New Student Orientation (NSO)
2016 Summit Leader Application
Position Description

The Summit Leader position provides students the opportunity to officially welcome new Blue Hens to the University of Delaware through an outdoor orientation experience. Summit Leaders are official representatives of the Office of New Student Orientation, the Division of Student Life, and the University of Delaware, and should act accordingly with professionalism and good judgment.

As part of your application, you will be asked to indicate that you have read and understood the information provided in this document.
* Application Deadline: Friday, February 19 by 4:00pm*

Program Description

The Summit Program at the University of Delaware is an adventure-based outdoor experience designed to further ease new students’ transition into the campus community and their college experience. As part of the First Year Experience (FYE), this outdoor experience offers students a unique opportunity to connect with their new classmates in a fun and challenging environment, allowing them to learn more about themselves and develop the confidence and skills needed to successfully navigate their first year at UD. Summit consists of four 7-day trips, which run concurrently, in the month of August.

First-year students who participate in Summit will:
- Create strong meaningful relationships with peers, mentors, and faculty, so as to begin integrating into the social fabric of the institution
- Be able to identify communication, problem-solving, and critical thinking skills needed to accomplish tasks and goals
- Be able to identify how their personal decision-making skills can impact their well-being and their ability to reach goals

Summit Leaders

Summit Leaders will facilitate small groups of 12 first-year students on two of the four trips, leading the students through 1 ½ days of on-campus preparatory and teambuilding activities as well as guiding them through 5 days of backpacking on the Appalachian Trail before returning to campus.

Summit Leaders will engage new students in discussion and reflection about their experience and its connection to their college transition; challenge new students to push outside their comfort zone; support and encourage them throughout all elements of the experience; and, most importantly, provide a safe, fun outdoor experience for all participants.

Summit Leaders should possess the following qualities or skills:
- Experience with backpacking and camping
- Willingness to work with diverse individuals
- Ability to lead small groups and facilitate discussion
- Ability to collaborate with co-leaders
- Desire to assist new students in their transition to college
- Enthusiasm and pride for the University of Delaware
Part One: Eligibility Requirements

Students must meet the following criteria in order to apply for a Summit Leader position

- Must commit to an employment period that formally begins in March 2016 and formally ends in September 2016 (some expectations may exist outside of this timeframe)
- Must have attended the University of Delaware for at least one semester prior to January 2016
- Must be in good academic and disciplinary standing with the university
- Must have and maintain a minimum 2.5 cumulative GPA during employment
- Must maintain undergraduate status through the spring 2016 semester
- Must have some experience in the outdoors

Part Two: Position Expectations

Students will be aware of the following expectations of the Summit Leader position

- Summit Leaders will make Summit a priority during the time of their employment
- Summit Leaders will be committed to making a difference in the lives of their peers and new students
- Summit Leaders will actively engage themselves as a part of the NSO staff
- Summit Leaders will be open to a new learning experience
- Summit Leaders will maintain a positive attitude
- Summit Leaders will role model behavior that is reflective of a campus leader, both in person and through all forms of communication and social media
- Summit Leaders will create an inclusive, safe, and welcoming environment

Part Three: Job Description and Responsibilities

Students will be aware of the following specific job duties of a Summit Leader

- Summit Leaders will represent the NSO Office and the University of Delaware in a positive manner
- Summit Leaders will be on time for all official Summit trainings, programs, and activities (see below for specific dates, and be aware that additional group meetings will be scheduled based on the team’s availability)
- Under the supervision of the Summit Coordinators, Summit Intern, and NSO Program Coordinator, Summit Leaders will fulfill the expectations of their position to the best of their ability during the tenure of employment
- Summit Leaders will attend all spring training meetings during the spring semester as well as a Wilderness First Aid Certification course April 23-24, 2016 (subject to change)
- Summit Leaders will participate in an overnight trail training from April 30-May 1, 2016
- Summit Leaders will attend summer training from July 31-August 6, 2016
- From July 31, 2016- August 26, 2016, Summit Leaders will have no other employment commitments outside of Summit
- Summit Leaders will run two of the four Summit Trips along with one Summit Coordinator and one other Summit Leader
- Summit Leaders will commit to a high level of personal ethics and responsibility during the tenure of employment, and as such, will refrain from engaging in romantic relationships with new students or each other, will refrain from consuming alcohol before or during Summit activities, will refrain from illegal behavior, and will not be absent without notice
Part Four: Important Dates (subject to change)
All potential conflicts will be handled on an individual basis. Contact the NSO Office at 302.831.3313 with any questions.

2016 Summit Timeline

February 8   Summit Leader Applications Available
February 19  Summit Applications Due by 4pm
March 1-4    Summit Leader Individual Interviews (if applicable)
March 10 at 7pm  Summit Leader Group Interview (if applicable)
March 14   Summit Leader Notification
Week of March 21 Training 1
Week of April 4  Training 2
Week of April 11 Training 3
April 23-24 Training 4, Wilderness First Aid Certification Course (White Clay Creek, Newark, DE)
April 30-May 1 Training 5, Overnight Trip on Appalachian Trail
Week of April 2  Training 6
July 31   Move-in for Summit Leaders
August 1-7   Summit Leader Training
August 7-25  Summit Trips
August 26  Gear Cleaning & Organization
August 30  Summit Celebration

Part Five: Compensation

Students who serve as a Summit Leader will be compensated with the following

- $600 stipend to be distributed in the month of August
- On-campus housing in the Christiana Towers if needed
- On-campus parking pass if needed
- Limited meals during training and Summit Leader Training and Summit trips

Part Six: Application and Interview Process

Students who wish to apply for a Summit Leader position will complete the following

- Complete the online application at www.udel.edu/students/nso/opportunities, which includes agreeing to a statement that you have read and understood the information included in this document
- If you are chosen to continue in our selection process, you will be contacted to sign up for an individual interview, which will take place between March 1-4, 2016. Your interview can be scheduled in person at the NSO Office in 231 Trabant or by calling 302.831.3313.
- Final notification for Summit Leader selection will be sent on March 14, 2016

Any further questions about this information, the Summit Leader position, or the Summit Leader selection process should be directed to Brittany Acosta at bacosta@udel.edu or the NSO Office at 302.831.3313.

Thanks for your interest and application to be a Summit Leader!