



ID CAMP DO'S AND DON'TS

College ID Camps continue to become a more prominent fixture in the soccer recruiting landscape. Many college programs use these events to identify and evaluate players for their programs. Given New Mexico's geographic isolation, these camps can sometimes be one of the only ways to get on a college coaches radar. With so many colleges/universities hosting ID camps, many families aren't sure how best to proceed.

Here is some important general information to be aware of:

- Being invited to a College ID Camp does not mean that the coach has any specific interest in you. Colleges send out invites to all players that they have email addresses for.
- ID camps can be a great way to get yourself noticed by the college coaches participating in that camp.
- When the coach to player ratio is a small one, these camps can also be an opportunity for the player and coach to get to know each other's personalities and styles and to build relationships with the coach.
- Camps on college campuses can provide you with the additional benefit of being able to take part in a campus tour and get a better sense of the overall experience at that college.
- In general, ID camps aren't great player development environments. They are designed and formatted to maximize the opportunity for college coaches to evaluate players.

Advice to consider as you determine if an ID camp is right for you:

- It is most beneficial to participate in an ID camp when a player has researched colleges and identified a particular school as one that is a strong/best match with their interests beyond soccer.
- Prioritize attending ID camps at the colleges you are most interested in that are not as likely to have the chance to see you play in club games/showcases. For example, nearby colleges/universities may already have the opportunity to see you play regularly.
- Some ID camps have coaches participating from multiple colleges - is there a camp where more than one college you have a strong interest in is attending.
- The college recruiting timeline is different for programs at different levels: NCAA Division 1 national powers vs reach vs others, NCAA Division 2, NCAA Division 3, NAIA and NJCAA. Attending an ID camp too early or late for that college's recruiting timeline is not an efficient use of your resources. Reach out to your Rio Rapids SC coach to get advice in this area.
- Do your homework/due diligence before attending ID camps organized and run by a 3rd party. Unlike a college hosted/run ID camp, their primary motivation is to make a profit. Be sure to ask in-depth questions like what coaches are guaranteed to attend, how much time you will get to work with coaches in attendance, which coaches will be observing you play and what recourse you have if the coach you wanted to be seen by changes their plans to participate.

A reminder to be sure to review your College ID Camp plans with your Rio Rapids SC coach before making any final decisions to help you maximize the benefit of your ID camp investment. All the best to you as you navigate the college search process!