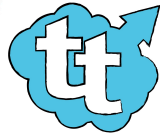




in partnership with TomTod Ideas



presents:



camp What if AKRON

*The ideas you hear today are the product of the imaginations of middle schoolers and of a variety of experiential learning opportunities encountered throughout **Camp What If: Akron**. You will find a schedule overview below that provides some of the highlights of the week:*

Monday

LAB SESSION 1: CWHAAH (COMMUNITY-WIDE-HUMAN-ADVENTURE-HUNT)

A scavenger hunt of a variety of significant sites throughout downtown Akron with a particular focus on arts, business, communications, entrepreneurship and more. We ended the CWHAAH at [Lock 3](#) and then headed back to Summit Lake for a tasty, local lunch (check out the Food section on the back for all the amazing, local restaurants we had the privilege of trying out throughout the week. Tasty food is definitely an Akron asset!

LAB SESSIONS 2 AND 3

Learning Labs were experiential field trips throughout Akron, connecting campers with community leaders and core organizations. We jumped right in on Monday with labs that included:

- [Shanti Farms](#)
- [South Street Ministries](#)
- [Middlebury Neighborhood](#)
- [Summit Lake Community Center](#)
- [Akron Public Library](#)
- [S3 Technologies](#)

REFLECTIONS & CONNECTIONS

Each day we spent time reflecting and connecting on our experiences, considering the strengths and challenges of the community and imagining what we might create together.

Tuesday

LAB SESSIONS 4, 5 AND 6

Tuesday was a full day, with lots of Labs and other fun activities. Tuesday's labs included:

- [Akron Children's Museum](#)
- [NightLight Cinema](#)
- [Devil Strip Newspaper](#)
- [Northside Marketplace](#)
- [Dirty River Bicycle Works](#)
- [Summit Artspace](#)
- [Akron Recreation & Parks](#)
- [North Akron Community Development Corporation](#)
- [First Glance Student Center](#)
- [Just A Dad From Akron](#)

wednesday

SIP (SPEEDY INTERVIEW PLUNGE)

Interviewing community leaders, "speed dating" style! Campers created the questions and then groups rotated in seven minute blasts to fire away!

Guests:

- [Dan Whitaker](#), Summit Education Initiative
- [Byron Delpinal](#), Torchbearers
- [Brian Hollingsworth](#), Akron Children's Hospital
- [Megan Kleidon](#), Red Oak Behavioral Health
- [Demetrius Falconer](#), Summit Lake Metro Parks
- [Vish Bhatt](#), United Way of Summit County
- [Sharon Connor](#), Ward 10 Council Member
- [Jessica Holbrook](#), [Abbey Marshall](#), & [H.L. Comeriato](#), The Devil Strip

Wednesday continued...

LAB SESSION 7

For our Wednesday lab we went as one big group to

- [Akron City Government](#)

There, campers had the chance to meet council members and sit in council chambers, converse with members of the Mayor's Cabinet, and meet with a representative of the Akron Police Department.

GAMES, PROCESSING & IDEATING

We spent the remainder of Wednesday afternoon engaging in activities helping us consider what we had learned and also started our first round of ideation. By the end of the day, we had oodles of ideas that we hoped could enhance the common good & we capped the day off with fun games.

Thursday

PROCESSING & IDEATING

From 200+ ideas, we whittled down to our top 20 favorites, then our top 5, taking part in a series of brainstorming activities such as "Yes, and..." With the final top 5, we researched and explored what could be before everyone ranked the final pitch groups they wanted to be in. We did all this while getting to explore a new space to us that had been our neighbors all week, the [Reach Opportunity Center at Summit Lake](#).

LAB SESSION 8

On Thursday we had our final lab where we had the opportunity to explore the [Ohio Erie Canal Park](#).

Friday

IDEATION

With our final ideas in mind, today was spent putting meat on their bones. We scheduled meetings and traveled back to various places we had visited earlier in the week to pick the brains of community partners in the know. Campers took all of the information and formed it into final presentations that we're sharing with you now!

Thank You's!

FOOD

Throughout the week, we enjoyed meals from a variety of local restaurants:

DIAMOND DELI, NEPALI KITCHEN, STACHIA'S ALMOST FAMOUS WINGS, HAMAD'S ON MAIN, SPAGHETTI WAREHOUSE, and SANABEL MIDDLE EAST BAKERY

SPACE

We're incredibly grateful to [the Summit Lake Community Center](#) for letting us take over their multi-use room and gym! We used the space throughout the week as our home base & ideation lab.

FUNDERS

[The City of Akron](#) is proud to offer this camp to middle schoolers in our community, empowering young people as engaged citizens today, tomorrow, and for years to come.

CAMP WHAT IF / TOMTOD TEAM

The team behind Camp What If includes year-round TomTod team members, as well as seasonal teammates. We had a blast as co-learners and co-explorers with our incredible campers and thank parents for the privilege of getting to know their campers over the week and are grateful to the community of Akron for the many ways in which they partnered with us in investing in middle schoolers this week!

Year-round TomTod Team:

Patrick Gerber, Zane Sanders, Kayla DeVitto, Amy Ropp, Joel Daniel Harris

Summer Teammates:

Walker Collins, Kaley Weaver, Lee Hubbard, Kassie Ketchum, Makenzie Yoder

IDEA SUMMARIES: WEEK 1

We had five exciting ideas pitched by campers at our closing program for the first week of Camp What If: Akron:

Positivity Finding App:

An app that sends positive messages and mental health tips based on your need and connects you with local friends, mentors, and mental health resources.

The Hype Canvas

An online platform that allows middle schoolers to design and create social media posts, advertisements, and design swag for local artists and small businesses, specifically local artists and entrepreneurs of color.

Sensory / Mental Health Park

A new Akron park designed for the specific needs of people who are on the autism spectrum and that promotes mental health through games and playground elements that teach appropriate coping skills.

Middle School Children's Museum

A unique space for the Akron Children's Museum that would include stations for middle schoolers to create and places for them to display their creations (like Fashion Station - Sewing Cosplay Costumes, VR Station and 360 video creator, and Anime / Comic Book Creation Station.)

DIY Adventure Park

A park that always changes because it is always rebuilt by its visitors. Parts of the park would include a DIY build-your-own-fort section for nerf battles, a DIY obstacle course creation station, and a DIY splash pad.

NEXT STEPS:

We have two more weeks of camps with new campers each week. Once our camps are completed, we will evaluate all ideas created, further connect with campers, and determine which ideas to move forward with.