



COLLEGE ID CAMP GUIDE

HOW TO FIND CAMPS, SHOW YOUR SKILLS, AND HAVE FUN!

▶ **ATL FIRE** THE PATHWAY TO COLLEGE SOCCER ◀

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LET'S TALK ABOUT CAMPS!

Going to a college soccer camp can feel a little scary if you think about it too much. But don't worry! This guide is here to help you get ready, know what to do on camp day, and follow up afterward. You also have a lot of helpful people around you. Talk to your parents, your club coaches, and older players who have already done it. Your soccer journey is yours alone, so have fun with it!

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WHY GO TO A CAMP?

Camps are awesome because they let you see what a college is really like. You get to check out their fields, use their gym, and see where the team plays. Best of all, you get to play soccer right in front of the real college coaches. You can see how they coach, and they can see what kind of player and teammate you are.

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WHICH CAMP IS RIGHT FOR YOU?

There are different kinds of camps, and it is important to know what you are signing up for:

Day Camps for All Ages: These are mostly for younger kids to play games and have fun. If you want college coaches to recruit you, this is not the camp to pick.

Day ID Camps: These are smaller camps. The coaches get to watch you closely in small groups, drills, and real scrimmages.

Overnight Camps: These last for a few days. You get to sleep in the college dorms, eat in the cafeteria, and play lots of soccer. It shows you what it really feels like to be a college athlete.

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WHERE TO FIND CAMP INFORMATION

It is easy to find out when camps are happening. Look here:

The School's Soccer Website: Go to the college sports page and click on soccer. Look for a link that says 'Camps.' (Sometimes they are named after the head coach, like 'Coach Joe Smith Soccer Camp'—those are the official ones!)

Social Media: Follow the college teams and their coaches on Instagram or Twitter. They post links when open sign-ups start.

Your Club Coaches: Sometimes your coach will forward you an email from a college coach who wants you to come play. like to be a college athlete.

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WHAT IF A COACH EMAILS YOU?

Getting an email from a college can be tricky! Here is how to tell what it means:

If you are older (After June 15th of your Junior Year): Coaches are allowed to talk to you directly now. If they ask you to come to camp, they want to see how you fit in with their team before making a final choice.

If you are younger (Before June 15th of your Junior Year): You will get a lot of automatic emails. If the email uses your real name and mentions something specific about how you play, they really like you! If it looks like an email sent to a million people, it probably was. Ask your club coach if that school is a good fit for you.

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WHEN SHOULD YOU GO?

There is no single perfect age to start going to camps. Going early helps coaches learn your name. Going when you are older helps you make a final choice about where to go to school. Before you sign up, ask your club coach for an honest talk about your skills. They can help you find schools that match your style of play. Remember, a camp won't make or break your future. It all comes down to the hard work you put into it!

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WHAT TO DO AFTER YOU SIGN UP

Once you are registered, get to work with these three steps:

1. Tell your club coach. They can call the college coach ahead of time to tell them what a great player and person you are.

2. Write an email to the college coaches. Tell them you signed up and why you like their school. Make it personal! Tell them your position, what year you graduate, and send a link to a video of your highlights and two recent games.

3. Post it on social media. A week before camp, post that you are excited to go and tag the team and the coaches.

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CAMP DAY: HOW TO STAND OUT!

Today is the big day! Get a good night's sleep and remember these small tips to stand out from the crowd:

Be Early: Being early shows the coaches that this camp matters to you. If you are exactly on time, you are late!

Wear Your Club Gear: Wear your Atlanta Fire United shirt or shorts. It helps coaches spot you and remember what team you play for.

Pump Up Your Ball: Make sure your soccer ball has air, and write your name and phone number on it so it doesn't get lost.

Start Flying Right Away: While other kids sit on the grass looking at TikTok, grab a ball and start passing, juggling, or playing a rondo with friends. Show them you love to play!

Say Hello to the Coaches: Walk right up to the coaches when they come in. Look them in the eye, smile, shake their hand, and say: 'Hi Coach Tim, I'm Sally Smith from Georgia!' First impressions stick around for a long time.

Say Thank You at the End: Before you leave, shake the coaches' hands again. Thank them for the day and tell them you will email them soon.

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HOW TO PLAY AND ACT DURING CAMP

You don't need to do crazy tricks to look good. Just play your game. If you are great at passing, pass the ball! Don't try to dribble past four players just to show off. Coaches want to see the real you.

COACH SAL'S SECRET:

Coaches watch how you act when things get tough. If you make a mistake, do you stomp your feet and pout? Or do you forget about it and try to win the ball right back? During water breaks, don't run to check your phone. Get a drink, stay focused, and jog back to the field. The little things show your character!

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AFTER THE CAMP IS OVER

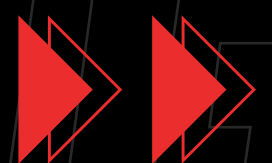
The camp is done and you are driving home. Don't skip the most important step: the follow-up!

That very night, write a nice email to all the coaches. Thank them for the camp and tell them what your favorite part was. If you love the school, tell them you want to keep talking to them.

If you are younger: NCAA rules say coaches cannot write back to you yet. That's okay! They still read your emails and write your name down on their list.

If you are older: Ask if you can schedule a phone call to talk about how you played. If they call you back quickly, it means they really want you on their team. If they don't, don't worry—it just means you need to look for a different school that fits you better.

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**THIS JOURNEY WILL
HAVE GOOD DAYS AND
BAD DAYS, AND THAT IS
TOTALLY NORMAL. KEEP
YOUR HEAD UP, SMILE A
LOT, WORK HARD, AND
BE CONFIDENT!**

FIRE ON, 

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