Send your kids away, but not too far away

By Judy Sutton Chicago Tribune

NIU Jazz Camp

Those who admire the insane work ethic on display in the Oscar hopeful "Whiplash" might not be totally satisfied with Northern Illinois University's overnight Jazz Camp, but at least they'll get to study beside some of the state's great jazz luminaries. The camp, about an hour and a half's drive west of the city, features master classes taught by NIU's jazz faculty but is open to players of all skill levels. Students get assigned to a big band or jazz combo; they could find themselves learning the fineries of Afro-Cuban jazz. Early registration is encouraged, as the camp usually fills up in March. For students in grades 8-12.

Registration: Open now.

Camp dates: July 12-July 17. Sunday check-in 12:15-2 p.m. Checkout at 5 p.m. Friday, following the 3 p.m. final concert.

Where: Northern Illinois University, 1425 W. Lincoln Highway, DeKalb (niu.edu/extprograms/summer_camps/JazzCamp.shtml).

Cost: $585 ($525 if paid before June 2).

Freelance writer Tyler Leeds contributed the NIU Jazz Camp listing.