

St. Thomas More Newman Center

Campus Ministry Peer Ministry Program:

Campus Ministry Theological Exploration of Vocation Program (CMTEV)

Information Packet

Introduction

The purpose of the campus ministry peer ministry program at the Newman Center is to provide an opportunity for 3-6 undergraduate students to gain experience in various areas of pastoral ministry, discern their vocation, and enable students to explore the possibility of a call to professional ministry in the church. Campus ministry peer ministers engage in biweekly formation sessions, supervised ministry that promotes ministerial growth and spiritual development, as well as offers opportunities for practical ministry experiences. Each peer minister collaborates with his/her supervisory staff member to build and conduct ministry within particular ministerial areas. Opportunities for ongoing spiritual formation, ministerial skill development and vocational discernment are a key part of the peer ministry program. This program is sponsored and fully funded from a grant from the Lilly Endowment, as part of the Campus Ministry Theological Exploration of Vocation Program (CMTEV).

Program Outcomes

Campus ministry peer ministers will encounter a broad range of ministerial experiences where they can develop discernment skills, professional ministerial competencies and practice pastoral ministry skills. Campus Ministry interns will have the opportunity to:

- Learn the process of discernment and practice discernment skills
- Discern one's vocational calling in the Church and world
- Serve in a particular area of ministry based upon the student peer minister's interests
- Develop ability to work with a team
- Cultivate leadership in others and develop community among those served
- Improve one's leadership capabilities and develop small group leadership skills
- Plan, organize and lead ministry programs
- Seek, evaluate and utilize feedback from supervisors
- Appreciate and function in both program and presence modes of ministry
- Learn to set appropriate ministerial boundaries, manage time and set priorities
- Develop an appreciation for and an ability to maintain personal spirituality in ministry
- Participate in theological reflection that enriches ministerial effectiveness
- Develop an understanding of professional ministry and opportunities to serve in the Church

Formation

Campus ministry peer ministers will meet with his/her supervisory staff member on a bi-weekly basis. The purpose of these bi-weekly meetings is for the peer minister to discuss ministry experiences with his/her supervisor, to participate in theological reflection, discern one's vocational calling, identify areas of growth and design applications in ministry to practice and strengthen ministry skills and competencies.

As part of formation, peer ministers will all participate in the *ESTEEM Leadership Program*, sponsored by the National Leadership Roundtable on Church Management. As part of this, peer ministers will be provided a community mentor from our Newman Center community to connect with 3 times a semester. If a peer minister has already completed ESTEEM, alternative formation opportunities will be offered. Peer ministers will also participate two formative retreats: a *Discernment Evening of Reflection Retreat* and the *BuckeyeWorks Leadership Retreat*. They also will be formation sessions a few times a semester on topics of vocational discernment and service in the Church. Prayer, both individual and communal prayer, is essential to this time of formation.

Areas of Ministry

Campus ministry peer ministers will have an opportunity, as part of the application process, to interview with staff members at the Newman Center to discern your gifts and where you feel called to serve in the Newman Center community. These involvements could include, and are not limited to:

- Service Trips
- Liturgical/Music Ministries
- Retreats
- Faith Formation
- Social Concerns Ministries
- Sacramental Preparation Ministries
- RCIA
- Development, Finance and Fundraising
- Residence Life or Neighborhood Ministry
- Children and Teen Ministries
- Small Groups and Bible Studies
- Communications and Social Media
- Direct student programming and initiatives

Stipend and Time Commitment

The peer minister position would be one that demands a great deal of commitment. The program would not only be an agreement to provide a service to the Newman Center community, but to engage in a yearlong experience of spiritual and personal growth and formation as Christian leaders with fellow ministers. Each peer minister will be compensated a gross sum of \$3,000 as an employee of the Newman Center for their nine month commitment to the program. The program runs from mid-August through the end of April. Peer ministers will work, on average, 6-8 hours per week. This expected time commitment to fulfill ministry responsibilities may also include participating on retreats or service trips. Because we know that your academics are a priority and your involvement with the Newman Center will be a serious commitment, peer ministers are asked not be already committed to being a missionary with Saint Paul's Outreach (SPO), living in SPO's household program or involved in SPO's formation program.

By applying for and being selected for this program, peer ministers would commit to the following:

Retreats

- Participation in a *Discernment Evening of Reflection Retreat*
- Participation in the *BuckeyeWorks Leadership Retreat*

Formation Activities

- Participation in the *ESTEEM Leadership program*, which consists of bi-monthly formation gatherings on Monday nights from 8:30-9:30 p.m.
- Peer Ministry formation gatherings 2-3 times per semester (led by staff or speakers brought in about leadership development and areas of Church teaching)
- Individual meetings with a staff supervisor bi-weekly.
- Presence at additional meetings based on specific ministry (ex. Liturgy, Buckeye Awakening, Service Trip Coordination, RCIA, Faith Formation, etc.)
- Opportunity to participation in spiritual direction

Participation in the Newman Center Faith Community

- Attendance at one Sunday Mass at the Newman Center each week (Sat. 5:30 p.m. or, Sundays at 10 a.m., noon, 6 p.m., or 9 p.m.)
- Serve as a minister of presence and hospitality at Masses
- Participating in major liturgical celebrations

Service and Programming

- Fulfilling the obligations of your assigned ministry, with a sense of the sacred, inspired and missional nature of your service.

Communication

- Answering emails from staff and fellow ministers within a 24 hour period; returning calls the same day.
- Concerns are shared with staff supervisor(s) in an appropriate time frame.
- Respect privacy and confidentiality.

Christian Living

- Being a campus ministry peer minister means being a public minister who represents the Newman Center and the Catholic faith. Interns must be Catholic, a current undergrad OSU student, be in good standing with the church and live an exemplary Christian lifestyle, so as to serve as a positive role model for others. Interns' personal lives outside of work hours should reflect living in accord with the teachings of the Catholic Church.
- Student peer ministers sign a contract with these expectations, which include the modeling of the Newman Center's mission, vision and core values
- Follow all Newman Center and diocesan policies.

Evaluation

- Peer Ministers would participate in mid-semester and year-end evaluations as way for ongoing growth and learning.
- Peer ministers are subject to dismissal at anytime if found to be in violation of the above expectations and commitments.

To Apply

Please apply online at www.BuckeyeCatholic.com for the program by Sunday, March 6. Interviews will be scheduled the week of April 4-8.

Questions

Please refer any questions to Austin Schafer, Director of the Peer Ministry Program and Pastoral Associate for Campus Ministry, at (614) 291-4674 x116 or aschafer@buckeyecatholic.com.