

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 2-6 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 regular 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 partially 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 peer ministers will have the opportunity to:

- Learn the process of discernment and practice discernment skills
- Develop an understanding of professional ministry, opportunities to serve in the Church, and discern one's vocational calling
- Serve in a particular area of ministry based upon the student peer minister's interests
- Collaborate with Newman Center Professional Staff and Student/ Community Leaders from various ministries
- Cultivate leadership skills in other peers and develop community among those you serve
- Improve one's leadership capabilities and develop small group leadership skills
- Plan, organize and lead ministry programs
- Seek, evaluate and utilize feedback from supervisors
- Learn to set appropriate ministerial boundaries, manage time and set priorities
- Develop an ability to maintain personal spirituality and self-care in ministry
- Participate in theological reflection that enriches ministerial effectiveness

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 and supervisor to discuss ministry experiences since they last met, discuss any upcoming ministerial plans and any needs for support or communication, to reflect on how the peer ministry program is going, and discuss ideas, hopes, expectations, and areas of growth throughout the Peer Ministry experience.

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 three formative retreats: a *Spiritual Gifts Discernment Retreat*, *Busy Person's Retreat*, and any other peer ministry related formation events clearly articulated by program coordinator. They also will participate in a regular peer ministers' theological reflection

small group, to reflect on topics of vocational discernment and service in the Church. Prayer, both individual and communal prayer, is essential to this time of formation.

Finally, as Peer Ministers and Leaders of the Newman Center, Peer Ministers will be expected to participate in a Student Leadership Ministry Team where leaders from various student ministries meet monthly to discuss what is happening in their various ministries and student groups, discuss opportunities for collaboration, and grow in fellowship as student leaders of the Newman Center.

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
- Children and Teen Ministries
- Small Groups and Bible Studies
- Communications and Social Media
- Direct student programming and initiatives
- Pastoral Care

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 ministerial time 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 *Spiritual Gifts Discernment Retreat*
- Participation in the *Busy Person's Retreat*
- Fall retreat for Student Leadership Team

Staff Participation Expectations/ Opportunities

- Get to know members of the Newman Center Staff by August at the Peer Ministry Orientation.

- Collaborate with necessary Newman Center Staff members to accomplish your ministerial needs and goals, beginning with but not limited to your Staff supervisor.
- Freedom to participate in, present ideas, add to agenda topics at weekly Staff meetings.
- Periodic invitations to optional Staff fellowship events (ex.- Staff Christmas Service Project, Staff Christmas party, etc.).

Formation Activities

- Participation in *the ESTEEM Leadership program*, which consists of bi-semester formation gatherings on Sunday nights from 4:00-6:00 p.m. For those who already completed ESTEEM, a different formation opportunity will be offered.
- Regular Theological Reflection small group with fellow peer ministers.
- Peer Ministry formation gatherings 2-3 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.
- Student Leadership Ministry team monthly meetings.
- Presence at additional meetings based on specific ministry (ex. Liturgy, Buckeye Awakening, Service Trip Coordination, RCIA, Faith Formation, etc.)
- Participation in monthly 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 or in another liturgical ministry role.
- Participating in major liturgical celebrations (ex. Ash Wednesday)

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 directly with staff supervisor(s) in an appropriate time frame. This would include scheduling meetings to discuss concerns and solutions as soon as possible once they arise.
- 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 **Friday, March 12, 2021**. Interviews will be scheduled the week of **March 21 – March 26, 2021**.

Questions

Please refer any questions to Laura Scanlon, Pastoral Associate for Campus Ministry at the Newman Center at (614) 291-4674 x101 or lscanlon@buckeyecatholic.com.