Summit Park Leadership Community FAQs

- What is Summit Park Leadership Community?
  - The Summit Park Leadership Community engages Drury University students in an experiential learning environment that focuses on the principles of leadership while incorporating the value of community service. Teams of students will focus an entire academic year of residency to design, organize, and implement a service-learning project based on the idea that leadership is a purposive process that is ultimately concerned with fostering change. Summit Park fulfills an Engaged Learning graduation requirement, two requirements on the Leadership Drury Certificate, and counts towards Passport.

- Who is eligible to live in the Summit Park Leadership Community?
  - Any full-time, day student with at least one year of college experience that is in good standing with the University is eligible to live in Summit Park. Students must have at least a cumulative 2.5 GPA. Preference is given to student groups who will be sophomores during the Summit experience; however, any student group may apply.

- What is the application process for Summit Park Leadership Community?
  - Students need to complete an application, found at www.drury.edu/leadership (click on Summit Park) and submit to leadership@drury.edu by March 3 at noon. The student groups that are eligible for an interview will be notified and given an opportunity to sign up for an interview time. During the interview, students give a five minute presentation of their project to a selection board. Every group member needs to have a role in the presentation. After the presentation, the selection board will ask questions about the project and your team. The selection will be announced in time for those not chosen to make other housing arrangements.

- What types of projects are most likely to be selected?
  - The projects that are most likely to be selected for Summit Park Leadership Community are projects that demonstrate an understanding of a community issue and have been well thought out with clear and realistic project goals. These projects should meet a community need and show a strong collaboration with the community partner. They should be detailed and well organized. All students in the group should be aware of all aspects of their project and should know their role within the group.

- What does the selection committee base their decision on?
  - The selection committee bases their decision on the quality of the service project, demonstration of a commitment to a community issue and explanation of why that issue was chosen, as well as how well the group can work as a team.
  - The application and presentation are the only things the selection committee has from the team of applicants to base their decision on so these two pieces are very important.
• **How important is the application and the presentation?**
  o The application and presentation are extremely important to the group’s success in being chosen for Summit Park. The application and presentation are the only things from the team of applicants that the selection committee has to base their decision on.

• **What should be included in the statements of support on the application?**
  o At the very minimum, the statements of support should state the community advisor and faculty advisor will work with the group for the academic year. Keep in mind that this is a key part of the application. Ideally, the community advisor should talk about the need that is being fulfilled and how the service project will help the community partner.

• **What community partners are able to count towards the Summit Park project?**
  o Community partners need to be nonprofits or agencies that serve the public good and are in line with Drury’s mission and values.
  o Community partners need to be able to host a team of students for 15 service hours per a member per a semester.

• **What if we don’t know any community partners?**
  o There are several resources available to students to help them choose a community partner. Students may visit the Community Outreach and Leadership Development office in FSC 117 or email the office at leadership@drury.edu for suggestions of good community partners. You can also visit www.drury.edu/leadership to find a list of current community partners. Another option available to students is “The Directory” which is a list of all community partners and is available through the Springfield Public Library at http://thelibrary.org/directory/directory.cfm.

• **How do we decide what our project is going to be with the community partner?**
  o When working with the community partner, groups should start by asking what the community partner needs, but also be prepared to share skills that your team can offer or project ideas you think would be a good fit.

• **How do students pick a community advisor and faculty/staff advisor?**
  o Students should pick a faculty/staff advisor that they know well, and feel comfortable working closely with for two semesters. The community advisor should be someone at the community partner site that is available to meet throughout the academic year and can assist in coordinating the project as well as oversee the service hours.

• **What is the role of the faculty/staff advisor?**
  o The students are required to meet with the faculty/staff advisor at least twice a semester. They are there to help guide the students when planning their community project, to make sure they stay on track throughout the year, and to help respond to concerns that may arise. Many teams use someone from the staff they know or one of
their CORE instructors, but asking someone you know has an expertise tied to your service area is also a good option.

- **What is the role of the community advisor?**
  - The students are required to meet with the community advisor at least three times a semester. They are there to help the students collaborate with the community partner, learn about a community issue, and make sure the service performed is beneficial to the community. They should also help the students plan and verify their service hours.

- **How do students keep track of community service hours?**
  - A tracking form is provided at the Summit Park Orientation at the start of the fall semester. All hours that directly connect the project to the community can count towards the 15-hour per semester requirement. The community advisor will be required to sign off on the hours on the provided form. At the end of each semester, the signed form will be submitted as part of final assignments. The majority of the service hours should be direct service.

- **What are we allowed to spend our $300.00 budget on?**
  - The $300.00 budget ($600.00 for an eight person group) can be used for all expenses that are related to the project. The receipts from the expenses must be documented with the original receipt in order to get reimbursement. All purchases are eligible to be tax exempt, and the tax exempt form must be presented to cashier during purchase. Students that fail to use the tax exempt form will not be reimbursed for sales tax costs. Summit funds cannot be donated to the community partner. More information on the budget will be provided at the Summit Park Orientation at the start of the fall semester.

- **Does a group of 8 people get preference over a group of 4 people?**
  - Groups are chosen based on the quality of their project and knowledge of the community issue. However, there are only 40 spaces available in Summit Park.

- **Does everyone in the group have to do the same volunteer work for the community partner?**
  - No, each member of the group is responsible for completing 15 hours of service a semester, but how they fulfill these hours is up to the individual. It is recommended that students look for ways to volunteer that correspond with their major or allow them to use skills that would be helpful to the community partner. The focus should be on areas that the community partner identifies as a need.

- **Do we have to complete service over breaks?**
  - No, you do not have to volunteer over breaks and service hours should be completed during the academic semester (some exceptions allowed). Be sure to notify your community partner of any breaks in your service schedule.
• **What do we do during the Summit Park class?**
  o The Summit Park course focuses on team development, professional development, and leadership skills such as communication, conflict resolution, goal setting, career planning, team dynamics, creating change and successfully working in the nonprofit sector. There will be presentations and activities that focus on practical skill development, modeling leadership, inspiring leadership, creating positive change, working as a team, and how to positively engage in the community.

• **When is the Summit Park class?**
  o The Summit Park class typically meets one time a month on Monday from 6:00-8:15pm.

• **When do I enroll in the Summit Park Course?**
  o Students will earn one credit hour of PDEV Leadership Drury credit per semester (one credit in the fall semester and one credit in the spring semester). Students will be required to take PDEV 271 and PDEV 272 and will register for them during their normal course registration period. Summit Park classes do NOT incur course overload fees.

• **What will Summit Park Leadership Community count towards at Drury?**
  o The Summit Park Leadership Community counts toward the Passport Program, two requirements on the Leadership Drury Certificate, and fulfills an Engaged Learning graduation requirement in the CORE Curriculum.
  o In order for Summit to fulfill the above stated requirements, students must pass both PDEV 271 and 272.

• **What if I am already planning on taking 17 hours during the semester?**
  o The Summit Park courses do not incur overload fees for full-time, day students.

• **What does the Summit Park class cost?**
  o The Summit Park course has no additional costs for full-time, day students.

• **How much does it cost to live in Summit Park Leadership Community?**
  o The cost for the 2015-16 academic year will be $3,754 per student per semester and includes a 45 block meal plan. This is the lowest priced apartment option.

• **Is Summit Park gender inclusive?**
  o Project proposals should be for teams of four or eight members. Summit Park is gender inclusive. Residents may select roommates of a different sex or gender. In case of a vacancy, the Housing office will not place men & women together unless they mutually select each other.

• **How many students can live in Summit Park?**
  o There are 40 beds available in the Summit Park Leadership Community with 5 total units and each unit housing 8 students.
• **What appliances are in the Summit Park housing?**
  o The units include all major appliances including refrigerator, stove/oven, dishwasher and free in-unit washer & dryer.

• **Are Summit Park apartments furnished?**
  o Yes, Summit Park comes with all major appliances including refrigerator, stove/oven, dishwasher and free in-unit washer & dryer. Each room has a twin bed, nightstand, desk with hutch, and a dresser. The living room comes with a TV stand, coffee table, two end tables with lamps, couch and love-seat.

• **What is the layout of each unit of Summit Park?**
  o There are four bedrooms, two full bathrooms, living room, kitchen, and laundry room and all major appliance including in-unit washer and dryer and dishwasher. Go to [www.drury.edu/housing](http://www.drury.edu/housing) for a virtual tour.

**Additional questions?** Contact us at leadership@drury.edu or 417-873-6803 or stop by FSC 117. Thank you!