

## 2026 WTS CAPITAL SUMMIT FAQs

### WHAT IS THE WTS FOUNDATION?

The [WTS Foundation](https://www.wtsinternational.org) is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization (Federal ID Number is 26-4058230) dedicated to advancing women in the transportation industry through education, research, and career development opportunities.

Established in 2009, the Foundation supports initiatives that expand access to transportation careers and encourage students to explore opportunities in engineering, planning, policy, infrastructure, and mobility innovation.

The Capital Summit is one of the signature programs supported by the WTS Foundation through the **Transportation YOU initiative**.

### WHAT IS THE CAPITAL SUMMIT?

The WTS Capital Summit is a week-long leadership and career exploration program designed to introduce high school students to careers in transportation.

The program connects students with transportation professionals, government leaders, and university students who are beginning careers in the field. Participants gain exposure to real-world transportation systems, leadership development, and professional networking opportunities.

Students attend alongside professional mentors who support their learning throughout the week.

The Summit includes:

- transportation industry tours
- professional development sessions
- leadership activities
- networking with transportation professionals
- experiential learning opportunities



## WHERE AND WHEN WILL THE 2026 SUMMIT BE HELD?

**Dates:** June 20 – June 26, 2026

**Location:** [University of Maryland, College Park](#) .

Participants will stay on the University of Maryland campus and travel to various transportation institutions in the Washington, DC region.

## WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?

The Summit includes several participant categories:

### **Student Mentees**

High school students who have completed 9th grade through recent high school graduates are eligible to participate.

Students typically participate through a local WTS Chapter and attend the Summit alongside a professional mentor.

### **Professional Mentors**

Mentors are transportation professionals who guide and support student participants throughout the program.

Mentors may apply individually and may also apply alongside student mentees they are sponsoring.

### **Program Staff and Facilitators**

WTS staff and industry volunteers support program activities, tours, and student engagement during the Summit.

## DO STUDENTS NEED TO BE PART OF A TRANSPORTATION YOU PROGRAM?

Mentors are transportation professionals who guide and support student participants throughout the program.

Mentors may apply individually and may also apply alongside student mentees they are sponsoring.

## WHAT IS THE DEADLINE TO APPLY TO THE SUMMIT?

The deadline to apply is Tuesday **March 31, 2026**.

## WHEN WILL APPLICANTS BE NOTIFIED OF ACCEPTANCE?

Participants will be notified of their application status by: **April 8, 2026**

Accepted participants will receive instructions for completing the registration and onboarding process.

## WHAT HAPPENS AFTER A PARTICIPANT IS ACCEPTED?

Following acceptance, participants will complete a registration and onboarding process that includes submitting required program documentation and attending a Orientation Session.

Participants will be asked to provide:

- emergency contact information
- medical information
- dietary restrictions
- program consent forms
- media release forms
- liability waivers for certain activities

Participants will also receive program information, orientation materials, and preparation guidance prior to the Summit.

## WHAT DOES THE PROGRAM INCLUDE?

The Summit includes a mix of classroom sessions, leadership development activities, and tours of transportation organizations and infrastructure.

Participants may visit institutions such as:

- U.S. Department of Transportation
- Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA)
- airports and aviation facilities
- transportation engineering firms
- infrastructure and transit operations centers
- government institutions in Washington, DC

The program emphasizes exposure to transportation careers across multiple disciplines including engineering, planning, policy, mobility innovation, and infrastructure development.

## WHAT ARE THE PROGRAM COSTS?

The cost to participate in the Capital Summit varies based on the number of students attending with a mentor.

### Program fees are as follows:

- Mentor: \$2,000
- Student 1: \$2,000
- Student 2: \$1,500
- Student 3: \$1,000

### Program fees include:

- Housing accommodations
- Meals during the program
- Program materials
- Transportation during program activities

Travel to and from the Summit is typically coordinated by the sponsoring WTS Chapter or participant organization.

## WHERE WILL STUDENTS STAY DURING THE PROGRAM?

Student participants will stay in supervised residence halls at the **University of Maryland, College Park**.

Housing supervision includes:

- WTS program staff
- program mentors
- designated program supervisors

Dormitories are secured and accessible only to authorized participants.

## WHERE WILL MENTORS STAY DURING THE PROGRAM?

Professional mentors will be accommodated at the **College Park Marriott Hotel & Conference Center** during the program.

Resident Advisors (RAs) will stay on campus in the University of Maryland residence halls alongside students to support supervision and program operations.

## HOW IS TRANSPORTATION HANDLED DURING THE PROGRAM?

Transportation for scheduled program activities and tours will be coordinated by the Summit planning team.

Participants are responsible for arranging their travel to and from the University of Maryland campus.

## WILL THERE BE PRE-SUMMIT ORIENTATION SESSIONS?

Yes. Students, mentors, RAs, and parents/guardians will be invited to participate in **pre-Summit orientation sessions** prior to the program.

These sessions help participants:

- understand the program schedule
- review expectations and safety guidelines
- prepare for the Summit experience

## HOW ARE MENTORS VETTED?

Mentors who interact directly with student participants will be required to complete background verification procedures prior to the program.

These measures help ensure a safe and supportive environment for student participants.

## WHAT FORMS ARE REQUIRED FOR STUDENT PARTICIPATION?

Student participants will be required to complete several forms prior to the Summit, including:

- parent or guardian consent form
- medical information form
- dietary restrictions form
- media release form
- liability waivers for certain activities

These forms help ensure participant safety and program coordination.

## HOW CAN ORGANIZATIONS SPONSOR THE CAPITAL SUMMIT?

Interested in sponsoring? Please email: [alyssa@wtsinternational.org](mailto:alyssa@wtsinternational.org) with the subject line **“2026 Capital Summit Sponsorship.”**

## WHO CAN I CONTACT WITH ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS?

For questions about the Capital Summit, please contact:

**WTS Foundation** Email: [oliviarrussell@wtsinternational.org](mailto:oliviarrussell@wtsinternational.org)