



## OVERVIEW – Outstanding Wizarding Levels (O.W.L.) Camp 2024 at the County Library

### **What is the mission/purpose of O.W.L. Camp?**

O.W.L. Camp's mission is to provide a free, inclusive, high-quality, engaging, STEAM-based summer camp for youth ages 11–18, based on Harry Potter. Classes are designed to be developmentally appropriate and to support social and emotional learning.

### **Why is O.W.L. Camp limited to ages 11–18?**

O.W.L. Camp is limited to ages 11–18, which allows a fair opportunity for youth to experience a structured educational environment that aligns with their ages and stages. We know there are also many youth ages 5–10 who love Harry Potter. Magic and Mayhem programs at many County Library branches are designed to meet the emotional and social learning styles of this age group.

### **Can I choose which day my student attends?**

When applying, please select the day that corresponds with the grade the student enters in the fall. Sixth and seventh grade students may choose either date corresponding with their grade. Participants are selected at random from all applications.

Thursday, June 20: First Year / Entering 6th Grade

Friday, June 21: Second Year / Entering 7th Grade

Saturday, June 22: Fourth Year / Entering 9th Grade

Monday, June 24: First Year / Entering 6–7th Grade

Tuesday, June 25: Third Year / Entering 8th Grade

Wednesday, June 26: Fifth Year / Entering 10–12th Grade

### **I have multiple students applying. Can they all attend on the same day?**

We understand wanting to keep siblings together, and can accommodate if there is an age difference of two years or less between siblings, or if the request is part of an ADA accommodation. Otherwise, students should select a date corresponding with their grade for the best O.W.L. Camp experience.

### **My student is very shy, and doesn't know anyone attending. They would prefer to attend with a sibling or a friend. What if that doesn't happen?**

O.W.L. Camp is designed to foster social and emotional learning. Most students attending don't know anyone else. There are many opportunities throughout the day to

get to know other students. In fact, one of the most consistent pieces of feedback received every year is, “My student is very shy, and they made a new friend at O.W.L. Camp.” If your student has a medical diagnosis of social anxiety or other condition, and you feel comfortable sharing that information in the comment field, it may help O.W.L. Camp staff give your student extra support at camp. We may follow up for more information for how to best support your student.

**My student is developmentally younger/older than their birth years. How do I make sure they are with their peers?**

Our goal is to ensure every student who attends O.W.L. Camp has a positive experience. Please select the grade/day that corresponds with your child’s developmental age. Please note these considerations should match your child’s grade level. For example, if your 12-year old child reads at a college level but attends 7th grade, they would want to attend with other 12-year olds.

**Tell me more about the library card requirement.**

To be considered for O.W.L. Camp, a County Library card in the student’s name is required. The County Library offers student cards, which do not accrue fees or fines and limit checkout to three items. If a full service card is chosen, parents can also select the restricted access card. For more information on card types and regulations, please see our [Library Account Policy PDF](#).

If you live anywhere in Salt Lake County, a County Library card is free. If you live outside of Salt Lake County a fee is applied.

A County Library card in the child’s name is required so birthdate and residency can be verified, allowing O.W.L. Camp to remain free and sustainable. The Library card only has to be valid during the application process. Applications can be completed online; the number generated at the end of the application process is valid for application purposes.

**As a caring adult, may I attend with my student?**

O.W.L. Camp encourages independent learning and exploration. During the event, adults are welcome to spend part or all of the day in the County Library’s West Jordan branch on the other side of the building.

**If we’re accepted, what should we expect for the day?**

O.W.L. Camp is held at The County Library’s Viridian Event Center, 8030 S 1825 W, in West Jordan. Drop off is at between 8–8:30 am with pickup between 1:15–1:30 pm. Students are expected to attend the full day.

**I have multiple students, and it may be difficult to arrange transportation for more than one day. Are there any other options?**

We encourage alternative modes of transportation, including carpool, Trax, or bus.

The Library's Viridian Event Center is located adjacent to a Trax line and bus stop. Additionally, students can spend time in the branch or the park following O.W.L. Camp. Pre-arrangement is appreciated.

**Are you providing food?**

Lunch is not provided at O.W.L. Camp due to this being a half-day camp. Students will be offered a selection of snacks when they arrive, as well as three additional times throughout the day. Students are highly encouraged to bring food, including a lunch, if it will be difficult for them to wait until after 1 pm for a meal, or if allergy restrictions are a concern. Students are allowed to eat during breaks or during class (**Note:** refrigeration is not available).

**What if students haven't read Harry Potter?**

It isn't too late! All of the Harry Potter books and movies are available for checkout from your local County Library and online. Reading or listening to the books, or watching the movies will make the O.W.L. Camp experience much more magical; however, it is not required.

**When do we hear if we've been accepted?**

Students selected for O.W.L. Camp will receive an acceptance letter in the mail after May 1, 2024. Those not accepted, or with errors in their application, should receive an email notification (check your spam/junk folders).

If you have not received any correspondence by May 15, please call or email the O.W.L. Camp Librarian; contact information can be found at the end of this document. Please fill out the address field on the application as you would like the envelope addressed to prevent delays in delivery.

**How to get the most out of the comments field on the application:**

Please use this field to share any information that would help us support you/your student, including:

- ADA accommodation requests (which may include information about conditions such as ADHD or anxiety, among others)
- Allergy information (if severe and if exposure is a concern)
- Other

**J.K. Rowling has made several controversial stances and statements over the past five years. Because you're doing a Harry Potter-based camp, is the library aligning with her statements?**

The County Library does not align with any external statements by outside entities.

The County Library's mission is to:

*Make a positive difference in the lives of our community by inspiring imagination, satisfying curiosity, and providing a great place for everyone to visit.*

All students (age 11-18) are welcomed at O.W.L. Camp, regardless of race, class,



gender, ability level or identification. We strive to make O.W.L. Camp a safe and welcoming place, in alignment with the library's mission. Please continue reading to see our accessibility and inclusion statement.

The County Library is committed to providing equal access and opportunity, and we strive to create inclusive atmospheres, programs, and spaces for the diverse needs of the community.

Should your student require ADA accommodations, please notify us as soon as possible and no later than 48 hours before the scheduled event. [Salt Lake County's ADA policy](#) is available online.

**Please read the following O.W.L. Camp description to determine if it is the right fit for you or your child.**

O.W.L. Camp students will be divided into groups of 30 youth, with 60 in a class at a time. A minimum of three instructors will be present in the classroom at all times. For classes with a more involved curriculum, the ratio may be higher.

All classes have a lecture element with hands-on, self-directed learning. Students are encouraged to work together or independently as their learning style dictates.

A minimum of three staff members are available outside the classroom at all times. If a student wishes to leave the learning environment at any time, for any reason, they can excuse themselves from the room. A staff member will be available to speak with the student. Quiet spaces are available in the library, and courtesy phones are available.

Staff will have a master list of all the students attending each day with emergency contact information. It is important that emergency contacts be accurate and up to date.

Although youth are encouraged to attend the full day and not leave due to scheduling conflicts, any youth is free to leave at any time for personal reasons.

O.W.L. Camp has a zero-bullying tolerance. Bullying is defined as unwanted, aggressive behavior that involves a real or perceived power imbalance. (Source: [stopbullying.gov](http://stopbullying.gov)) This includes verbal bullying—teasing, name-calling or taunting; social bullying—leaving someone out on purpose; and physical bullying—hitting, kicking, punching, spitting, tripping, or making rude hand gestures.

If you are accepted to O.W.L. Camp, an FAQ will be sent out with more details about what to expect the day of.

If you have additional questions about the application process, please send us an email: [outreach@slcolibrary](mailto:outreach@slcolibrary), or call the O.W.L. Camp Librarian: 801-948-7923, or Customer Service: 801.943.4636.