



Young Life Catalunya (Spain): JULY 2024 / CHICAGO

What is Young Life USA Camp?

Young Life USA Camp is a 3½ week program offered by Young Life Catalunya (Spain) to teens from Catalunya, Spain. The program offers Spanish teens 3½ weeks in the United States, living with a family for 2½ weeks and a week at Timberwolf, a Young Life camp in Michigan.

See the promotional video [HERE](#) See July 2018 video [HERE](#)

See the videos from host families sharing their hosting experience:

[Barnharts 2019 \(San Diego\)](#)
[Bergs 2019 \(Seattle\)](#)

[Best 2019 \(Seattle\)](#)
[Warfords 2019 \(Seattle\)](#)

[Gunstones 2019 \(Seattle\)](#)
[Wai 2019 \(Seattle\)](#)

What's the main purpose?

The purpose of the program is to expose Spanish teens to the gospel of Jesus Christ in a very non-threatening way, by intentionally creating a Christian atmosphere with them. Our hope and prayer is that each Spanish teen would move in his or her individual journey to knowing Christ personally and becoming His true follower.

Why is this an opportunity for my family?

We see this program as an opportunity for Christians in America to open their homes to a teen from a foreign culture, so they might experience first-hand the amazing, unconditional love of Christ. This program **is an opportunity for "the mission field to come to you."**

Why are non-Christian families from Spain interested in a program like this?

We are excited about the potential this program can have and has been having over the past years. English has become a language of great interest for most families in Spain. It is seen as the international language and is used in most multi-lingual settings in Europe. We feel God is using this interest in English as a bridge into Spanish hearts.

How many total students are coming?

10 Spanish teenagers (14-18 years old) will be traveling from Catalunya, Spain to the Wheaton area, **accompanied by 2-3 adult leaders.**

What are the dates? (see the program attached)

- The dates of program are **July 2-26, 2024.**
- Families will host one teen (we would ask for two if it's needed) **from July 2-11 and from July 16-26.**
- From July 11-16 the students will attend Castaway, a Young Life camp in Minnesota, as a group.
- 1-2 days before or after going to YL Camp, the Students will leave to an excursion (amusement park or similar)

What are the goals of this program?

- To see teens draw closer to a personal faith, in becoming a true follower of Jesus Christ
- To expose teens to the Gospel in a non-threatening way, by intentionally creating a Christian atmosphere around them
- For the Spanish students to improve their English skills
- To have all participants live, learn, and respect the values and principles of a different culture (Spaniards and Americans alike)
- To develop long-term friendships between the Spanish student, American family, and other teens
- To experience a great adventure and have a lot of fun!



What are the requirements in order to be a host family?

In order of priority:

- To guarantee that the **mother or father will be at home** during the day with the student in order to provide him/her with the best experience
- To have **one teenager living in the home** so they can relate to one another and build a friendship. This is not mandatory but highly recommended.
- To **live relatively close to the rest of the host families** so transportation and weekly group activities will be easier to coordinate
- To be willing to **“adopt” the student as a part of the family** and keep developing this relationship during the year
- To understand and agree with the Young Life approach of ministry (see below, “How should I approach my student with the Gospel?”)

What are the host family responsibilities?

- **Food and housing**- Provide good food, a comfortable home, and bed
- **Transportation**- Families will need to provide transportation to a meeting point for activities and are welcome to stay and participate in all activities. Carpooling can be arranged with other host families.
- **Good care and a loving atmosphere**- Families will not need to entertain their student organizing multiple different activities. We would like you to involve the student in your normal family life while you also integrate this new important guest into your home and family. If your family goes out one night for dinner he or she would join you in this family activity. If your family goes bowling one afternoon, the Spanish student would also participate in this event. It is also possible to organize an activity with other host families and their students.
- **Laundry**
- **Communication with home**- Provide the possibility to use the internet to communicate with their family.

What will the program be during the student’s stay with the family?

- A welcome event with students, leaders, and families either the arrival day or the following day
- Organized activities* for the entire group will be offered 1-2 times per week for teens and host families’ teens
 - Possible organized activities: sports game, Community Service Project at [FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN](#), water park, sports, tourism, shopping, downtown visit, etc.
- Intentionally engaging student in conversations to practice English
- Inclusion of Spanish teenager in host family’s normal summer activities. The idea of being “adopted” for the 2½ weeks.
- Students will attend Castaway YL Camp July 11-16.
- 1-2 days before or after going to YL Camp, the Students will leave to an excursion (amusement park or similar)
- Farewell party with students, leaders, and families during the last week

* The activities will depend on the distance between host family locations and the required time of transportation.



What are the expenses involved?

- We ask the host families to cover all the costs related with having a student in their home for 2 ½ weeks. Basically food and housing.
- All the activities organized as a group will be covered by each student (Activity, program, fast food restaurant, etc)
- If the family would like to do a family activity (going to a restaurant, the movies, etc.) with their student, the family would need to cover it. **Please understand that you don't have to "entertain" your student** providing several activities during the week. The ideal situation would be that the student be a part of normal family life. Of course it is possible to take him/her to a place and/or activity that you think he/she will enjoy. Possibly this can be organized with other host families and their students.

When do I need to make a final decision to be a host family?

We would like to have a commitment no later than **March 21st 2024**. It is important to have this information as we begin the recruitment of students here in Spain.

Will we know the student before he/she comes?

Your student will write you a letter including pictures sharing about himself/herself. We also encourage each student to contact you by email or Facebook before they stay with you. It will be an opportunity for his/her parents to also get to know you and start a conversation.

We will also have a personal interview with those students that we consider that we would need extra information. All that information will be sent to each of the host families prior to the student's arrival.

We will also ask each host family to send us a family picture, a welcome letter to the student and their personal information to contact you (phone number, cell phone, address, email, etc.).

How should I approach my student with the Gospel?

One of the differences between this program and the way YL works in the States and Spain is that, **most of these kids might come to this program having had no previous relationship with their YL Leaders or exposure to the Gospel at all**. You would need to be aware of this situation in order to know how to approach your student with the Gospel. That's why this information is very important for you to know and understand.

As YL staff in Catalunya, we have been called by God to go to places in Catalunya where kids are, to love them regardless of their reaction to the gospel or to us, to earn the right to speak into their lives, and to spend time getting to know Spanish teens. **This 3 ½ week long "USA camp" is a way for these teens to experience Christian community without pressure, simply living life in a normal daily routine with a family who loves the Lord and loves them.**

In Catalunya we have the privilege of seeing the Holy Spirit cultivate the soil of a teen's heart, plant seeds, water and fertilize, with the hope that one day the Lord will harvest fruit for His kingdom. **These 3½ weeks in the States can be a part of this cultivating process, which YL staff and volunteers in Catalunya will follow-up on in future months.**

As you can see, this program has been designed for a **long-term relationship**. We hope you will connect with your student and develop a relationship that will last far beyond the 2½ weeks that you spend with them this July. Young Life is a ministry built upon relationships. It began in 1940 based on the principle that leaders need to "earn the right to be heard" through developing a relationship of mutual trust and respect with students. **Please understand that this is not a 2½ week project where you are expected to "convert" your student or convince him/her about spiritual issues.** We need to be careful not to be accused by their parents of proselytizing, which would risk ruining the entire ministry we are doing with these students in Spain. As a family, please pray a lot,



and live out your faith with the expectation that the Holy Spirit will work through the witness of your loving and godly lifestyle in the lives of these students. Also pray that God would bring about spiritual conversations with the student in His timing.

Can I take my host student to church?

Since this is a very important topic, **we will discuss it during the training**, however this is what we would like to anticipate to you:

We think it would be a great idea for you to take the student to church (There will be an organized group activity for the students as an alternative on the first Sunday). However, we would like you to understand the importance of establishing a relationship with your student before doing so. Just as Young Life "earns the right to be heard", we'd like the families to earn that right as well. That will aid in the student feeling comfortable and having more trust.

We understand that relationship takes time. Therefore, **we strongly suggest waiting until the third weekend to take the student to church**. This will be after the camp where they will hear the Gospel. Please understand that for most of these non-Christian teens it will be the first time they will attend an Evangelical church. There are still people in Spain who consider us a sect.

How can I help my student improve his/her English level?

The students will be requested to engage in conversation with their hosts each day to practice their English. We will give them different topics to discuss with you concerning the American culture, your own family, etc. This will be a good opportunity for you to share about your spiritual values and faith with them in a non-threatening or confronting way. When we (the leaders) get together with the students, we will ask them about their conversations.

Is there going to be any training?

Families will be asked to attend a training/orientation session. This session will help participating host families to understand some of the cultural differences between Catalunya, Spain and the United States. Learning how to relate to teens from a different background and culture is of vital importance for the success of the YL USA Camp program.

This training session will be held in May in the Wheaton area. This meeting is to explain the program and discuss cultural experiences. In this session, the group of host families will also brainstorm a list of activities to do with the students. Follow-up communication will be via internet with Jonathan Banegas in Spain. We also might require a **second training** session for those host families that are **hosting by the first time**

Please, contact us for further information:



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