

UTAH SCHOOLS FOR THE DEAF AND THE BLIND

Advisory Council Agenda

August 28, 2025

Openshaw Education Center

GENERAL SESSION AGENDA

(Tab 1)

4:30 p.m.

1. Welcome

4:30 – 4:45 p.m.

2. Public Comments

ACTION ITEMS

4:45 – 4:50 p.m.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR APPROVAL ACTION ON:

A.  Tab 2 AC Summary 062625 (Tab 2)
contact Tamara Flint (801) 629-4712
or tamarf@usdb.org for more information.

B.  Tab 3 Vacancy Report as of 082525.pdf (Tab 3)
contact Vicki Summers (801)
629-4764 or vickisu@usdb.org for
more information.

It is recommended that the Advisory Council review and approve the
Advisory Council minutes of June 26, 2025 and the Vacancy Report as of
August 25, 2025.

4:50 - 5:05 p.m.

4.  Tab 4a USB Enrichment Funds request KM.pdf - Susan Patten (Tab 4)
 Tab 4b USB Enrichment Funds request SE.pdf - Susan Patten

INFORMATION ITEMS

5:05 - 5:20 p.m.

5.  Tab 5 '25 USB Moab Adventure - Alex Westergard (Tab 5)

5:20 - 5:35 p.m.

6. Follow-up to Braille Challenge finals - Susan Patten/Kimberly Mundy

5:35 - 5:50 p.m.

7. Sailing Expedition - Adam Billings

(Tab 6)

5:50 - 6:05

8. Tab 7 AC-2025 USD Summer Camp - Jonathan Helgesen

(Tab 7)

6:05 - 6:20 p.m.

9. USDB Financial Overview Discussion - Vicki Summers

6:20 - 6:35 p.m.

10. USDB Subcommittee Update - Member Wood

6:35 - 6:50 p.m.

11. Superintendent Report

6:50 - 6:55 p.m.

12. Future Agenda Items

6:55- 7:00 p.m.

13. Other

- Next meeting is scheduled for September 25, 2025

7:00 - 7:10 p.m.

14. Executive Session

Public Comment

Individuals are welcome to address the Advisory Council. Please contact Tamara Flint [\(801\) 629-4712](tel:(801)629-4712) or tamaraf@usdb.org with 24 hours advance notice with your name and the group you represent and a link will be shared with you. Each person will be limited to three minutes. Total time allotted for public comments will be a total of 15-minutes. Anyone needing more time should make that request in writing and arrange to be on the agenda at the next meeting.

Notice of Procedure to Get on the USDB Advisory Council Agenda

Anyone interested in being on the agenda should contact Chairperson Ray Wright at [\(801\) 560-9866](tel:(801)560-9866) / metaltipman@gmail.com., Superintendent Joel Coleman at [\(801\) 629-4712](tel:(801)629-4712) / joelc@usdb.org, or Tamara Flint at [\(801\) 629-4712](tel:(801)629-4712) / tamaraf@usdb.org. Please do so by the Friday of the week prior to the meeting.

Notice of Special Accommodation at Public Meetings

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals needing special accommodations (including auxiliary communicative aids and services) during this meeting should notify Tamara Flint [\(801\) 629-4712](tel:(801)629-4712) or tamaraf@usdb.org at least three working days prior to the meeting.

TAH SCHOOLS FOR THE DEAF AND THE BLIND

Advisory Council Meeting Summary

June 26, 2025

Openshaw Education Center

4:30 p.m. - General Session

Attending: Jared Allebest, Voting Member
John Clements, Voting Member
Kiara Guymon, Voting Member
Aunilie Hathaway, Voting Member
Jennifer Hayes, Voting Member
Shari Solomon-Klebba, Non-Voting Member
Philippe Montalette, Vice-Chair, Voting Member
Katie Nelson, Voting Member, Zoom
Amy Query, Voting Member, Zoom
Gretel Sampson, Non-Voting Member
LeAnn Wood, Non-Voting Member
Ray Wright, Chair, Voting Member

Absent: Kari Harbath, Voting Member

Also Attending:

Joel Coleman, Superintendent
Tamara Flint, Executive Assistant
Susan Patten, USB Associate Superintendent
Vicki Summers, Finance Manager, Zoom
Michelle Tanner, USD Associate Superintendent

Interpreters:

Cindy Anderson, Interpreter
Emily Longshore, Interpreter

Others:

1. Welcome and Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Wright welcomed Council members in attendance to the June 26, 2025 Advisory Council meeting. Ms. Hayes led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

ACTION ITEMS

3. Consent Calendar

Mr. Wright asked Council members if they had any questions or concerns with the June 26, 2025 consent calendar. Mr. Montalette made a motion to accept the Advisory Council minutes for May 22, 2025, the Vacancy Report as of June 20, 2025 and the Donated Funds Account Summary as of May 31, 2025. Ms. Nelson seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous. Motion carried.

4. Enrichment Fund Request

Ms. Patten reviewed an Enrichment Funds request with Council members. The amount is \$150 for two children to attend the Junior Explorers 2025 Summer Camp July 21-23, 2025. Registration cost is \$75 per student to attend the camp. Mr. Wright asked Council members if they had any questions. Mr. Montalette wondered if the amount was too low to request the use of Enrichment Funds. Ms. Nelson noted that we also just approved this family to attend the Braille Challenge last month and wondered if we should cap requests to a certain amount or per family/per year. Ms. Patten noted that she has some of the same thoughts as Mr. Montalette and Ms. Nelson feels that this needs to be redefined a bit better in the rubrics that were created a while ago. We should come up with some questions over the summer and send something out at the beginning of the new school year. Dr. Tanner recommended creating a policy that reflects some of the items discussed. This policy should be generated from thoughts from Council members. Chair Wright feels that everyone's thoughts are validated, but agrees with creating a policy so that it is better defined. His feelings are to approve this since it is such a small amount. Superintendent Coleman suggested creating a subcommittee to draft a policy for use of Enrichment Funds. Chair Wright asked if anyone wanted to make a motion. Ms. Query made a motion to approve. Ms. Guymon seconded. Katie and Aunilie abstained from voting. Motion passed. Chair Wright asked for volunteers Philippe, Katie and Amy. Ms. Patten is also available to contribute to this conversation. Tammy will create a calendar invite via Zoom before the August meeting.

5. Discussing a Child's Disability

This subject was brought to Ms. Patten's attention following the May Advisory Council meeting. There was a discussion of a student's disability and prognosis and she appreciates that it was brought to her attention. This is a public meeting and it is important to not disclose specific information about a specific child's disability. She has had a discussion with her staff about this, so that questions are guided so that students don't feel pressured to answer personal questions. We need to be cautious about not doing this in the future as it is a public meeting. Ms. Nelson appreciates that she addressed the Council about this subject and there are dynamics that we are not putting children in uncomfortable situations. We can ask meaningful questions that address the access tools they use and how they navigate them.

6. FY25 (Period 11) Monthly Budget Update as of May 31, 2025

Ms. Summers, USDB Financial Manager welcomed everyone to the June 26, 2025 Advisory Council meeting. Ms. Summers notified the Council that year to date expenditures for FY2025 are \$56,984,019 as of May 31, 2025. \$1,968,023 negative, but more revenues have come in since this report. USDB may close in the red this year but it is much too early to know for sure. All areas covered in the Financial Report are operationally capable, with a remaining budget balance of \$4,994,481. We have really started cutting back on expenses and out-of-state travel. Ms. Summers asked the Council if there were any questions or concerns regarding the Financial Report.

Mr. Montalette noted that this is a first since this has been the case since he has served on the Council and wonders if there will be any carryforward. Ms. Summers noted that we are not expected to have any carry forward this year. More information is to follow as they finalize the year end process. Mr. Montalette asked how the negative balance will affect the next fiscal year's budget? Ms. Summers said we don't really know now. We could get a supplemental amount to balance us out for this fiscal year, which would require us to go before the Board of Examiners to explain how this happened. It is too early to know at this point. We are working closely with Assistant Superintendent Deborah Jacobson. Mr. Montalette asked what specifically caused this deficit. Ms. Summers noted that it was trying to provide the services for our students, hiring staff and other items that we need to review to decide what led us to this point. Super Coleman noted that we have requested funding increases (IFR's) for the last four years. The last couple of years we did not receive the funding that we requested as we were asked to spend down our carry forward before we

were asking for more money, which we did in an expeditious manner. Our new budget will begin July 1st which that budget has been approved by the board. He will elaborate during his Superintendent report.

There were no further questions or concerns regarding the Financial Report from Council members.

Ms. Summers reviewed the status of the Education Foundation as of May 31, 2025. The balance was \$1,152,448. Ms. Summers asked the Council if there were any questions or concerns regarding the Education Foundation funds. There were no questions or concerns regarding the Education Foundation from Council members.

Ms. Summers reviewed the status of Enrichment Funds as of May 31, 2025. USDB has spent approximately \$(1,168,947) of its beginning balance of its annual FY25 Enrichment Funds budget of \$1,052,781 leaving a balance of \$678,279. We receive an electronic wire transfer each quarter, so that total will continue to increase as the fiscal year goes on. All remaining Enrichment Funds will be forwarded to the next fiscal year. Ms. Summers asked the Council if there were any questions or concerns regarding the Enrichment Funds. There were no questions or concerns regarding the Enrichment Funds expenditures from Council members.

7. USDB Subcommittee Update

Member Wood provided an update on the USDB subcommittee. We met on June 10, 2025 to discuss Transportation and Outreach services. We had our first working group yesterday that we are focussed on 3 areas that include governance, finance and facilities. We will provide a report in late summer to the Executive Appropriations committee. She invited Katie Nelson to serve on this Council as a parent and an Advisory Council member. There is a lot going on with USDB this summer but hopes that by next year we are in a better position with the legislature to make sure the needs of the children are met because that is our end goal.

8. Superintendent Report

Public Education Appropriation - We are undergoing an audit from USBE and also a legislative audit, which along with our massive audits from two companies not long ago has been very time consuming. He wishes our name was not (School). It is unfair to lawmakers who are new (75% each year). Turnover is difficult because USDB is very complex to understand. He considers USDB

more a medical system than a school. With us we have individual students with teams of people helping them rather than just one teacher. It is hard for people to understand the complexities in life and the challenges they face. Two of our legislators visited our campus last week and he feels that it was very beneficial to help other legislators better understand USDB. He is optimistic that things will get better as there is a deeper understanding of our needs.

FY26 Budget - Our FY26 Budget has been approved. The USBE has also approved USDB to charge the districts whatever is needed to provide the necessary services that are required by the individual student IEP's.

USD

Budgeting and Audits - Dr. Tanner and Ms. Patten noted that they are heavily involved in budgeting and gathering data for a couple of audits that are happening right now. It is very time consuming. USDB will be moving under USBE for financial operations. Deborah Jacobson is working on creating a new chart of accounts for USDB. Our FY26 budget will be prepared and reviewed during the June 2nd board meeting.

Audits:

- USBE is going through a financial audit of USDB's financials to understand details spearheaded by Debbie Davis. We are excited about this and looking forward to transparency. She appreciates the thoroughness of the USBE auditors. They are reading the reports and are interested in really understanding the needs of USDB.
- OLAG audit - Legislative audit kick-off meeting May 5-9, 2025. We imagine there will be a lot of overlap between the two audits.

Summer Camps - There are more than 50 camps happening this summer. We are trying to do our own transportation to save money. It has been challenging.

USB

USDB Staff - Ms. Patten shared how proud and grateful she is for our staff. She has requested a lot of information with a limited turnaround time and they have provided it whenever she asks.

12. Future Agenda Items

Report back on Braille Challenge finals (Duke Mundy)
Sailing Presentation - Adam Billings
Monthly Budget Update as of June 30, 2025
Debrief from Member Wood from the USDB subcommittee
Update on USD Summer camps
Update on ECC summer camps

9. Other

Mr. Wright thanked everyone for attending. There is no meeting in July. Our next meeting will be August 28, 2025.

Please email any future agenda items to Ray Wright or Tamara Flint.
The June 26, 2025 USDB Advisory Council meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

USDB Vacancy Report as of August 25, 2025

Org	Job Title	DPR	Schedule	Salary Range	F/P	State/ Enrichment
5210	Paraprofessional	40050472	AE	\$9.10 - \$18.00	P	S
5310	Executive Secretary	40050672	AE	\$15.93 - \$25.27	F	S
	Paraprofessional	2 vacancies	AE	\$9.10 - \$18.00	P	S
5330	Paraprofessional	2 vacancies	AE	\$9.10 - \$18.00	P	S
5340	Paraprofessional	3 vacancies	AE	\$9.10 - \$18.00	P	S
5350	Educator for the Deaf/HH	40050007	AH	\$7.25 - \$99.99	F	S
5400	Intervener	13 vacancies	AE	\$12.93 - \$20.50	P	S
5510	Early Intervention Hearing Specialist	40050418	AH	\$7.25 - \$99.99	F	S
	Deaf Mentor	2 vacancies	AE	\$12.85 - \$21.91	F	S
5600	Paraprofessional	40050643	AE	\$9.10 - \$19.00	P	S
6115	Speech-Language Pathologist	40050129	AH	\$7.25 - \$99.99	F	S
6120	Substitute School Nurse	10019816	AH	\$21.10 - \$120.53	P	S
6140	School Psychologist	40050131	AH	\$7.25 - \$99.99	F	S
6230	Student Life Technician	40050263	AE	\$16.87 - \$24.22	P	S
6290	Educational Interpreter	6 vacancies	AH	\$7.25 - \$99.99	F	S
6730	General Maintenance Worker	40050759	AE	\$13.17 - \$19.79	F	S
	Custodian	40050326	AE	\$10.60 - \$20.09	P	S

Family/Community Activity Support - Funds Request

The USDB Advisory Council has recently approved the allocation of Enrichment Funds for LEA use statewide. These funds will support blind and low vision students across the state to participate in various events with their sighted peers in their LEA, families, or communities.

These funds can be used for various purposes, such as extracurricular equipment, travel, special interests, and supporting competitions like the Braille Challenge National, etc.

Districts and families throughout Utah can access these funds by submitting an application to the USDB Advisory Council. The application and any other supporting documentation should be sent via email to Executive Assistant Tamara Flint at tamaraf@usdb.org.

Requestor Information:

Name: _____ Student Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____ School District: _____

School Name: _____ Current Grade: _____

Event/Project Information:

Event/Project Name: _____ Dates: _____

Event/Project Description: _____

Areas of the Expanded Core Curriculum (ECC) that will be Addressed:

Amount Requested: _____

Itemized list of what the funding will be used for:

Other funding sources? _____

Family/Community Activity Support - Funds Request

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Requestor Information:

Name: Sarah Erb Student Name: Maeve Erb
Phone: 801-556-6649 Email: s1cerb@gmail.com School District: NA
School Name: [REDACTED] Current Grade: 6

Event/Project Information:

Event/Project Name: Achilles Utah Relay Team: Salt to Saint Ride, AND funds toward dream bike Dates: Sept 19-20, 2025

Event/Project Description:
Salt to Saint is a 420+ mile bicycle ride held each September, starting in Salt Lake City at the Hogle Zoo and finishing in Saint George. The 2025 route will be between 420 and 450 miles, with the goal to complete the ride in under 24 hours. This year, Maeve will be joining the Utah Achilles team, "The Downhill Wonders", which was established in 2023. 3 of the 8 bicyclists on the 2025 team are blind/VI athletes. Maeve will be riding legs 3, 10, and 21 on her bicycle built for two, which she has affectionately named "Diamond." Maeve and the other members of the relay team will be riding 3 separate legs of the route, covering about 60 miles each over the 24 hour time period. Maeve loves to pedal and ride fast, and especially loves participating in relay rides with other adaptive athletes. In 2023, she participated with Utah Achilles in LoToJa, and with her mom in 2024 in Goldilocks, as

Areas of the Expanded Core Curriculum (ECC) that will be Addressed:

Recreation and Leisure, O S M, and Assistive Technology: Maeve likes to operate the ride with GPS app that we use, as it offers advance, auditory notice for upcoming turns as well as notifications for elevation change. She would also like to purchase some adaptive pedals/ clips for shoes that are easier to navigate and are magnetic rather than the traditional clip in style.

Self-Determination: This relay will be a new challenge as Maeve will need to advocate for herself for when she needs to sleep, eat, and rest during the intervals when she is not on the bike so she can maintain her stamina and help the group succeed in meeting the 24 hour goal.

Independent Living: Maeve will independently shop and purchase snacks for trip.

Itemized list of what the funding will be used for:

Travel/gas, \$340; 2 adaptive clips and pedals, \$390; 2 Jerseys, \$170; High Visibility helmet with light, \$100. Registration, \$300. Maeve is saving up for an adaptive bike that allows her to ride recumbent AND in the captain's position. We would like to request \$200 toward this bike that will allow Maeve to complete longer rides more comfortably. We anticipate the cost to be \$5,000, for a recumbent bike. Achilles International will sponsor \$600-900 of the registration fees for the relay team.

Other funding sources? Achilles Utah Chapter will be sponsoring an additional \$500 of team expenses. Maeve and her family will cover any additional costs.

Reference links: <https://salttosaint.com/registration/>

<https://www.achillesinternational.org/utah>

<https://j-pedals.com/index.php/order>



STUDENTS

Shay
Isaac
Gabe
Kelsey
Grant
Kate
Tique
Adin
Tino

CHAPERONES

Alex
Josh
Aaron
Candace
Jenn
Keri
Angaleen

Organized by...

ADVENTURE
PERSPECTIVE

Salt Lake City

UTAH



Moab

Canyonlands
National Park

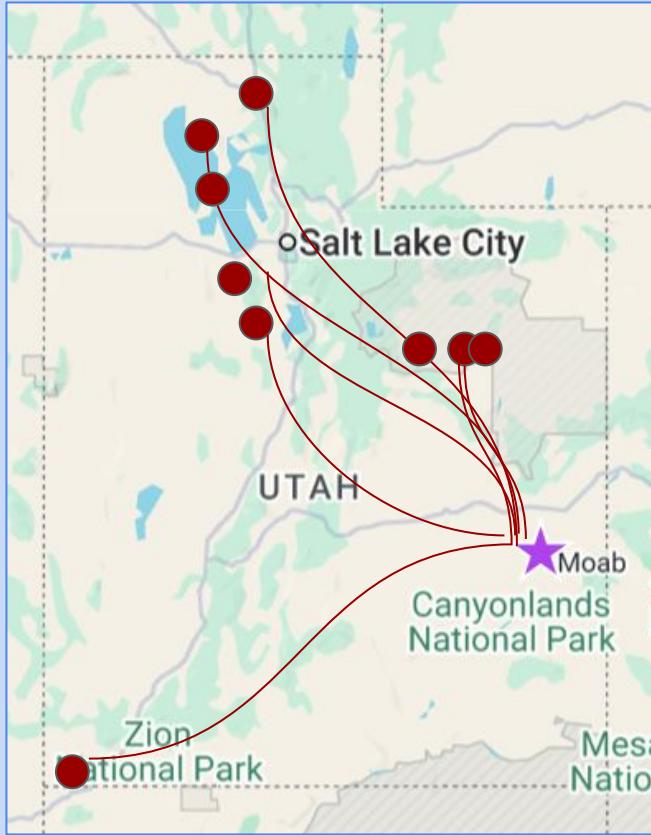
Zion
National Park

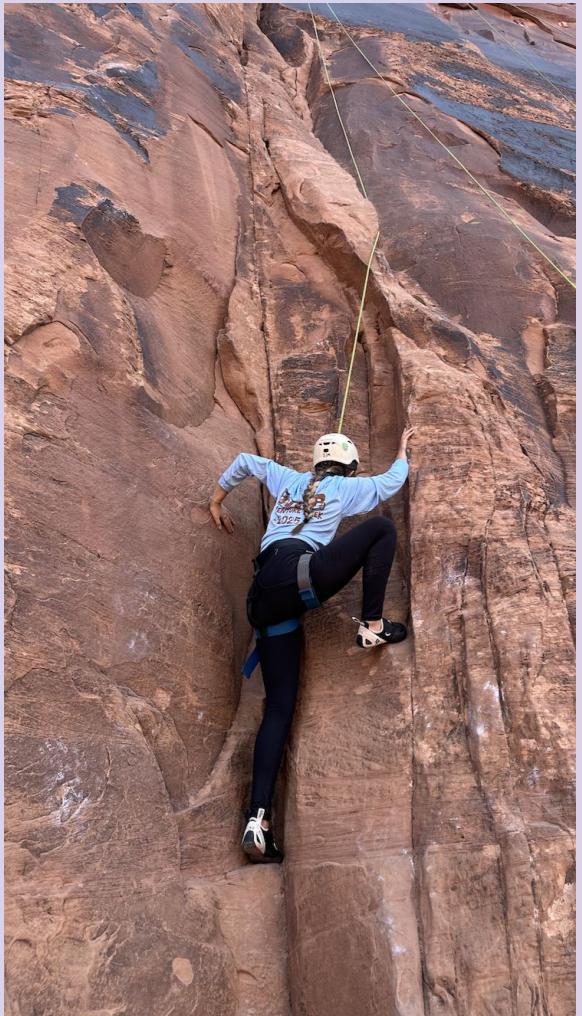
Mesa
Natio

5 DAYS OF ADVENTURE & FRIENDSHIP

Canyoneering
Rock Climbing
Swimming
Side-by-Side Adventure
Colorado River Rafting

DAY 1: ARRIVAL from across Utah





DAY 2: Rock Climbing (Guide: Nate)

Kelsey
Gabe
Shay
Tique

Jennifer
Candace
Alex



Isaac
Tino
Adin
Kate
Grant

Aaron
Keri
Angaleen

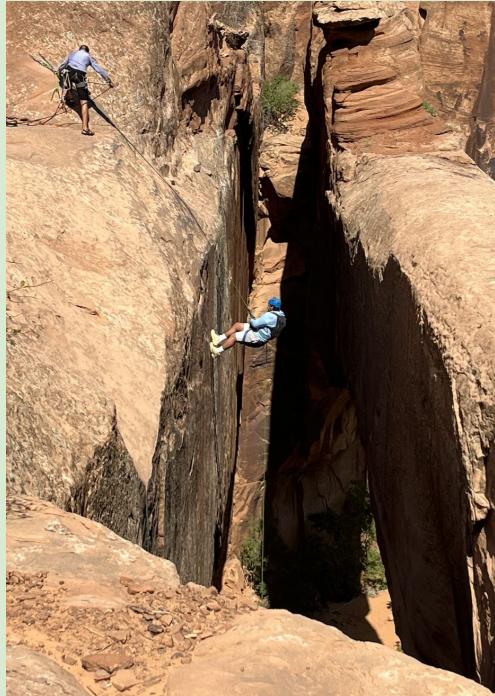
DAY 2: Canyoneering (Guide: Adam) Route: Morning Glory



Isaac
Tino
Adin
Kate
Grant

Aaron
Keri
Angaleen

DAY 2: Canyoneering (Guide: Adam) Route: Morning Glory





DAY 3: Canyoneering (Guide: Adam) Route: Morning Glory

Kelsey
Gabe
Shay
Tique

Jennifer
Candace
Alex

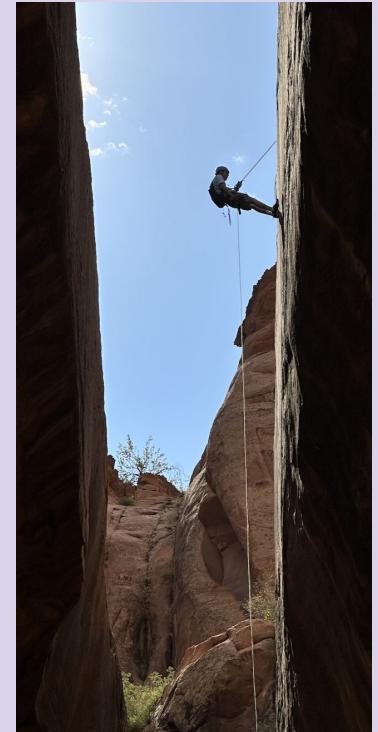




DAY 3: Canyoneering (Guide: Adam) Route: Morning Glory

Kelsey
Gabe
Shay
Tique

Jennifer
Candace
Alex





DAY 3: Rock Climbing (Guide: Nate)

Isaac
Tino
Adin
Kate
Grant

Aaron
Keri
Angaleen

DAY 3 (evening): Side-by-Sides Hell's Revenge Tour

(Guide: Jeff)



DAYS 4 & 5: **River Rafting** **Colorado River**

(Guides: Chan & Annie)





Thank you for supporting...



STUDENTS

Shay
Isaac
Gabe
Kelsey
Grant
Kate
Tique
Adin
Tino

CHAPERONES

Alex
Josh
Aaron
Candace
Jenn
Keri
Angaleen

USD Sailing Expedition

Schooner Adventuress

Who's On Board?

8 Students

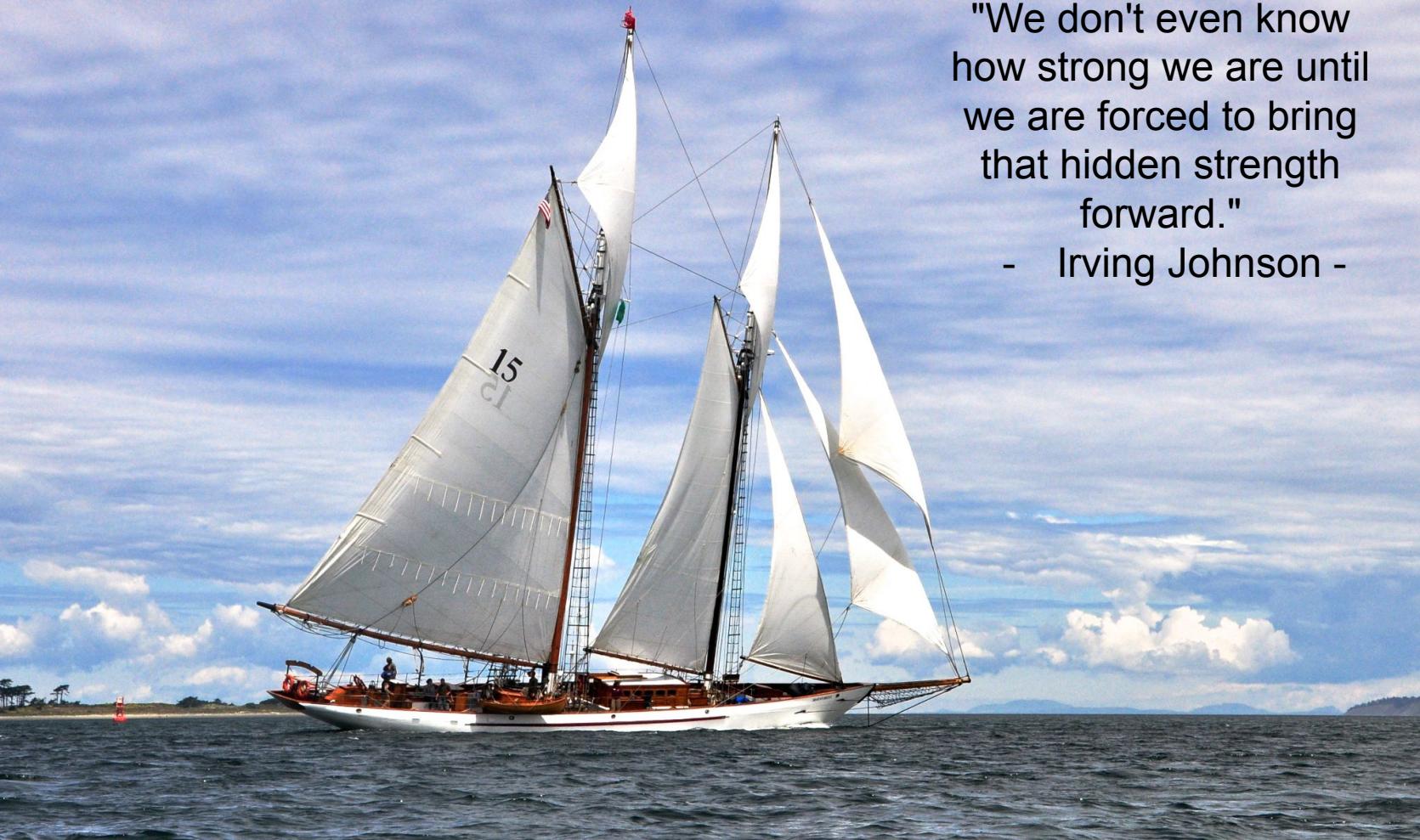
- 2 JMS Campus
- 1 Alpine School District
- 2 Nebo School District
- 1 Millard School District
- 1 Iron County School District
- 1 Washington County School District

The ship requested no more than 8 students attend the first sail on board adventureess. 14 could go if we do it again.

6 Adults

- 3 interpreters
- 3 chaperones

Each watch required an interpreter and one chaperone. There is a 3 watch cycle on board the ship



"We don't even know
how strong we are until
we are forced to bring
that hidden strength
forward."

- Irving Johnson -

USD Sailing Expedition
Video Link



The Struggle for Deaf Students

DHH Students miss out on incidental learning which creates language gaps and isolation tendencies (Steinberg et al., 1999; Nunes et al., 2001; Luckner et al., 2012; Lytle & Oliva, 2016)

Without proficient language structure students struggle to have conversations, develop friendships, and work through conflict (Hauser & Marschark, 2008; Stinson, Whitmore, & Kluwin, 1996).

To build social skills, DHH students need opportunities to observe, practice, and get feedback (Segrin & Givertz, 2003)

Why Experiential Education

Experiential Education provides DHH students opportunities to learn through natural environments and real situations, requiring active involvement to solve problems (John Luckner, 1989).

In order for DHH students to develop membership in their school, they need to participate in after school activities, sports, clubs, and experiential education to push students to work together (Anita et al. 2002).

How to Create Experiential Learning Programs

Experiential Learning Theory

- Concrete Experience
 - Sailing on a Tall Ship
- Reflective Observation
 - Video Logging and interviews
- Abstract Conceptualization
 - Develop connections between experience and personal life experiences
- Active Experimentation
 - “I worked hard and overcame challenges on the ship. I can do it again off the ship.”

Walsh and Golins (1976)

- Physical and Social Dislocation
 - Contrasting Environment for Learners
 - “Ten Group” - groups of 7-15
 - The most contrast for the most learners
- Problem Solving Task
 - Living and working in tight spaces
 - Self regulation -
 - Mental - being overwhelmed by people and space
 - Physical - new sleeping and working routines
 - Resources - calming ocean, Type 2 fun, supportive crewmembers

Why this should continue

“The amount of change that happens to a student in such a short amount of time on board a ship is remarkable. It's only the second day and students are interacting like they've been best friends for a lifetime. The boys are curious and teasing each other, the girls are engaged in the ship and making friends. Everyone is working together and the crewmembers are treating us like we're part of the family. These students have reported feeling isolated at home and school, some saying they don't belong anywhere. Well here, on this tight ship, somewhere on the ocean, they have found a place where they belong.” - Chaperone Observation Notes-

Summer Camp 2025

Summer Camps- 46 Totals



Camp (PRE-K)

Dinos Everywhere!
I Can Be Anything!
ESY Summer School
Fairy Tale Camp
Language Sessions
Dinos Everywhere!
SummerTime Fun Camp
Language Sessions
ESY Summer School
Art Adventures Camp
ASL Nature Day
Fairy Tales
Outdoor Adventures

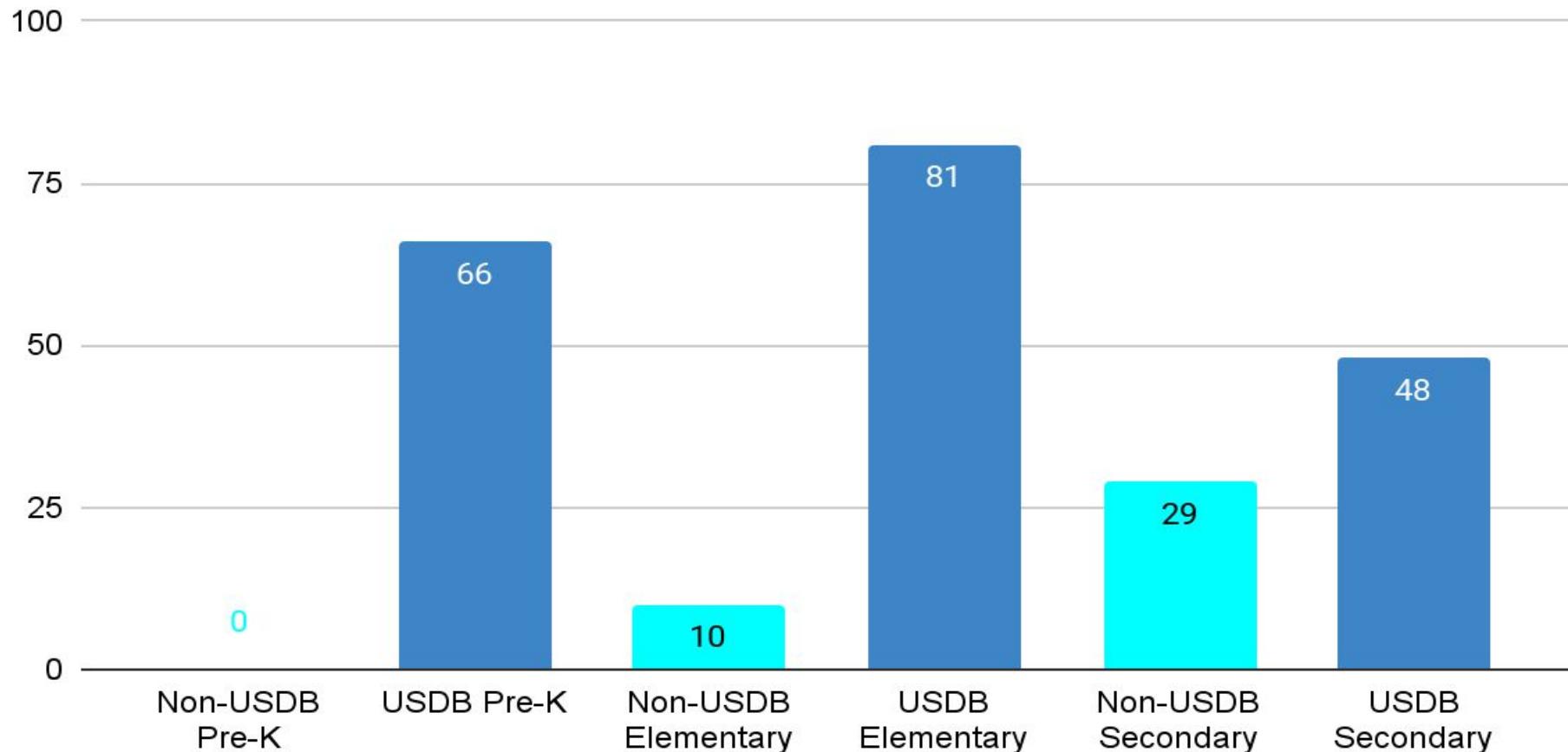
Camp (Elementary)

USD Family Day at the Living Planet Aquarium
USD Family Day at Thanksgiving Point
Craft Camp
Elementary Week of Fun
[Summer Art Camp](#)
Eccles Wildlife Center
Sports Camp
[Love Our Language Family Camp](#)
[Nature Excursions Camp](#)
Community Helpers Camp
Dinosaur Camp
[Hands On History Camp](#)
Nature Camp
Fishing at Cold Springs Trout Farm
[We are All Artists Camp](#)
Lower Elementary Summer Camp
Adaptive Swim Lessons
JR Chef Camp

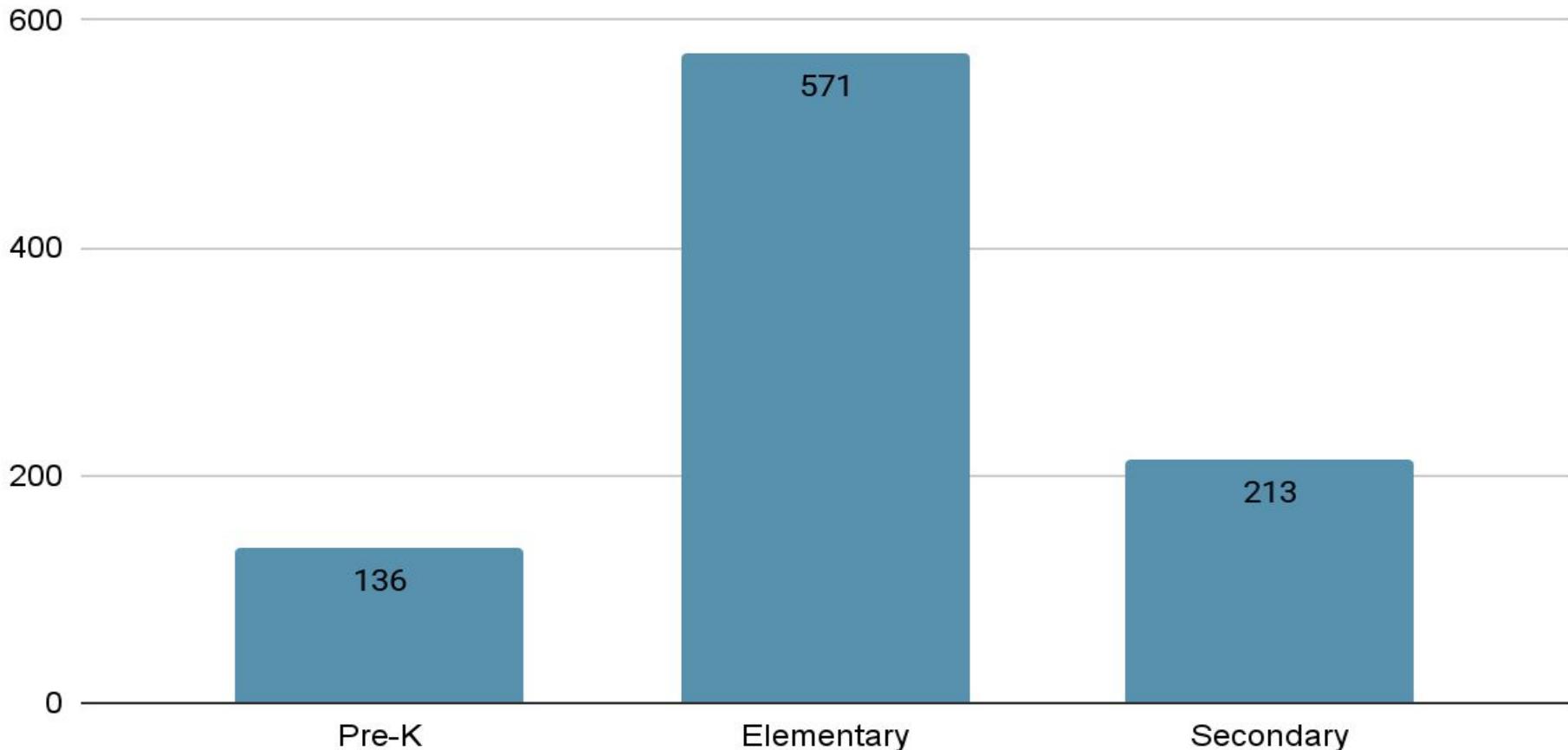
Camp (Secondary)

USD Family Soccer Day
Ruby Horsethief Rafting
Assortment of Fun
Love Our Language Family Camp
[Tall Ship Expedition](#)
Desolation Rafting
Cold Springs Trout Farm
[Sew Fun](#)
[Robotics Camp](#)
Adventure Camp at Crossroads Campground
Middle School Summer Drone Camp
Nature Excursions
Aviation Summer Camp
[USD Leadership Retreat](#)

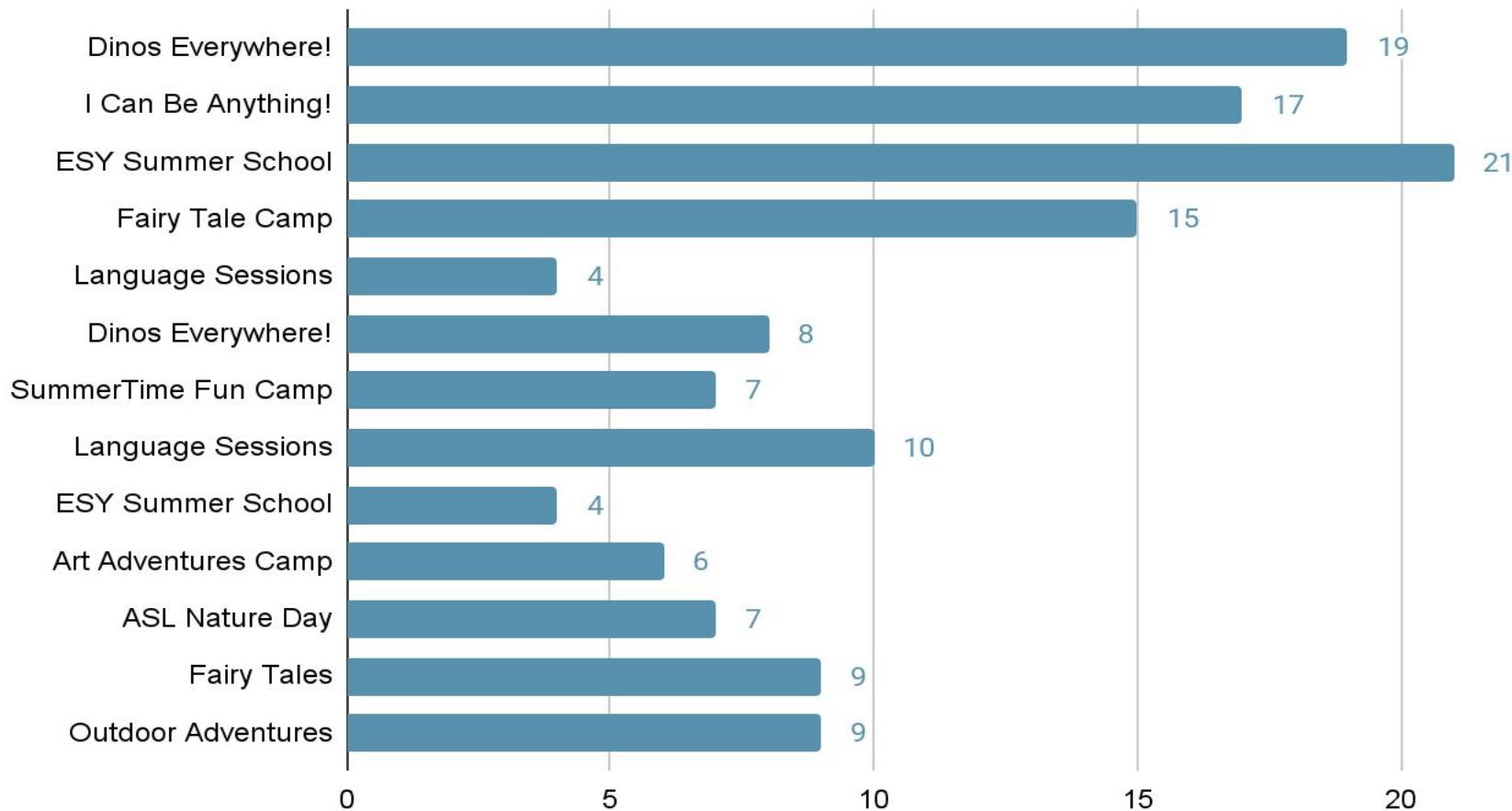
Summer Camps # Students Served Data 24-25



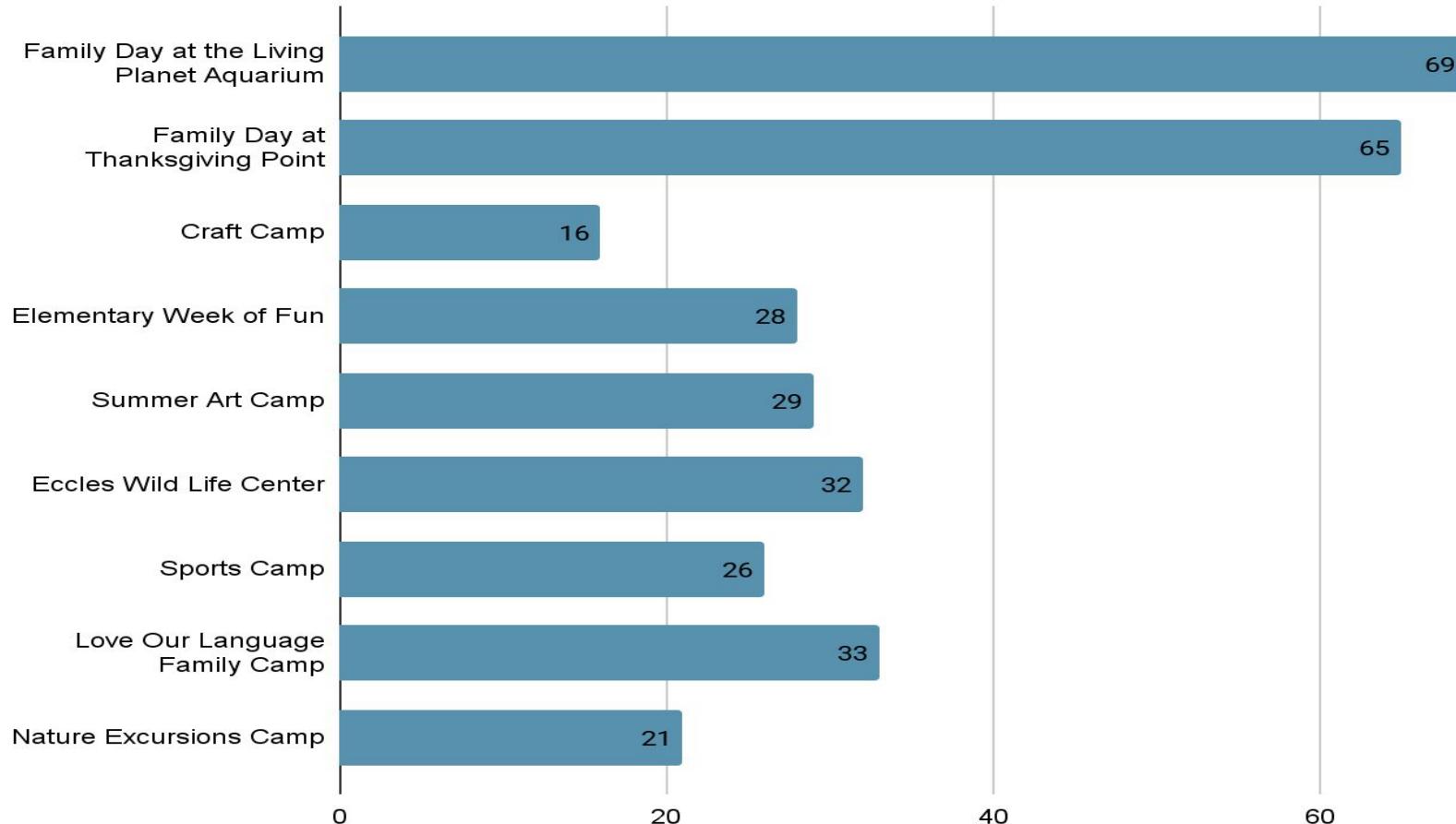
Summer Camps Registered Data 24-25



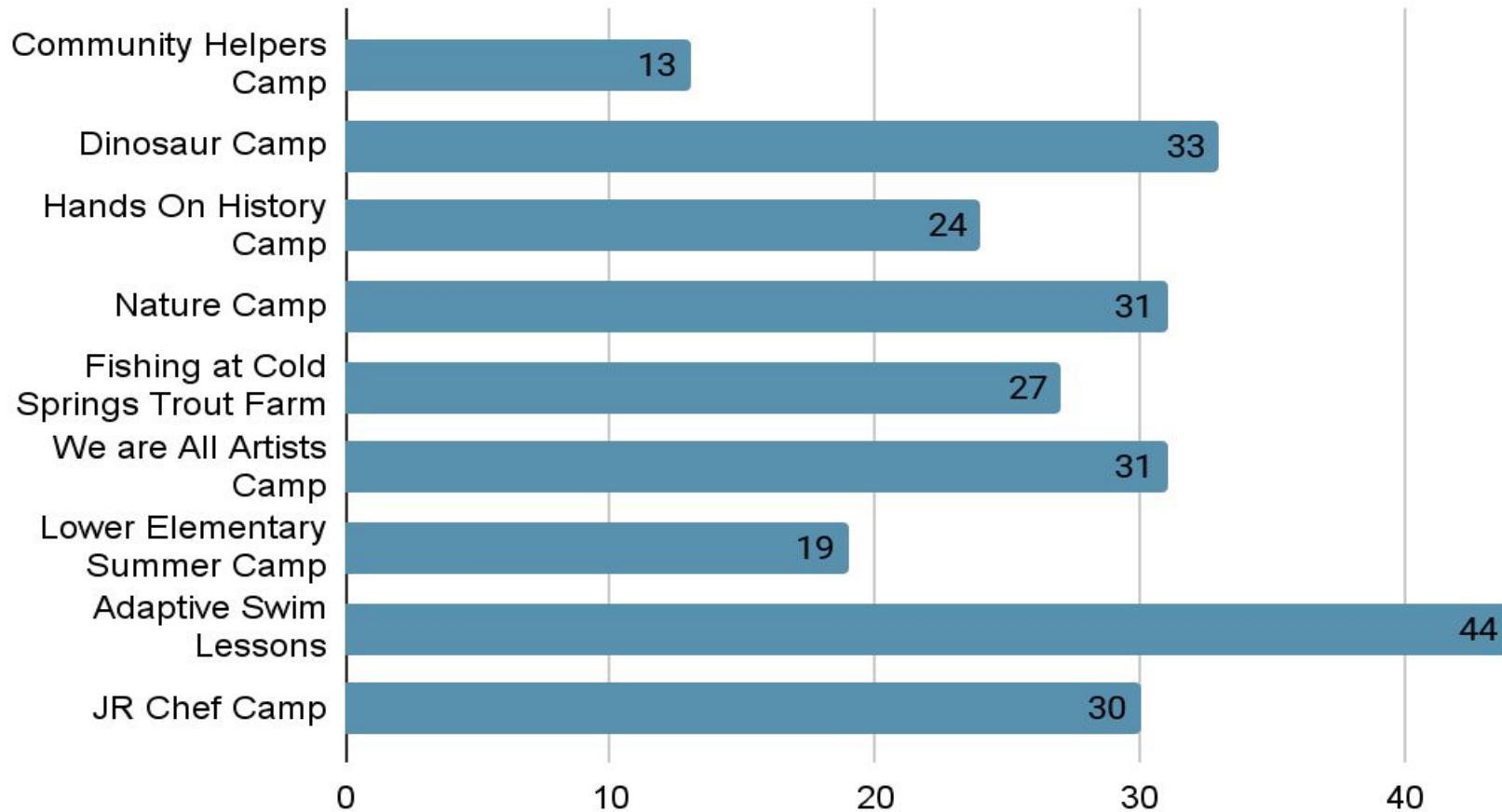
Pre-K Camps



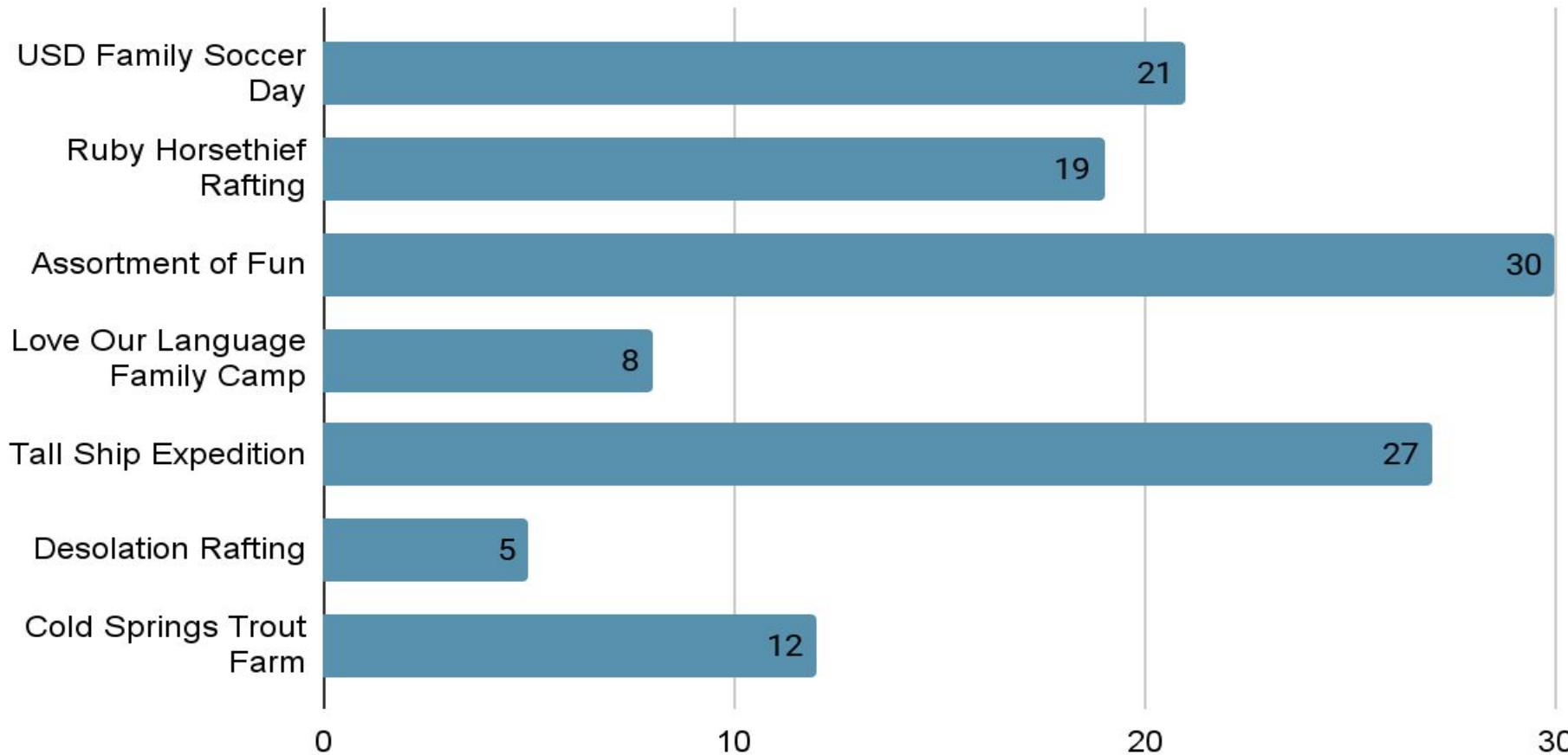
Elementary Camps



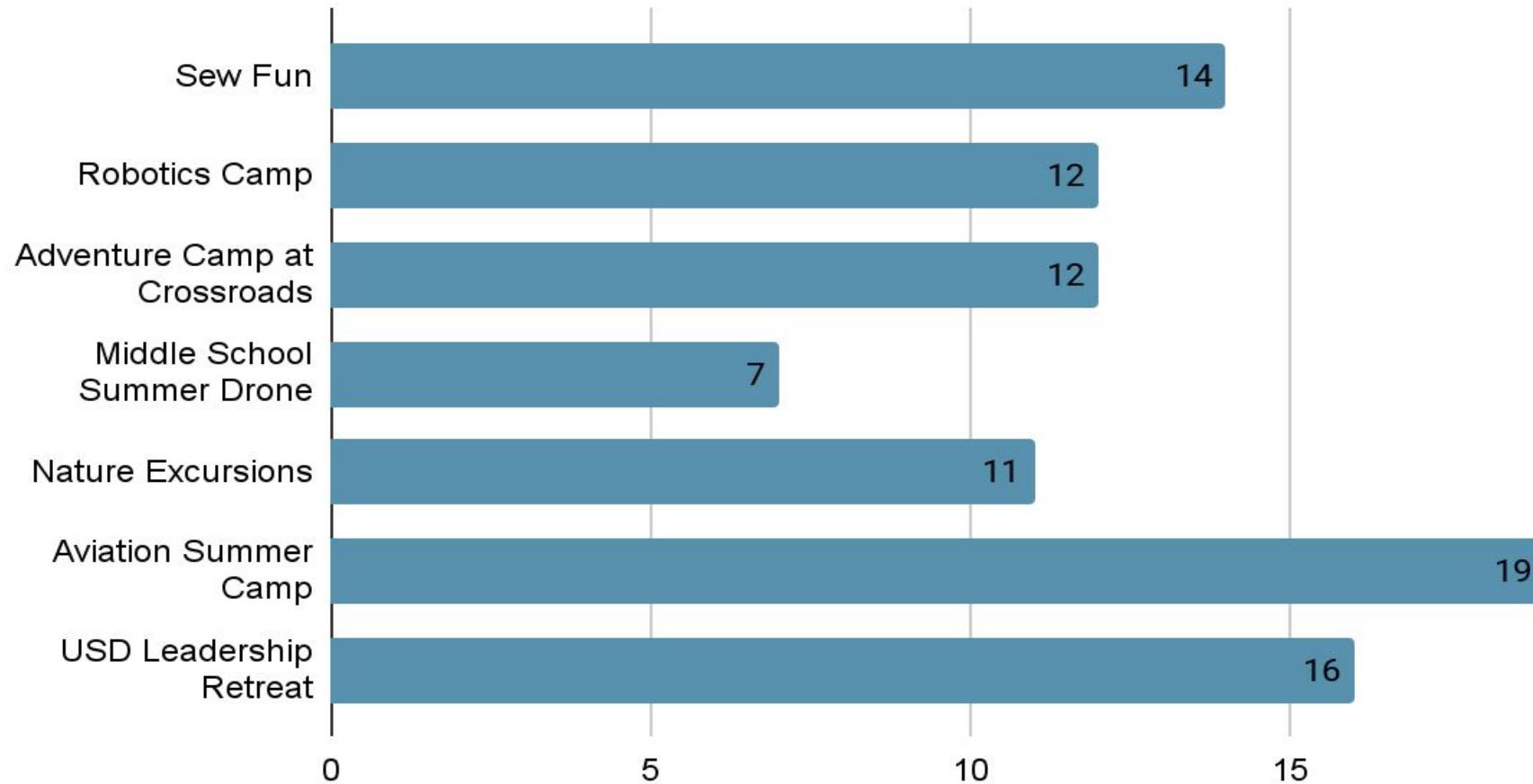
Elementary Camps



Secondary Camps



Secondary Camps



Summer Camps



Summer Camps



Summer Camps



Summer Camps

ANY QUESTIONS?