DREAM F.O.R.W.A.R.D. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

Below are answers to some of the questions we hear most often from parents, students, and partners.

ABOUT DREAM F.O.R.W.A.R.D.

What is Dream F.O.R.W.A.R.D.?

Dream F.O.R.W.A.R.D. (Fostering Opportunities through Real-World Application, Research and Discovery) is the flagship STEAM-focused youth initiative of Embouldin To Dream, Inc.

Through immersive learning experiences, hands-on workshops, mentorship, leadership development, and real-world exploration, Dream F.O.R.W.A.R.D. helps students discover new possibilities, develop future-ready skills, and grow in confidence and purpose.

Programming includes our signature Summer Immersion experience and DREAM LAB, a series of monthly workshops designed to keep students engaged, learning, and growing throughout the year.

Who is Dream F.O.R.W.A.R.D. for?

Dream F.O.R.W.A.R.D. is for students who are curious, motivated, and open to growth. Whether a student already has a clear vision for their future or is still discovering their interests, the program is designed to provide exposure, encouragement, and opportunities that help young people dream bigger and move forward with confidence.

What does STEAM mean?

STEAM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics. Dream F.O.R.W.A.R.D. combines STEAM learning with leadership development, personal growth, financial literacy, and community engagement.

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What makes Dream F.O.R.W.A.R.D. Summer Immersion different from a traditional summer camp?

Students participate in a structured cohort experience designed to build confidence, expose participants to future opportunities, strengthen practical skills, and encourage long-term growth through experiential learning, mentorship, career exploration, leadership development, and real-world application.

Why was Dream F.O.R.W.A.R.D. created?

The program was created to expand exposure, opportunity, and access for young people while helping them see what is possible for their future.

Why are participants called 'Dreamers'?

We believe every young person deserves the opportunity to dream boldly about their future. Being a Dreamer means embracing curiosity, growth, purpose, and the belief that where you start does not determine where you can go.

Who is eligible to participate?

Eligibility varies by program. DREAM LAB currently serves students in 8th and 9th grades. Summer Immersion has its own eligibility requirements, application process, and selection criteria, which are announced before each enrollment period.

Students from across the Greater Hampton Roads region are encouraged to participate.

Does my child need to be an honor roll student?

No. We look for students who demonstrate curiosity, potential, commitment, and a willingness to engage in the experience.

Does Dream F.O.R.W.A.R.D. focus only on students interested in STEM careers?

No. The program is designed to expand exposure, curiosity, confidence, and possibilities across a variety of interests and career pathways.

What if my child does not know what career they want?

Many students are still exploring their interests. The program helps participants discover possibilities, connect with professionals, and learn about opportunities they may not have previously considered.

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How are students selected?

The selection process varies by experience.

DREAM LAB registration is open to eligible students, subject to available space and completion of required enrollment documents.

Summer Immersion has a separate application and selection process designed to identify students who demonstrate interest, commitment, and alignment with the program experience.

Is Dream F.O.R.W.A.R.D. only a two-week summer program?

No! Dream F.O.R.W.A.R.D. extends beyond the summer through DREAM LAB and other opportunities for continued learning, personal development, and community engagement.

Why does the program continue beyond the summer?

Meaningful growth takes time. The program is designed to help students build confidence, skills, relationships, and exposure over multiple years.

DREAM LAB: MONTHLY WORKSHOPS

What is DREAM LAB?

DREAM LAB is a series of free, monthly, hands-on STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) workshops offered through Dream F.O.R.W.A.R.D.

Each workshop introduces students to engaging topics, emerging technologies, creative challenges, and real-world learning experiences that encourage curiosity, exploration, and innovation.

Who can participate in DREAM LAB?

DREAM LAB currently welcomes students in 8th and 9th grades. No prior experience in the workshop subject is required unless otherwise specified.

When and where are DREAM LAB workshops held?

DREAM LAB workshops are generally held monthly, with individual sessions lasting approximately two hours.

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Dates, locations, and topics may vary. Specific details will be announced before each workshop.

How do I register my student?

Visit www.embouldintodream.org and select **DREAM LAB Registration**, or use the registration link or QR code provided on the workshop flyer.

New families must complete the registration form and electronically sign the Parent/Guardian Agreement.

Registration is subject to review and confirmation by Embouldin To Dream, Inc.

Space is limited.

Why is a Parent/Guardian Agreement required?

Student safety is a priority at Embouldin To Dream, Inc. The Parent/Guardian Agreement ensures families understand our program expectations, safety procedures, participation requirements, and permissions. Completing this agreement helps us provide a safe, organized, and positive experience for every Dreamer.

Do I need to complete a new application every month?

No. Once your student has completed the initial enrollment process, their information can be used for future DREAM LAB workshops.

Returning families will need to RSVP for each workshop they wish to attend and provide updated information or documentation when requested.

Does completing the registration form guarantee my student a spot?

No. Registration is not confirmed until the required information and signed agreement have been received and reviewed, and Embouldin To Dream, Inc. has issued confirmation.

Workshop capacity is limited.

Does participating in DREAM LAB automatically enroll my student in Summer Immersion?

No. DREAM LAB and Summer Immersion are separate experiences within Dream F.O.R.W.A.R.D.

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Students interested in Summer Immersion must complete its separate application and selection process. Information already provided during DREAM LAB enrollment may help streamline the process for returning families.

What should students bring to DREAM LAB?

Requirements vary by workshop. Any necessary supplies, equipment, or preparation instructions will be communicated before the event.

Can my student attend more than one workshop?

Absolutely! Students are encouraged to participate in multiple DREAM LAB experiences throughout the year, subject to eligibility, available space, and registration confirmation.

THE DREAMER EXPERIENCE

What is a cohort?

A cohort is a group of students who learn and grow together over time, building relationships and shared experiences.

What types of topics will students explore?

Topics may include STEAM, artificial intelligence, financial literacy, leadership development, wellness, career exploration, communication skills, and community impact.

Will students spend all day in a classroom?

No. The experience incorporates hands-on activities, projects, guest speakers, simulations, discussions, and real-world exploration.

What if my child is shy or not naturally outgoing?

That's okay. The program is designed to provide a supportive environment that encourages students to build confidence and discover their strengths.

What do students gain from participating?

Students will participate in STEAM experiences, gain confidence, leadership skills, career and college exposure, financial literacy knowledge, professional connections, stronger communication skills, and greater awareness of future opportunities.

What does success look like for a Dreamer?

Success means growing in confidence, exploring possibilities, developing skills, setting goals, and taking meaningful steps toward the future.

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Is the program free?

Yes! DREAM LAB workshops are offered at no cost to participating students. Our Summer Immersion has also been offered at no cost, with details for future sessions announced during enrollment.

SUMMER IMMERSION AND PROGRAM LOGISTICS

When does the Summer Immersion take place?

Dates and times for each Summer Immersion will be announced before applications open.

Where will Summer Immersion take place?

Program locations will be announced before each Summer Immersion.

Is lunch provided?

Meal arrangements will be communicated to accepted participants before programming begins.

Is transportation provided?

At this time, families are responsible for arranging transportation to and from program activities.

What should students bring each day?

Accepted participants will receive a detailed list before programming begins.

What happens if a student misses a day?

Consistent attendance is strongly encouraged because many experiences build upon one another.

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT, SAFETY AND SUPPORT

Is parent or guardian involvement required?

Parents and guardians play an important role in student success, and we encourage ongoing communication and engagement. Volunteer opportunities are also available.

How will parents receive updates?

Families will receive regular communication regarding announcements, schedules, expectations, and key events. We currently utilize email and GroupMe as our primary modes of communication.

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Can parents attend any portion of the program?

Yes. Certain events and celebrations may include opportunities for family participation.

Are safety procedures in place?

Yes. Student safety is a priority, and the program maintains policies and procedures designed to support a safe environment.

Are mentors and volunteers screened?

Dream F.O.R.W.A.R.D. utilizes screening processes and safeguards consistent with youth-serving programming.

Who supervises students during the program?

Students are supervised by authorized program staff, volunteers, facilitators, and approved partners.

Will students receive certificates or recognition?

Participants who successfully complete program expectations may receive recognition celebrating their participation and accomplishments.

Can students remain involved with Dream F.O.R.W.A.R.D. over multiple years?

Yes. Dream F.O.R.W.A.R.D. is designed with a long-term vision focused on growth, exposure, leadership development, and opportunity for the duration of the student's high school career.

How can community members or organizations support the program?

Support is welcomed through partnerships, sponsorships, mentorship, volunteering, in-kind contributions, and community engagement. Visit our Support Us page at www.embouldintodream.org/support-us

I still have questions. How can I contact someone?

Please visit the Contact page on the Embouldin To Dream website or reach out directly for additional information at contact@embouldintodream.org

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