The United Nations Summer Camp: Sustainable Development Goals in Action, is a four day summer camp for middle school students interested in learning about global affairs through the work of the United Nations. The program will give students an opportunity to participate in interactive expert briefings, games, and activities, while honing key skills and collaborating with their peers along the way. Participants will step into the shoes of diplomats as they work together to study the Sustainable Development Goals, learn public speaking tips and strategies, and make new friends while having fun! The Council's United Nations Summer Camp ends with a field trip to New York City including a tour of the United Nations and a briefing with a UN representative. This program welcomes all students in grades 6-8, regardless of their familiarity with the United Nations or Model United Nations.

Day 1: Monday

Introductions to Staff, Students, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.  Morning Meeting - Welcome Breakfast, Introduction, and Preview of the Week's Activities
World Affairs Council of Philadelphia staff and interns greet students with a welcome breakfast and introduce the weeklong program. Students are then assigned an icebreaker activity.

9:30 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.  Icebreaker Activity
Students partake in a short icebreaker activity as an introduction to this year’s cohort.

10:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.  Break

10:30 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.  Activity - Introduction to the United Nations and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
Interactive presentation led by Council staff that introduces in detail to students the founding, mission, and work of the United Nations, with specific focus on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Students will also begin to explore the concept of “think globally, act locally,” which will be a consistent frame in their work on the program topic throughout the rest of the week.
11:15 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Break

11:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Expert Speaker Briefing - Continued Introduction to the UN and SDGs
Expert Speaker presentation providing an overview of the program topic, including historical context, contemporary challenges and opportunities, and examples of the SDGs in action.
(Potential to host a virtual briefing from an expert associated with a UN agency)

12:15 p.m. – 12:45 p.m. SDG Action Plan Project Prep
Students will work in small groups to begin their work in crafting their SDG Action Plans by choosing one “People Focus” goal and one “Planet Focus” goal each to base their projects on for the remainder of the program. Students will ultimately present their finalized plans to the whole group on one of the last program days.

12:45 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. Daily Wrap
Opportunity for questions and group reflection on the day’s topics. Review agenda for tomorrow and what students should have prepared.

Day 2: Tuesday
People Focus - How the SDGs Impact Humans

9:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. Morning Meeting – Debrief from Yesterday and Preview of Today’s Activities

9:15 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Expert Speaker Briefing - SDGs in Local Action: Human Impact
Expert speaker presentation focused on positive, impactful work in the Philadelphia area related to the SDGs, with an emphasis on the program day’s “people focus.” Potential topics include poverty, gender equality, and education.

10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. Break

10:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. Activity - Murals Visit and SDGs in Philadelphia
Council staff will lead students on an interactive walking tour to murals in Center City Philadelphia that feature themes related to the SDGs. Students will utilize journal-style worksheets to reflect on the murals throughout the walking tour.

11:45 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Break

12:00 p.m. - 12:45 p.m. Activity - Visualizing the SDGs
Council Staff lead students in an activity centered around depictions of the SDGs, either in visual or storytelling form. Students practice public speaking skills by sharing their work with the rest of the group.

12:45 p.m. - 1:15 p.m. SDG Action Plan Project Prep
Students continue group work on their SDG Action Plans.

1:15 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Daily Wrap-up
Opportunity for questions and group reflection on the day’s topics. Review agenda for tomorrow and what students should have prepared.

Day 3: Wednesday
Planet Focus - How the SDGs Impact the Planet

9:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.  Morning Meeting – Debrief from Yesterday and Preview of Today’s Activities

9:15 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.  Expert Speaker Briefing - SDGs in Local Action: Planet Impact
Expert speaker presentation focused on positive, impactful work in the Philadelphia area related to the SDGs, with an emphasis on the program day’s “planet focus.” Potential topics include climate change, renewable energy, and water systems.

10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.  Break

10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.  Activity - SDG Debate
Students participate in a structured debate related to an SDG-focused topic and must work in their assigned teams to convince a panel of judges that their team has the most convincing argument.

11:15 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.  Break

11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  SDG Action Plan Prep & Presentations
Students finalize their SDG Action Plans and present their plans to the other groups.

1:00 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.  Daily Wrap-up
Opportunity for questions and group reflection on the day’s topics. Review agenda for tomorrow and what students should have prepared.

Day 4: Thursday
Trip to the United Nations Headquarters (New York City)

7:00 - 7:15 a.m.  Student arrival at departure location

7:15 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.  Travel by bus to New York City

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.  Tour of United Nations with Educator

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  Briefing with United Nations Policymaker or Staff

12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.  Lunch and Travel to Next Venue

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.  Additional Activity or Briefing

3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.  Travel by bus back to Philadelphia