



UNITE

What does a day at Unite look like?

Unite is five days of worship, teaching, laughter, service, and Christ-centered community—all packed into one unforgettable week on a college campus. But if you've never been, it may be difficult to picture what the week actually feels like. This guide walks you through a typical day at Unite 2027, from the moment you wake up to the moment your head hits the pillow (or doesn't—because, let's be honest, dorm hallway conversations go late).

Whether you're a student wondering what to expect, a youth leader preparing your group, or a parent wondering what your teenager is walking into—this is your window into life at Unite.



ARRIVAL & SETTLING IN

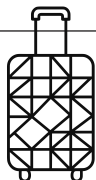
Your Unite experience begins the moment your group pulls onto the University of Nebraska–Lincoln campus. Volunteers in Unite gear will be there to greet you with energy, clear signage, and directions to check in.

CHECK-IN

Each youth group checks in together. Your youth leader will confirm your registration, receive your group's welcome packet (which includes lanyards, schedules, campus maps, and meal information), and get your dorm assignments. The process is designed to be smooth and fast so you can start settling in right away.

DORM LIFE

You'll stay in university residence halls—real college dorms. Expect twin beds, communal bathrooms, and the kind of close quarters that turn acquaintances into lifelong friends by the end of the week. Your youth group will be housed together, but you will likely share the floor with other groups. There's something special about sharing a hallway with students from Covenant churches you've never heard of, swapping stories about where you're from and what brought you here.



PACKING TIP Bring a small fan (dorm rooms can be warm in July), shower shoes, a refillable water bottle, your Bible, a journal, and clothes you can move around in. Afternoons are active. **Also: bring a spirit item from your church**—a banner, a flag, matching t-shirts—whatever represents your crew.

MEALS

All meals are served in university dining halls and are included with your registration—thirteen meals throughout the week. Dining halls offer a range of options to accommodate different dietary needs. Mealtimes are built into the schedule and double as some of the best community time of the day. Your group eats together, and the tables around you are full of students from across the country. Don't be surprised if a conversation over pizza turns into an invitation to sit together at MainStage that night.

WELCOME PARTY

On opening day, the whole Unite community gathers for the Welcome Party—a high-energy kickoff that sets the tone for the week. Think music, crowd games, your first glimpse of what's ahead, and a gathering of thousands of students realizing just how big and beautiful the body of Christ is. It's loud. It's joyful. And it's the moment Unite goes from "something on the calendar" to "this is actually happening."

MORNING:

BASECAMPS & SMALL GROUPS

Mornings at Unite are designed to ground students in Scripture, deepen understanding, and create space for honest conversation.

BASECAMPS

Mornings at Unite are built to ground students in Scripture, hand them practical tools for living out what the biblical text is teaching, and open up space for honest conversation about what it looks like to carry all of this back home.

After breakfast, students head to their Basecamps. These are immersive discipleship environments where they go deeper on a specific topic and discover how they can join God in God's mission to see more disciples among more populations in a more caring and just world. Basecamps are far more than breakout sessions. They are hands-on spaces designed to engage the whole person, mind and heart and hands alike. Led by experienced teachers and ministry leaders, they are intentionally smaller than MainStage, which leaves more room for kinetic learning, real questions, reflection, and meaningful small group engagement with the material.

Each session invites students to understand the

Covenant's commitment to the whole mission of the Church and the part God is inviting them to play within it. Along the way, Basecamps nurture a deeper Covenant identity by focusing on the mission priorities at the heart of the ECC: making and deepening disciples, serving globally, developing leaders, loving mercy, and pursuing biblical justice.

SMALL GROUPS

After Basecamps, students gather in small groups with their own youth group and leaders. This is sacred time where students process what they've heard, share what God is stirring in them, pray together, and build trust that will continue after Unite is over. For many students, small group time becomes the heartbeat of the week. It's one thing to hear a powerful message in a room of thousands. It's another to sit in a circle with the people who know your name and say, "This is what I'm feeling."



FOR YOUTH LEADERS Small group time is where your weeklong investment in relationships pays off. Come prepared with discussion prompts and leave room for the Spirit to lead. Some of the most meaningful Unite moments happen in these circles.

AFTERNOON:

FREE TIME

After a morning of learning and reflection, afternoons at Unite shift gears. This is when the campus comes alive with activity, laughter, and shared experiences that become stories your students tell when they get home.

AFTERNOON ACTIVITIES

Students can choose from a variety of afternoon activities and recreation. Past gatherings have included options such as outdoor recreation, ropes courses, sports tournaments, creative arts workshops, and off-campus adventures. The University of Nebraska–Lincoln's walkable campus and surrounding area provide a great backdrop for all kinds of fun options.

These activities are an intentional aspect of the Unite experience. Playing together, trying new things, and moving outside your comfort zone builds community in fresh ways.

CAMPUS HANGOUT & FREE TIME

Not every minute is programmed—and that's by design. Free time on campus gives students space to rest, explore, grab a snack, visit the Hub (a central space with booths, activities, and ministry information), play pickup games, or sit under a tree and talk with new friends. Afternoons also feature tournaments—from basketball to volleyball to games you didn't know were competitive—as well as seminars on topics ranging from faith and vocation to justice, creativity, and leadership. There's something for everyone, whether you want to compete, learn, or just hang.



ON-CAMPUS FUN Keep an eye on the daily schedule for pop-up activities, open gym times, creative spaces, and more. Lincoln's campus is designed for walking, hanging out, and discovering something new around every corner.

EVENING:

MAINSTAGE

If mornings are for learning together and afternoons are for playing together, evenings are for encountering God together. MainStage is the gathering that draws the entire Unite community together in one place for worship, teaching, and prayer.

WORSHIP

Imagine thousands of students lifting their voices together. The Unite worship experience is led by gifted musicians and worship leaders from across the Covenant and beyond. It's diverse, Christ-centered, and powerful. For many students, this is the first time they've ever worshiped in a room this large—and the sense of being part of something much bigger than your own youth group is unforgettable.

TEACHING

Each evening session features dynamic speakers who bring the week's theme to life through Scripture, story, and challenge. These messages are rooted in the gospel,

shaped by the Covenant's commitment to the whole mission of God, and delivered by people who care deeply about the next generation. Speakers are chosen for their ability to connect with high school students and to call them into deeper faith with honesty and grace.

RESPONSE & PRAYER

MainStage doesn't end when the speaker finishes. Space is created for students to respond through prayer, community, and conversation in their small groups.



THE THEME Every Unite gathering is anchored by a biblical theme that shapes the week's teaching, worship, and response. The Unite 2027 theme will be revealed on June 8 at noon CDT. Stay tuned at covchurch.org/unite and follow @covchurchunite for the announcement.

LATE NIGHT:

DORM HALLS & CONVERSATIONS

When MainStage wraps up, the day isn't over.

Back in the dorms, the hallways come alive. Students gather in common areas, connect with their leaders, and keep the conversations going. They process what they heard. They share their stories. They laugh until they cry and sometimes cry until they laugh.

Youth leaders—this is often where the most important ministry of the day happens. Be present. Be available. And maybe bring some snacks.

MORE THAN A WEEK

A day at Unite is full—but the impact stretches far beyond July. For more than 70 years (dating back to 1956 as CHIC), this gathering has been a catalyst for significant spiritual moments in the lives of tens of thousands of teenagers. Students leave Unite with a deeper understanding of who God is, who they are, and what it means to follow Jesus in community.

Unite is more than an event. It's a movement that calls students not only to belong, but to be sent. And it all starts with showing up, settling into a dorm room, finding your seat at the table, and opening your heart to what God has in store.



The Evangelical Covenant Church

UNITE 2027 AT A GLANCE

DATES: July 18–23, 2027

LOCATION: University of Nebraska–Lincoln

REGISTRATION OPENS: August 17, 2026

THEME: June 8 at noon CDT

LEARN MORE: covchurch.org/unite

FOLLOW: @covchurchunite on Instagram and Facebook

WHO: Students entering 9th grade through outgoing seniors

QUESTIONS: Email events@covchurch.org

[COVCHURCH.ORG/UNITE](https://covchurch.org/unite)