



Program Information

Welcome

Congratulations on being selected to participate in the Victorian Maths Camps program! The camps program is led by the Australian Mathematical Sciences Institute, which is part of the University of Melbourne, along with our partners the Mathematical Association of Victoria (MAV) and The Y Discovery Camps (The Y). The Victorian Maths Camps are funded by the Victorian Department of Education.

Running from mid 2026 to the end of 2028, we will deliver 24 camps. Participation is limited to approximately 40 students per camp, in either year 9 or 10, who attend a Victorian government high school. Students are selected based on their interest in advanced mathematics and will come from different backgrounds and experiences, brought together by their shared love of maths.

The camps will provide enriching mathematics delivered by expert teachers and academics, as well as mathematicians in industry. They will also provide opportunity for students to socialise by participation in a wide range of camp activities.

We look forward to seeing you at camp and creating a community of students dedicated to reaching their highest mathematical potential!

Program

Your camp will be at **The Y Discovery Camp, Lady Northcote, Rowsley Valley, Glenmore, Victoria from 28 Sept – 2 Oct, 2026**. For information about the venue, including directions to the site, adventure activities on offer, and a virtual tour of the facilities, please see <https://camps.ymca.org.au/lady-northcote-discovery-camp>

Format

Academic program

The academic component of the camp consists of the Maths program, where students learn new mathematical content, as well as a collaborative Group project, where students apply their new knowledge to real-world problems posed by experts in industry and academia.

The content presented within the Maths program begins with topics that may be familiar from school but extends to include concepts from VCE Mathematics and beyond. In these sessions, students will spend part of their time taking notes while the course leader introduces new content, and part of their time working through exercises in small groups at whiteboards placed around the room.

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Across the week, as students consolidate their knowledge in the Maths program and hear from inspirational guest speakers, they will be guided through group activities that support them to explore a genuine application of mathematics in a context of their choice. The Group project will culminate in a poster display on the final day, where each group will have the opportunity to share their work in a low-pressure environment.

Guest presentations

During the week, students will hear from two guest speakers who use, or rely heavily on, mathematics in their careers. Each speaker will present in two parts. In the first part, they will share the story of how they came to be in their current profession, giving students an opportunity to ask questions about potential career pathways and other life experiences. In the second part of their presentation, each guest will explain some of the technical mathematics they use in their work and reveal just how much maths is hiding behind the curtain of their profession. These presentations will help students see connections between the theory they are learning in the Maths program and the topics they might explore in the Group project.

A panel session on the topic of study and career pathways will be held on the final day, featuring a panel made up of staff and other guest speakers.

Recreational activities

Each day, students will participate in one or two of the adventure activities offered onsite by The Y. The specific activities will depend on the location of the camp but may include, for example, orienteering, flying fox, bush walking, frisbee golf, and more. Details about the activities planned for Camp 2 at Lady Northcote will be shared in the weeks leading up to camp.

In between scheduled sessions and mealtimes, staff and students will have access to communal spaces, where informal activities such as table tennis and board games will be encouraged. Various structured and unstructured activities will also take place in the evenings.

Sample timetable

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
7 AM		Breakfast (7:30–8:30)			
8 AM		Down time			
9 AM		Maths program	Maths program	Adventure activity	Group projects
10 AM	Arrivals (10:00–11:00)	Morning Tea			Showcase
11 AM	Welcome session	Maths program	Maths program	Group projects	Q&A Panel
12 PM	Lunch (12:00–1:00)				
1 PM	Adventure activity	Adventure activity	Adventure activity	Group projects	Camp wrap-up
2 PM					
3 PM	Maths program	Industry guest	Academia guest	Afternoon tea	
4 PM		Afternoon tea			
5 PM		Expert workshop	Expert workshop	Group projects	
6 PM	Down time				
7 PM	Dinner (6:00–7:00)				
8 PM					
	Welcome activities	Campfire	Maths games	Evening activity	

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Expectations

Engagement

Students are expected to be fully engaged with the program throughout the duration of the camp. All sessions are compulsory unless specific accommodations have been negotiated with a staff member ahead of time. Students must be present and prepared to begin each session by the scheduled start time. While the course leader is presenting, students will listen respectfully and copy down notes as prompted. During problem sessions at the whiteboards, students are expected to interact productively with the other members of their group, taking turns to write solutions on the board and aiming for all group members to contribute equally to discussions.

Conduct

Students should behave appropriately, including showing respect to others, acting with integrity and honesty, and conducting themselves in a manner that does not bring themselves, their families, their schools or the Victorian Maths Camps into disrepute. Senior staff reserve the right to remove a student from the camp at any stage if it is deemed that they are not sufficiently engaging with the academic program, not following camp staff directions, not following safety procedures. There is a zero-tolerance policy around drinking alcohol and smoking or vaping.

Preparing for Camp

There is no mathematical preparation required from you. Your interest in mathematics, your previous experiences in school, and your commitment to engage for the entire duration of the program is sufficient.

What to Bring

Students will receive a camp preparation booklet in the weeks leading up to the camp, including specific instructions about what to pack and comprehensive information specific to the venue.

Technology

Students may bring mobile phones and laptops to support their participation in the Maths Camp; however, expectations apply to ensure a safe and focused environment. Mobile phones must not be used during scheduled learning sessions or programmed activities, but may be used during designated downtime for social interaction and to contact home. Students are requested not to access or post on social media during the camp to support wellbeing, privacy and full engagement in the program. Laptops may be used to support the mathematics learning activities when directed by staff, although bringing a laptop is not essential. No technology is to be used during lights out, and all devices should be switched off.

Transport

Parents/carers are responsible for getting students to the venue between 10:00 am and 11:00 am on the first day of camp. Carpooling may be appropriate for students travelling from the same school or region, however, this arrangement must be approved by the Maths Camp Leader ahead of time.

All activities will take place on the grounds of the camp. No additional transport to activities will occur whilst at camp.

All students must be collected by their parents/carers no later than 2:00 pm on the final day of camp.

If Your Child Falls Ill or Requires Medical Attention

Qualified camp staff are first aid trained. All incidents are documented and parents or emergency contacts are notified when medical treatment beyond routine first aid is required. Ambulance services are called immediately for emergencies. Children who become unwell and cannot safely continue may need to be collected by a parent or guardian.

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Victorian Maths Camp Staff

Maths Camp Leader

Responsible for the overall operation of the camp, including staffing, logistics, student supervision, safety, risk management and coordination of daily activities.

Maths Leader

Responsible for the design and delivery of the mathematics program, including teaching, facilitating project tasks, supporting tutors and ensuring students are engaged in rich mathematical learning.

Student Wellbeing Leader

Responsible for student wellbeing information, including medical needs, medication, dietary requirements, allergies, parent contact, incident records and student support during the camp.

Camp Supervision and Tutors

Responsible for supporting students across the camp program, including supervision, academic assistance, tutoring, group work, adventure activities, behaviour support and general student care.

Key Contacts

Before Camp

The Victorian Maths Camp Director is Professor Tim Marchant, Director of AMSI, director@amsi.org.au

For general communications about the Victorian Maths Camps, please email maths-camps@unimelb.edu.au

Please do not contact Lady Northcote Discovery Camp directly about the Maths Camps.

During Camp

Names and contact details for staff on camp will be provided in due course.

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