

Hello!

We're excited you will be joining us this summer for the Iowa Summer Journalism Workshops (also known as ISJW).

Here are some items to help you get prepared:

Check in and Check out:

Check in time is Sunday, July 12, 2026 from 3:30 pm to 4:45 pm in the main lobby of Catlett Hall, the residence hall where students will stay for the duration of the workshop. For those arriving to Iowa City on Interstate 80, take the Dubuque Street exit going south. Turn right on Church Street, which curves and turns into Clinton St. Look for Catlett Residence Hall, 350 North Madison Street, Iowa City, IA 52242.

The North Campus Parking Ramp is located just behind Burge Residence Hall, with access via Madison Street. If you park in this ramp, on level 4, you'll find the walkway to Catlett Residence Hall. The main desk where you'll check in is located at Entrance 11.

If you enter the Catlett from Madison Street, take the elevator to the third floor.

Check out time is Thursday, July 16, 2026 at Noon in Catlett Hall. However, if your family would like to attend the Closing Ceremony, they are welcome to attend! Please RSVP by July 1 with the number of family members (not including the camp participant) who will attend. The Closing Ceremony takes place 10:30-11:30 a.m. in Shambaugh Auditorium in the Main Library (address 125 West Washington St. Iowa City, IA 52242-1420). We'll be celebrating our accomplishments and friendships. There will be pizza and soda after the awards. Then everyone will head over to Catlett to check out. Everyone should be checked out of their rooms by 2:00 pm.

Early/Late Departure

If you will be arriving early or late to ISJW, be sure to let us know by June 23, 2026 and complete the early/late registration form so we can accommodate your needs and ensure a room is available outside of camp dates.

Special Travel Arrangements

If you are traveling by airplane, you will need to fly into the Cedar Rapids (CID) airport. If you need help with transportation to and from the Cedar Rapids Airport, please let us know and we will help you get from the airport to campus.

There is a Trailways Bus Station in Iowa City just a few blocks from campus. Here's a link to their website: <https://trailways.com/bus-station/iowa-city-ia/detail/>

Please email your travel details to Michelle Sillman (michelle-sillman@uiowa.edu) by June 23, 2026 if you're flying or arriving by bus. In your communications, include:

1. Time you'll arrive.
2. Flight/Trip numbers, etc.

Students Parking on Campus

Students who drive to ISJW and need to park cars while attending camp will need to purchase an on-campus parking pass, which is available on the registration page. Campers will not be allowed to drive during camp unless specific arrangements are made due to an appointment or other circumstance. You must contact the director, Michelle Sillman (michelle-sillman@uiowa.edu) as soon as you are aware of any appointments or reasons campers will need to leave during camp.

Parking in the City of Iowa City and in University of Iowa parking lots are controlled and enforced. If parking procedures are not followed and/or meters are not paid, vehicles may be ticketed or towed.

Suggested Items to Pack

- Cell phone and charger
- Alarm clock
- Comfortable walking shoes
- Umbrella
- Pocket change for purchasing small items (i.e. frozen yogurt) downtown during free time
- Pens/pencils
- Notebook/paper
- Towels (must not be white)
- Robe and shower shoes
- If you bring a pillow, make sure your pillowcase is not white
- Materials for your individual workshop (You'll receive a list prior to the workshop start date if the instructor requires anything specific.)

(FYI: We'll have computers to use in the labs during class time.)

Iowa Summer Journalism Workshop Rules and Procedures

We have compiled rules and procedures to protect the safety and welfare of our campers. All campers and their parents should read the [ISJW Rules and Procedures document](#) prior to attending camp.

Things You Can Do Now

Follow @IowaJournalism on Instagram! Our camp counselors will be posting to our account as we prepare for your arrival!

Catlett Residence Hall

The residence hall students are staying in is Catlett. It's located at 350 North Madison Street, Iowa City, IA 52242. Rooms are air-conditioned. Sheets, a pillow, pillowcases, and bedspread (blankets upon request) will be provided, but if students prefer, they may bring their own. To avoid confusion with residence hall linens, we recommend that students not bring white bedding. You must bring your own towels. The towels must not be white. As is common in college residence halls, bathrooms are located down the hall from the student rooms; students may wish to bring bathrobes and waterproof sandals to wear to and from the showers. All university furniture provided in the rooms at check-in must remain in each room throughout summer camp. Students will be issued a room key, which must be returned to the residence hall at checkout. Students who don't return their keys will be charged \$35.

[More information about Catlett Hall.](#)

[Catlett Residence Hall Virtual Tour](#)

Dietary Needs

All the information you need to know about menu items at Burge Market Place is on the [Burge Market Place Website](#). Questions regarding nutrition and allergy information should be directed to University Housing and Dining Nutrition specialist, Laura at laura-croteau-lopez@uiowa.edu before July 1.

All meals will be provided during camp and are included in the cost of camp. There will be snacks during the day in the ISJW main office and during the evening at the residence hall.

I will be sending out a parent letter in late May. There is an [FAQ page on the ISJW website](#), where you can find more information. Contact Michelle Sillman (michelle-sillman@uiowa.edu) with any questions or concerns. We're looking forward to fun, activity-packed workshops this summer!

—Best,

Michelle Sillman, SJMC, University of Iowa

Michelle-sillman@uiowa.edu

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