



## Frequently Asked Questions about The Bement School's English Language and Culture Summer Program

### **Who may apply?**

Our English Language and Culture (ELAC) program is a wonderful opportunity to strengthen individual English skills and then take advantage of outdoor activities. Our program is a blend of academic practice in the areas of reading, writing, grammar, reading comprehension, and oral communication, with summertime fun. We welcome applications from girls and boys ages 8-12 from all over the world!

### **Do I need an I-20 visa to study at Bement's ELAC program?**

ELAC students do not need to obtain an I-20 visa to participate at Bement's summer programs. Because our program has less an 18 hours per week of coursework and does not grant credit towards a degree, students are permitted to obtain a B-2 visitor visa. You can find more information on the visitor visa qualifications [here](#).

### **Will your program provide invitation letters for visa applications?**

The ELAC program director, Doc Potter, can provide you with an invitation letter if you need one for your visitor visa application. Please contact her using the information at the bottom of this page.

### **What is dormitory life like?**

We are delighted to have two spacious, modern dormitories for our boarders. Students have one, two, or three roommates. The building is air-conditioned for comfort during the summer months. There is one dorm parent on duty on each floor at all times. There are kitchens for preparing snacks, a computer for email, and a common room for relaxing and socializing. Each bedroom has a lofted bed, dressers, a desk and chair, and closet space.

### **Who will look after me during my stay at Bement?**

We have a team of teachers, dorm parents, and activities instructors eager to get to know our ELAC students. They will help with homework, take you on field trips, help you feel settled in the dormitories, and make you feel at home.

### **What should I wear?**

Dress is always casual and New England summers can be humid so shorts, sneakers or sandals, and lightweight shirts are all that is necessary. And don't forget your bathing suit!

Please contact Program Director Doc Potter with any questions.

[summer@bement.org](mailto:summer@bement.org)

413.774.7061

**What if I am homesick?**

Especially if this is your first time away from home, adjustments to new environments can be hard. Our staff is prepared to do their best at making you feel comfortable and safe. We also have a very busy schedule at Bement so that we can keep your mind on having fun!

**Will I have access to a telephone and email?**

There are dormitory telephones and computers available for internet service. You may bring a cell phone with you, but please know that cell phones may not be with you during your camp day. Your free time in the evening is the best time to get in touch with friends and family.

**Can my family visit me?**

Families are welcome to visit during a student's stay at Bement. Please understand in advance that our schedule is very busy and therefore it might be difficult to get in touch with and/or visit students. The best time to visit is during the afternoons before dinner so that students have returned from their activities with Adventure Camp.

**What will I study?**

We cover the four major components of study of the English language: speaking, listening, reading, and writing. Each student studies all four subject areas. Classes are small, with some homework.

**Will I earn grades in my courses?**

Parents and consultants will receive weekly updates from the summer programs director, as well as the teachers, via email and WeChat. Teachers will also prepare a thorough written assessment of each student's work during his or her time in the ELAC program. This will be emailed to parents and consultants at the end of the program. No letter or numerical grade is assigned to a student's achievement.

**What will I do after my classes are over in the afternoon and evening?**

When your morning classes are over, you and the other ELAC students will join Bement's summer camp programs for fun group activities. You can expect to participate in athletic activities like soccer, basketball, hiking, kickball, baseball, Capture the Flag, canoeing, and fishing. You will also take part in field trips to local attractions like mountains, lakes, beaches, zoos, and other interesting and exciting places in western Massachusetts. In the evenings, you will enjoy two on-campus late nights with other campers. On these nights, you will have a special dinner, watch a movie, and play games on campus in the evening. On other nights, you might have some time to relax in the dorm and work on homework, and you will also do fun activities like bowling and going to the movies.

**What will I do over the weekend?**

Weekends are a lot of fun at Bement! Activities will include a variety of activities and trips to local attractions. You will visit three New England states. You will go swimming, hiking, bowling, and other outdoor events. You will take trips to the movie theater, museums, a children's theater, and even an outdoor adventure park!

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### **What does a regular camp day look like?**

Here is what a typical daily schedule would be for a student in the ELAC program.

8:00 Continental Breakfast  
8:30 Morning Meeting  
9:00 Speaking and Listening  
10:30 Snack and Break  
10:45 Writing  
11:45 Reading  
12:30 Lunch  
1:00 Activities with Adventure Camp  
4:00 Workshops with a local historical society  
5:30 Dinner  
6:00 Study Hall  
7:30 Dorm Time  
9:00 Quiet time, then lights out

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