

Welcome to

Community Summer!

Who am I?

What am I committed to?

What choices am I making, and are they aligned to who I am and what I'm committed to?

What are the results of my choices?

Community Summer 2023:
just the beginning of
Summers!

Summer Locations

Mississippi
Delta

New
Orleans

Tarboro,
NC

Whitesburg,
KY

Community Summer

Overview

During your First-Year Community Dinners we have held space to connect, care for one another, and practice being in community. You all will have the chance to continue building on that practice this summer.

Community Summer is the court on which you will be able to practice getting present to the current reality, being engaged in the practice of change, and the exploration of our Four Critical Questions in environments to which you may not otherwise be exposed.

- Who am I?
- What am I committed to?
- What choices am I making, and are they aligned to who I am and what I'm committed to?
- What are the results of my choices?

We believe the exploration of these questions is best understood as an ongoing, continuous practice, done individually and with those around you. The stimulus of daily living and the choices we make in response or reaction, form the best practice ground for developing leadership.

So, as you prepare for and engage in this Community Summer, we invite you to re-commit to what it will take to explore, to challenge, to nurture, and ultimately, to unfold into transformational leadership.

Community Summer

Overview

Community Summer consists of four primary components:

1. Living with and building community with your cohort
2. The exploration of new leadership skills within the contexts of the Scholar and local summer community
3. Learning about complex social and economic challenges that face these communities
4. Building connections among community partners to enrich the resources available to addressing complex issues.

This, and all Robertson Scholar programming is designed to allow Scholars to:

- Experience a "37 to 1" and "1 to 37" community by creating and nurturing commitment and belonging
- Deepen your understanding of who you are and what you are committed to in large and small ways
- Understand your relationship to your word and be in the consistent practice of honoring it
- Experience the power available to you when you take responsibility
- Get curious about the earned lessons available through discomfort, breakdowns, and incongruence
- See the impact on yourselves and others that is created by getting into action and making choices that are aligned to your values

A STEP BY STEP GUIDE TO SUMMER INTERNSHIPS

01

Reflect
and
research



02

Learn
about your
options



03

Make your
preferences



04

Apply



01

A STEP BY STEP GUIDE TO SUMMER INTERNSHIPS

Reflect and Research

- Think carefully about how you want to be challenged and grow during Community Summer as well as how you believe you can contribute to a local community.
- Use the [Community Summer Resources](#) page on Robertson Connect to find out what positions are available, and think carefully about which ones resonate with you and why.
- Come to a Zoom with Vicki: <https://duke.zoom.us/j/3453778492>

Dates

- 1 December 1st, 12 pm-1 pm
- 2 December 19th, 10 am-11 am
- 3 January 6th, 4 pm-5 pm

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A STEP BY STEP GUIDE TO SUMMER INTERNSHIPS

Learn about
your options

- Ask older Scholars and Alumni about their Summers. You will likely get broad and extremely valuable perspectives.
- Read Community Summer reports on Robertson Connect to learn about the experiences of older Scholars & Alumni.
- Start with a position you're interested in and see who's done it. Learn about the organizations, read the reports on Robertson Connect, and reach out to the Scholar/Alum for a conversation.
- New positions may be added into March, so keep an eye on the [Community Summer Resources](#) page, and keep an open mind!

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A STEP BY STEP GUIDE TO SUMMER INTERNSHIPS

Make your preferences

- Think critically about your current interests and skills, what you want to learn, and how you want to grow.
- You will be asked to list several internships of interest on a Google Form. We do this instead of simply asking you to apply directly so we have a sense of who's interested in what.
- Schedule a coaching call with Sydney or Vicki to discuss the positions you're interested in and general expectations of Community Summer and internships. Your preferences help guide these discussions, and we'll determine next steps.
- You might even wind up in a position you hadn't considered at first! You will be challenged and supported in whichever position you take.

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A STEP BY STEP GUIDE TO SUMMER INTERNSHIPS

Apply

- With community mentors, we begin the complex process of matching Scholars to positions. Each position has its own process, overseen by Vicki and Sydney. As part of particular positions, you may be asked to turn in specific materials or to interview.
- Some positions will have specific timelines announced in the Bulletin or on the [Community Summer resource page](#). We will ask you to keep track of new information.
- From February to April, after lots of conversation, we'll wrap things up, and our partner organizations will choose their Robertson interns! Once you have accepted a position, we expect that you will not change your mind.
- **We promise--everyone will have an internship!**

The Community Summer experience

This summer you will negotiate work relationships; manage money, group living, and transportation; collaborate on projects and activities; and, essentially, learn to live together while learning about yourself, each other, and a new place. Any older Scholar can describe the complex dynamics that take place among Scholars, mentors, and others during Community Summer.

You'll also learn about the longstanding challenges that face these communities, as well as how community members and organizations address them.

Furthermore, although this first summer does not require specific job skills, you will acquire important tools to help you with your school, leadership activities, and other interests. Older Scholars and Alumni confirm that Community Summer provides professional skills and has the added benefit of setting Scholars apart from others when applying for jobs or further education.

Advice from Scholars

brace yourself for transformation!

- **The connections I made** are the reason I enjoyed my summer. I remember the people I met, the stories they shared, and the work I did for them more than anything else.
- The first thing I learned about myself this summer is that I can **appreciate a slower pace of life**. I'm used to a college life / rapid-paced high school life, where efficiency feels really really important. I do like that in the line of work I was contributing toward this summer, it's crucial to stop for conversations, even if not directly related to what you're doing. Maybe I'll use this experience as impetus to slow down a bit next semester.
- One thing that Robertson programming has helped me to understand is that effective leadership requires our word to be solid. This summer I really focused on maintaining my word so that I could be dependable to those who I worked with. **Being a part of a community where I could be depended upon and I could depend on others was important to me.** Any missteps, I acknowledged and tried my best not to repeat them.
- I thought that I was ready for whatever was in store. I could easily avoid the stresses and difficulties that the older scholars had experienced. Now, as I reflect on my summer experience, I realize that **there is nothing that could have prepared me for this summer. The ups and downs are an integral part of the experience.** As cliché as it sounds, I learned much more from the difficult experiences of the summer than I did from the fun ones.

The Community Summer experience

Timeline

Community Summer begins with a kick-off retreat May 22nd-25th. Internships begin on or around June 1, and last for about eight weeks. Dates vary slightly for some internships.

Housing

Our program arranges and pays for group housing. Scholars sign housing agreements indicating their understanding of the expectations for taking care of the house.

Work

With partner organizations, we develop summer internships that include strong mentoring, intellectual content, and a service orientation. The positions reflect a variety of activities and interest areas, such as teaching, grant writing, non-profit management, and the arts.

Money & Travel

Scholars receive a stipend of \$3000 to be used for transportation to and from the summer site, food, recreational/cultural enrichment activities, and other necessary expenses.

Health & Wellness

Our program provides some medical insurance for the summer, although many scholars have their own insurance. Scholars will be encouraged to think critically about the impact Community Summer will have on their mental health, and create a plan for managing the change.

The Community Summer

experience

Summer is what you make it!

Here's some of what you can expect:

- Managing the dynamics of group living in a new place
- Living into our working agreements
- Building community
- Working with your mentor to design and/or revise your work responsibilities.
- Managing ambiguity
- Taking initiative

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We are here to
support you!