



DIVISION OF
STUDENT AFFAIRS
CONFERENCES & VISITOR SERVICES

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ANOTHER WIN FOR UMD !

*University of Maryland, College Park Named Planner's Choice for Youth Retreats & Camps
in the Unique Venues Planner's Choice Awards*

COLLEGE PARK, MD – The University of Maryland is proud to announce that they took home the Planner's Choice award in the category "Youth Retreats & Camps".

The Planner's Choice Awards, sponsored by Unique Venues, recognizes the standout campuses, conference and business centers, sports arenas, historical and cultural venues, camps and retreat centers, and other special event venues that made a lasting impression on guests. More than 20,000 meeting planners that regularly use the services provided by Unique Venues to connect with non-traditional spaces voted in a total of 15 categories.

The University of Maryland offers unparalleled options for youth groups, including a suburban location near the nation's capital with two-layer security and 8,000 beds plus dining halls where younger attendees can convene together. "Each summer, sports camps run by Big Ten Conference coaches combine with college immersion, special studies, and STEAM programs to create a thriving campus," said Joseph E. Criscuoli, Marketing, Sales, Publications & Outreach Coordinator for the Conferences & Visitor Services department at the university.

One of the most notable is the Maryland Field Hockey Camp, held at UMD's state-of-the-art field hockey turf facility since 1995 with instruction from current and former National & Olympic team members. "Our ropes challenge course, rock climbing wall, ice cream socials from the Maryland Dairy, and TerpZone facility are 'must-do' add-ons for any youth program," adds Criscuoli. The university can also provide in-house motor coach charters that make ground transportation to nearby Annapolis, Baltimore, and Washington, D.C. a breeze for additional educational components.

The announcement of this award marks the fifth time in the past seven years that the university has been named the best venue in the nation for Youth Programming, having previously won this award in 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019.

With the announcement of this award, the Conferences & Visitor Services department has now brought fourteen Unique Venues Awards to the University in the past eight years.

2015	Winner	"Most Easily Accessed Venue"
	Runner-Up	"Best Venue for Tradeshow/Exhibits"
2016	Winner	"Best Suburban/Urban Venue"
	Winner	"Best Venue for Youth/Sports Camps"
2017	Winner	"Best Venue for Unique or Locally Sourced Catering"
	Winner	"Best Venue for Youth/Sports Camps"
2018	Winner	"Best Venue for Youth/Sports Groups"
	Runner-Up	"Best High-Tech Venue"
2019	Winner	"Best Venue for Youth Retreats & Camps"
	Runner-Up	"Best Venue for Weddings"
2020	Winner	"Best Venue for Weddings"
2021	Winner	"Best Venue for Locally Sourced Catering"
	Runner-Up	"Best Venue for Weddings"
2022	Winner	"Best Venue for Youth Retreats & Camps"

About Conferences & Visitor Services

Conferences & Visitor Services (C&VS) is a unit in the Division of Student Affairs at the University of Maryland. C&VS is a one-stop shop that coordinates campus meeting facilities and the services of university departments for conferences and events during both the summer and the academic year. In addition, C&VS offers meeting planning and registration services to programs hosted by the University of Maryland.

About Unique Venues

Unique Venues has been the go-to source for non-conventional meeting and event venues, and the planners looking for them, for the past 30 years. The marketing and membership company has grown to be the largest online database in the U.S. and Canada with member venues including colleges and universities, historical and cultural venues, arenas and stadiums, camps and retreat centers, conferences and business centers and other special event venues. Services include free RFP submissions, assisted searches and a quarterly magazine distribution that help planners find the perfect fit every time.

About University of Maryland, College Park

The University of Maryland, College Park is the state's flagship university and one of the nation's preeminent public research universities. A global leader in research, entrepreneurship and innovation, the university is home to more than 40,000 students, 9,000 faculty and staff, and 250 academic programs. Its faculty includes two Nobel laureates, six Pulitzer Prize winners, 62 members of the national academies and 54 Fulbright scholars. For more information about the University of Maryland, College Park, visit www.umd.edu.