

General Information:

What is the ACLU of West Virginia and why is it hosting this summit?

As one of the nation's oldest defenders of liberty, the ACLU strives to extend the promise of the Bill of Rights to each and every person. Historically, the ACLU has focused much of its work on marginalized communities including LGBTQ+ people. Since the ACLU took [its first LGBTQ case](#) in 1936, we have been at the forefront of this struggle in the courtrooms, in the legislatures, and in the streets. In rural states like West Virginia, queer youth often find themselves feeling isolated and cut off from the LGBTQ community. In partnership with Amizade, the ACLU-WV will host the first Appalachian Queer Youth Summit in the summer of 2020 with the primary goal of breaking down those barriers of isolation and enabling the next generation of activists to come together.

Where will the Appalachian Queer Youth Summit be held?

The camp will be held at Camp Virgil Tate, the Kanawha County 4H camp just outside of Charleston. Participants will be staying in suite-style rooms with roommates. Individual rooms may be available based on need.

What are the dates of the 2020 summit?

The summit will run from late morning on July 31st, to mid-day on August 2nd.

Who is eligible for the summit?

The summit is open to West Virginia high school incoming juniors and seniors (students who will be juniors and seniors in the 2020-2021 school year) who identify as LGBTQ+ or those in LGBTQ families and have a desire to learn how to advocate for their community in West Virginia.

What is the cost of the summit for participants? What will be provided and what will participants need to supply?

The summit is FREE for all participants. Lodging and meals will be provided at no charge to the participants. Participants will be asked to bring linens for the room (sheets, blankets, pillows, towels) - if this is not possible, accommodations can be made to ensure all can participate and have their needs met.

We recognize that some participants may have to travel a great distance to participate in the camp. We may be able to provide assistance with travel expenses for participants - please indicate this on your application where prompted (this will not factor into choosing participants) and we will do our best to accommodate all requests.

Application:

How do I apply?

An online application is available. If you are unable to complete this application because of internet access or other constraints, please contact Mollie Kennedy at (304) 290-4484 or mkennedy@acluwv.org for a physical application or to discuss other options.

When is the application deadline?

Applications must be completed by March 5th to be considered for the summit.

When will I hear back about my application?

Participants whose applications are selected will be contacted for an interview in March 2020 (in-person, over the phone, or online depending on location/availability). Final decisions will be made by April of 2020.

Safety and Security:

How do I know my child will be safe?

The ACLU-WV takes the safety of summit participants very seriously. We have taken measures to ensure the well-being of all participants including:

- Summit staff and volunteers who are responsible for camp participants are comprised of ACLU-WV staff, board members, and community leaders who are members of the LGBTQ+ community or committed allies. All have been through a background check process.
- Summit staff includes a licensed mental health counselor and nurse (able to distribute medication if needed).
- Procedures are in place for evacuation or emergency plans for fire or severe weather. Staff members are trained to follow these plans.
- Participants will be provided with a list of contact numbers for all staff, and connected through a message system for announcements and other needs.

Other Questions?

If you have further questions, please contact ACLU-WV Community Outreach Director Mollie Kennedy at (304) 290-4484 or mkennedy@acluwv.org.