

An International Scholarship Program

A diverse group of gifted, highly motivated young people from 25 countries participate in Camp Rising Sun: a program carefully designed to promote personal growth, leadership skills, a service ethic, and intercultural understanding.

Our Goals:

- To foster an appreciation of both diversity and our common humanity
- To expand intellectual horizons and to heighten artistic sensibilities
- To develop leadership abilities and self-reliance in a safe environment
- To offer and demonstrate a philosophy of living to serve society through the pursuit of humanitarian goals

Through experiential learning, Campers try new things, plan projects, and teach and follow their peers. By taking leadership roles, each camper learns what it means to be accountable to others and true to their own leadership styles.



Selection is highly competitive and based on intellect, character, humanity, leadership potential, and individuality.

Every student selected is awarded a full scholarship to attend Camp Rising Sun located in Rhinebeck, NY, 90 miles north of New York City.

In the past 5 years, Camp has accepted students from the countries and states highlighted below.



Contact Us

Phone: (212)-686-1930
Email: contact@lajf.org

Apply and learn more at:

lajf.org



Creating a better world tomorrow by inspiring young leaders today

The mission of the Louis August Jonas Foundation is to develop in promising young people from around the world a lifelong commitment to compassionate and responsible leadership for the betterment of their communities and the world

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Alumni Perspectives



"Camp taught me that leadership comes in all shapes, forms, and sizes. Everyone leads in different ways."

- Cristian '15



"I got accepted to many summer programs, and yet out of all of them, I chose CRS. This is one decision I will never regret."

- Tiffany '15

"Eating meals prepared by my campmates taught me about the history, values and traditions of their countries, in a way that you can't learn by reading a book."

- Ruby '10, '11



"I learned so much about other people's morals and values. Accepting our great diversity helped me build lasting friendships with campers from all over the world."

- Terrel '15



"CRS set off a wonderful chain of events in my life, leading me to embrace challenges, adapt to new environments, and become passionate about helping others."

- Simon, '06



"Most teenagers tend to just follow others. Meeting people who were ready to defend their position, to speak, to act, and to make a difference was really inspiring and comforting."

- Lucia '15

"Going to an all-boys camp was the best thing I could've done. We all understood each other and we didn't judge each other."

- Thabo '15



"Sleeping in tents was one of my favorite parts of camp. There's a certain level of friendship that can only be forged by sharing living space. It turns 'friends' into 'family.'"

- Carolyn '15



"Going to CRS changed my life. It helped open doors for so many opportunities, including a scholarship to Harvard University."

- Dan '95, '96



"I learned how to trust in my capabilities because I was given so many responsibilities at CRS. Currently, I'm a co-chair of two organizations. I don't think I ever would have accepted that responsibility if it wasn't for my CRS experience."

- Sandia '10

An Experiential Leadership Program

Camp Rising Sun provides an opportunity for all campers to be leaders, work with the staff to define the activities, organize the schedule, and manage the challenges that arise each day.

The Daily Program:

Instructions enable campers to learn about a variety of topics offered in small groups led by staff, alumni, and fellow campers.

Projects are peer-led groups that teach leadership skills through collaborative construction efforts that improve the Camp environment for current and future seasons.

Team Work is a time for campers to lead and manage small teams that rotate through daily chores.

Evening Programs provide for illuminating and provocative cross-cultural discussions, art, and music activities that enrich the summer curriculum.

Special Activities include camper performances, weekly newspapers, hiking trips, off-campus cultural trips, and Saturday night campfires.

Sports and Physical Fitness are essential to our Program. Our athletic fields and basketball and tennis courts allow for access to physical activity every day.

Reflection and Feedback are essential to our Program. They are opportunities to think about, share and test ideas, offer and invite feedback, and understand strategies to motivate and guide oneself and a group.

Our Skilled International Staff of teachers and university students serve as coaches and mentors. They ensure a safe and supportive environment in which campers learn, grow, and create a community.