumni Performer

First Day of Week 6 Rec Camp

AUGUST 4

Festival Performance
12:10 p.m. & 12:35 p.m.
Swingtime Big Band

Alumni Performer

5-Year Lunch for
8 Week and 4B Students

AUGUST 5

Festival Performance
12:10 p.m. & 12:35 p.m.
Umami Playground

AUGUST 6

Festival Performance
12:10 p.m. & 12:35 p.m.
The Found Sound Ensemble:
Featuring Lisa Schonberg
& Sara Wentworth
of Mount Right

Red Object Exchange*

AUGUST 7

Festival Performance
12:10 p.m. & 12:35 p.m.
Brown Rice Family Band

Back by Popular Demand

Spirit Friday: Neon Day

AUGUST 8*

Hip-Hop Pool Party
12:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Purchase tickets at
usdan.org/poolparty.

*Rain date August 15

*Created by former Artist in Residence Pedro Lasch, the Red Object Exchange is a beloved Usdan tradition. Students bring a red object from home to place somewhere on campus and find another one to take home.

AUGUST 10

Festival Performance
12:10 p.m. & 12:35 p.m.
Highlights performed
by The Usdan Troupe

First Day of Week 7 Rec Camp

AUGUST 11

Theater Performance
10:30 a.m.
"Godspell"
The Usdan Troupe

1:15 p.m.
"Godspell"
The Usdan Troupe

AUGUST 12

Festival Performance
12:10 p.m. & 12:35 p.m.
Junior & Senior
Creative Writing
Majors & Minors

10:30 a.m.
"Footloose: Youth Edition"
Senior Musical Theater

1:30 p.m.
"Footloose: Youth Edition"
Junior Musical Theater

AUGUST 13

Festival Performance
12:10 p.m.
Junior Vocal Ensemble
Majors & Minors

12:35 p.m.
Senior Vocal Ensemble
Majors & Minors

1:30 p.m.
"How I Became a Pirate:
Younger@Part"
Children's Theater

AUGUST 14

Festival Performance
12:10 p.m. & 12:35 p.m.
Senior Classical Composition
Majors & Minors
Performed by Usdan Faculty

10:30 a.m.
"Guys & Dolls JR"
Senior Musical Theater

1:30 p.m.
"Guys & Dolls JR"
Junior Musical Theater

Spirit Friday: Nature Day
Check out p. 2 for inspiration!

VOLUNTEER

Through our volunteer program, we invite people of all ages to witness the transformative power of the arts for themselves. Whether you usher performances, greet families as they enter campus, or beautify our grounds, there are many ways to keep the magic going year-round.

Email **volunteer@usdan.org** to get involved.

Livestream all Festival Performances or watch recordings on YouTube **@UsdanCenter**.

AUGUST 17

Festival Performance
12:10 p.m.
Junior Orchestra Majors

12:35 p.m.
Senior Orchestra Majors

First Day of Week 8 Rec Camp

AUGUST 18

Festival Performance
12:10 p.m. & 12:35 p.m.
Junior & Senior
Dance Majors & Minors

10:30 a.m.
"Head Over Heels: High School Edition"
Senior Musical Theater

1:30 p.m.
"Head Over Heels: High School Edition"
Junior Musical Theater

AUGUST 19

Community Day
10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Everyone's invited to join the magic of Usdan!
RSVP and donate at **community.usdan.org.**

All Day Events
Exhibitions, Fashion Show & Comic Con in the Art Department

Performances in the Dance, Theater & Music Departments

Studio Visits Throughout Campus

Raffles
Community Art Project
& More!

Festival Performance
12:10 p.m. & 12:35 p.m.
Select Junior & Senior
Dance Majors & Minors

10:30 a.m.
"Emma! A Pop Musical JV"
Senior Musical Theater

1:30 p.m.
"Disney's 101 Dalmatians Kids"
Children's Theater

AUGUST 20

Festival Performance
12:10 p.m.
Junior Band Majors

12:35 p.m.
Senior Band Majors

10:30 a.m.
"Good Rats"
Senior Musical Theater
World Premiere

11:00 a.m.
Discovery Performance & Exhibition

1:30 p.m.
"Good Rats"
Junior Musical Theater

1:45 p.m.
Art Parade

AUGUST 21

Festival Performance
12:10 p.m.
Closing Ceremony &
Lifer Celebration

Spirit Friday: U-Pride Day

Last Day of Season
Enroll for 2027 at
usdan.org/return2u

USDAN YEAR ROUND

ATTEND THE RISE OF THE JACK O'LANTERNS

Fall 2026 | The RISE of the Jack O'Lanterns
For the fifth year in a row, Usdan will transform into a Halloween wonderland for the spectacular RISE of the Jack O'Lanterns. Wander through an immersive after-dark experience featuring more than 10,000 hand-carved illuminated jack o'lanterns and autumnal refreshments.

The RISE runs after dark select evenings from October 2 – November 1.

Check **usdan.org/jackolanterns** for tickets available in late August.

STAY CONNECTED

Engage with us on your preferred social media platform for Usdan-related news and features on students and alumni throughout the year!

Instagram/TikTok: @usdanarts
YouTube: @UsdanCenter |
Facebook/LinkedIn:
Usdan Summer Camp for the Arts

CONNECT WITH ALUM

Fall 2026 | The Alumni Engagement Party
Join us for a cocktail party to celebrate the magic of Usdan and its beloved alumni community! Reconnect with fellow alumni and indulge in nostalgia, while enjoying a fun night in NYC.

Reach out to **development@usdan.org** to be added to our invite list.

LOOK FORWARD TO SUMMER 2027

Parents and students often say: "We are counting down the days till next summer!" Trust us when we say, we are too.

Visit usdan.org/return2u to see how you can lock in the best prices.

SHOW YOUR USDAN PRIDE

LIFER CEREMONY

Students and faculty alike enter Usdan's campus and never want to leave.

During the last day of each session, Usdan's Executive Director Lauren Brandt Schloss celebrates students and staff who have attended Usdan for eight years or more, gifting them all an exclusive Lifer pin as recognition of their legacy on campus.

5-YEAR LUNCH

Students having attended Usdan for five years or more enjoy a Hollywood-themed 5-Year Lunch pizza party on Wednesday, July 15 (4A) and Tuesday, August 4 (4B and 8-week).

Eligible students will receive an invitation at the beginning of each session.

VISIT THE CAMPUS STORE

Get your Usdan swag today! Whether it is your favorite department's iconic "U" t-shirt, our nature bandana, a portable fan, or this year's exclusive keychains, you will not want to miss this year's merch.

The Usdan Store is open from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Monday through Friday during the summer season.

VISIT USDAN

185 Colonial Springs Road, Wheatley Heights, NY 11798 | Phone: 631.643.7900

How do I get to campus?

Usdan is easily accessible from the Long Island Railroad. Travel to Wyandanch LIRR Station from Penn Station, Grand Central, Atlantic Terminal, Jamaica, Woodside, or Forest Hills. Take an 8-minute rideshare from Wyandanch or enjoy a 15-minute bike ride.

For driving directions, visit **usdan.org/directions**. Parking is available. Please allow at least 20 minutes to get from the Usdan's entrance gate to your destination and even more time on Community Days.

When should I visit?

Families and friends of Usdan are invited to attend all Festivals, performances, exhibitions, and events throughout the summer. Community members will receive a weekly email with the most up-to-date performance information.

What should I do for lunch?

You are welcome to bring lunch to enjoy at one of our picnic table areas on campus.

Should I let someone know that I am visiting?

Families — On regular camp days, you do not need to inform us of your arrival, just bring your 2026 Access Pass to ensure smooth entry onto campus. If your guests are coming without an Access Pass, email **questions@usdan.org** to add them to the guest list.

Supporters — Current and prospective supporters are encouraged to visit and see your impact firsthand. Please call **631.643.7900** or email **development@usdan.org** to schedule your visit.

Alumni, Artists, and Friends — Please email **questions@usdan.org** so that we can add you to our guest list.

Is there Wi-Fi or cell service on campus?

There is spotty cell service throughout campus and no public Wi-Fi on campus. Please plan accordingly. Note for the students, the campus is device-free.

Can I call a rideshare from campus?

Yes — please visit the Administration Office when calling your ride so that we can alert security.

Usdan Summer Camp for the Arts programs are made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature.