

Fire Juniors Emerging Talent Program 2021 Elite ID Camp

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)



What is the Emerging Talent Program?

The Emerging Talent Program (ETP) is a program designed to bring together the most competitive Fire Juniors players from across all 8 clubs in the network. This begins with a 4-day residential ID Camp that provides an opportunity to identify and evaluate *emerging talent* from across the network, with a view to then selecting players to participate in the Fire Juniors Elite teams in a high-level youth tournament. Key information includes:

- 4-day Residential ID Camp (invite only) in July/August (11U-14U only);
- Camp includes a mixture of training sessions, ID games, and off-field workshops led by Chicago Fire staff and outside professionals;
- Camp is coached by the leading club directors and coaches from within the network;
- Chicago Fire Academy (boys) and Indiana Fire ECNL (girls) staff in attendance to evaluate players for potential academy opportunities and;
- Residential assistants onsite for the duration of both camps and provide 24-hour supervision of the players alongside other camp directors and staff.

Who can participate in the Elite ID Camp?

The ID camp is invite only. Directors of Coaching and technical staff from each Fire Juniors club nominate players their U12-U14 age groups. Player nominations are based on player ability and other factors such as commitment to their Fire Juniors. Chicago Fire staff then review all nominations before selecting a list of players they wish to invite to the Elite ID Camp.

How many players are selected to attend the ID Camp?

For each camp, we allow a maximum of 90 players to participate. This is typically divided into a maximum of 30 players in each of U12, U13 and U14. Each age group typically has 50-60 players nominated. We max out at these numbers so all players on camp can fully benefit from it with enough time on the field during training and games.

When and where will the Elite ID Camp take place?

- Camp Location - Lake Forest Academy, Lake Forest, IL
- Girls Camp - Sunday July 25th-Wednesday July 28th, 2021
- Boys Camp - Wednesday July 28th-Saturday July 31st, 2021

What is the cost of the event?

Commuter (\$400) & Residential (\$525). This includes room (residential only), board (lunch only for commuters), 6 hours of training, 3 hours of game play, 5 hours of off-field workshops and a player evaluation together with 1-on-1 feedback with a camp coach.

How do I get to Lake Forest Academy?

Directions to the campus can be found at <https://www.lfanet.org/page.cfm?p=649>

Are parents permitted at the Elite ID Camp?

Parents will be expected at the opening and closing addresses. Otherwise the Fire and Lake Forest Academy has guidelines regarding parents on campus. Parents are welcome during check-in and check-out but will need to obtain a visitor pass outside those hours. Parents are not permitted in dorms or classroom sessions at any time, but the pass will allow parents to observe games and practices in the field area. Lake Forest Academy provides a list of recommended hotels. The Hilton Garden Suites hotel is the nearest and most cost-effective, about 3 minutes from campus. For more information visit: <https://www.lfanet.org/page.cfm?p=649>.

What will happen upon arrival?

At check-in players will be required to submit a copy of their family health insurance card and a signed copy of the ID camp waiver if not submitted online already. Players will be issued two camp t-shirts and their room keys and will then be shown to their rooms by camp residential assistants. Players will be expected at check-in and the opening address at 2.45pm before beginning their camp schedule.

What can players wear?

During free time players are permitted to wear casual gear. Players will be issued camp t-shirts upon arrival to wear during field sessions. Players will be expected to wear their camp t-shirts and game or practice shorts+socks during field sessions. A full suggested packing list will be provided to participants prior to camp.

What meals will be provided?

All meals will be offered in the dining hall on campus and include breakfast on days 2-4, lunch on days 2 & 3 and dinner on days 1-3. There are no stores at, or within walking distance of, Lake Forest Academy. Players can bring food for snack. For more information on dining visit: http://www.lfanet.org/student_life/dining.

What is the campus lodging?

Players will stay 2 to a room on the campus of Lake Forest Academy. Players must adhere to specific lights out and wake-up calls and will be supervised in dorms by camp Residential Assistants. For more information on lodging visit: http://www.lfanet.org/student_life/residential_life.

Can I make room requests?

Rooming requests will try to be honored where possible but are not guaranteed. Participants are asked to provide no more than one other camp attendee to room with during the registration.

Does my child have to lodge at the campus?

For players to receive the full camp experience and gain as much rest as possible around the full schedules, it is highly recommended that players stay on campus. We do understand that there are extenuating circumstances and will consider any and all requests.

Does my child need spending money?

There are no shops on campus to purchase anything but some dormitories have vending machines for drinks and snacks.

What staff will be attending camp?

Each age group will have between 2-3 Fire Juniors coaches who will supervise the on-field activities, and Residential Assistants will supervise off-field movements. Coaches and RA's will be further supported by a camp technical director and Chicago Fire staff. A full list of staff will be provided at a later date.

Where do Coaches and Staff stay during camp?

All coaches will stay in a separate dormitory to players. Residential Assistants will each have their own room in the same dormitories where their age group that they will oversee are staying.

What steps are taking to ensure Health and Safety during Elite ID Camp?

Health and safety are a key component of the Elite ID Camp Risk Assessment we are conducting in partnership with Lake Forest Academy. Some areas of consideration include:

- 1) Staffing: All staff have undergone a complete background check which is required by Lake Forest Academy and to coach at their own Fire Juniors club.
- 2) Supervision: Players will be supervised by coaching staff on the field and designated Residential Assistants off the field. All Residential Assistants will go through the same background check our coaches go through.
- 3) Waiver: Each player and guardian will be expected to sign a Medical Treatment Authority, Release and Liability Waiver prior to arrival. This waiver includes: No Remuneration or Insurance Coverage: Medical Treatment Authorization: Authorization for Release of Protected Health Information:

Assumption of Risks & COVID-19: Release & Waiver: Indemnification: Publicity Consent: Severability & Venue: and Acknowledgment of Rules & Standards of Conduct.

- 4) Trainer & Medical Staff: A trainer will be available for players during practical sessions and First Aid staff will be on call during hours off the field.
- 5) Venue Assessment: Lake Forest Academy is a secure and safe venue that falls in line with private boarding school criteria for overnight stay. The school houses students during fall, winter and spring semesters, and residential events run by groups such as US Soccer and Chicago Fire during the summer months.
- 6) Down time: Players will be permitted to use the school sports facilities (running track, fitness suite etc...) during designated 'free time', however will not be allowed use the facility swimming pool.
- 7) Nutrition & Hydration: Lake Forest Academy will be issued with specific dietary requirement for meals aimed at refuelling players for high level performance.

COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

As we all continue to manage the impact of COVID-19, we would like to make clear our goals to operating this camp in the safest way possible. Below are a few key areas that we can share at this time:

1. We will continue to monitor local and state guidelines and will adhere to those guidelines in conjunction with Lake Forest Academy. Parents will receive an update on our final COVID-19 protocols prior to the start of camp.
2. We are providing the commuter option this year to allow more flexibility. Those traveling from outside of the Chicago area who still prefer the commuter option are welcome to find a local hotel.
3. We plan to set a limit of two campers per room and will as best as we can, room teammates together.
4. All campers and staff will be required to return a negative COVID-19 test 72 hours prior to the start of camp.
5. Daily symptom checks will be conducted twice per day on all campers and staff.
6. Staff will be required to wear masks and we will determine the need for campers to wear a mask prior to camp based off guidelines at the time.
7. Outside of on-field activities, campers and staff will be asked to remain socially distanced and refrain from any types of social contact (handshakes etc.)
8. All players will be required to sign an updated medical waiver that includes language related to COVID-19.

What are the next steps after the Elite ID Camp?

Technical staff will evaluate players during the 4-day Camp and using recommendations from club staff will select a number of players per age group to participate in U12-U14 Fire Juniors elite teams. Parents and players will be notified no later than 30 days after the event.

How can my child get feedback after the Elite ID camp?

It is a Fire Juniors core value to encourage players (rather than parents) to have a dialogue with their coach. This should occur with players as young as 11 or 12 years old. Players attending the ID Camp should demand more from coaching staff and regularly ask "how did I perform," "how can I improve a particular technique," or "what do I need to do to take my game to the next level?"

What happens if my child doesn't make the team?

An informed coach knows that players develop at different rates and this year your player may not meet our evaluation criteria. The important thing is they are in the correct environment and their Fire Juniors club will allow them to grow and develop. We encourage your player to take the feedback provided to them at camp back to their regular team and training/games, and look to continue developing so they can be invited back to future Elite ID Camps.