

BONNER leaders PROGRAM



Access to
education.
**Opportunity
to serve!**



UNC
STUDENT AFFAIRS

Fostering Student Learning and Success

What is the Bonner Leaders Program?

Launched by the Bonner Foundation in 1990, this national initiative leverages federal work-study funds earmarked for community service to support students' on-going participation in volunteer service and social justice activities throughout their college careers.

The Bonner Leaders Program at UNC is an intensive community service opportunity for undergraduate students. Housed in and staffed by the Campus Y, the program follows a four-year, student developmental model, guiding students from an exploration of direct service in a local agency to—at its most advanced level—engaging students in community-based research and public policy.

The service requirement is significant, approximately 270 hours per year, and is complemented by weekly reflections, leadership workshops, and capacity-building seminars. It is designed to transform not only the students who are directly supported by the program, but also the communities in which they serve and learn, providing sustained support to address community-identified needs. It is a campus-wide, interdisciplinary initiative involving departments in Student Affairs and Academic Affairs.

In 2011, the inaugural class of 12 UNC Bonner Leaders began working with three community partners. The program will expand each year until reaching full capacity at 60-80 students.

Bonner Program Stats

- The Bonner network currently encompasses more than 70 colleges and universities from coast to coast and supports more than 3,000 students per year.
- 65% of Bonner graduates go on to work in non-profit or public sector careers.
- Nearly 100% of graduates continue to engage in regular community service.

UNC-CH's Bonner Leaders Program offers students a unique opportunity to participate in increasingly responsible and meaningful community service while developing their personal, leadership, and professional skills.

Why apply to be a Bonner Leader?



INAUGURAL CLASS OF UNC BONNER LEADERS

Benefits

Bonner Leaders are selected through a highly competitive process open to incoming first-year students who are eligible for federal work-study awards. The program is committed to the belief that students can address critical social issues, providing them with an avenue to positively affect their campuses, the local community, and the world through leadership and excellence in service.

- **Community Service:** Bonner Leaders have the opportunity to address some of our community's most pressing social issues, including hunger, literacy, environmental justice, and immigration. Carolina Bonners are currently working in after-school tutoring and English as a Second Language programs, food bank distribution, community gardens, and community history and outreach initiatives.
- **Enrichment and Training:** Bonners will be able to further develop their personal, leadership, and professional skills through weekly enrichment and training activities that complement their service as part of their work-study assignment.
- **Peer Support:** The Bonner Leaders Program cultivates a supportive community of students on campus whose common focus on community service gives them a sense of purpose and meaning.

Student Development Model: “The Six E’s”

The Bonner Leaders Program develops the skills, knowledge, experience, and values of students. Students move along an intentional development pathway, beginning with direct service and culminating in community-based research and public policy. We describe this model as the “Six E’s.”

- 1. Expectation:** We recruit students who have demonstrated a leadership role within their community and whose motivation, background, experience, and expectations align with our program goals and values.
- 2. Exploration:** During their first year, students explore the communities they serve as well as their own personal identity. Weekly reflection sessions help them make personal discoveries and develop individual goals and objectives.
- 3. Experience:** As students settle into their placements, they learn how to participate in a sustained community partnership. They focus on a specific issue area/project, receiving training for undertaking greater responsibilities.
- 4. Example:** By their third year, Bonners assume responsibilities such as mentoring other student volunteers and leading reflection sessions.
- 5. Expertise:** Over the span of their college career, Bonners become the equivalent of a junior staff person at a placement, helping to evaluate existing programs, design new initiatives, write grants, assist with strategic planning, even conduct and shape public policy research.
- 6. Entrepreneurship:** We help students consider and undertake innovative solutions to persistent social problems, ones that create social value through sustainable, systemic change.

The Common Commitments

Bonner Leaders explore these values during their four years of service in the program:

- **Social Justice:** Advocate for fairness and equality while addressing systemic social and environmental issues.
- **Civic Engagement:** Participate intentionally as a citizen in the democratic process, actively engaging in direct service and public policy.
- **Community Building:** Establish and sustain a vibrant community of place, personal relationships, and common interests.
- **Diversity:** Respect the many different dimensions of diversity in our lives.
- **International Perspective:** Develop an international understanding that enables students to participate successfully in a global society, assist with strategic planning, even conduct and shape public policy research.
- **Spiritual Exploration:** Explore personal beliefs while respecting the spiritual practices of others.

Bonner faqs

PARENTS

How will this help a student?

Students in the Bonner Leaders Program gain valuable work experience while participating in meaningful community service. The skills they gain from this opportunity will help them in the classroom while developing strong leadership abilities as a student advocate for social

progress and in the work-place. Data suggests that the skills they develop are very valuable in the transition from school-to-work and the support community is an important factor in student retention and graduation rates.

How will students balance the responsibility of the program with their academic work?

Much of what Bonner Leaders learn through service can be applied to their academic work. While off-campus service often requires more effort than other work-study positions, students receive training in how to handle their time efficiently. They also receive ongoing staff support, mentoring from their community partners, and fellowship from the Bonner community.

STUDENTS

How will I know if I am eligible for Federal Work-Study?

In order to be eligible for Federal Work-Study, you and your parents must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Sometime after the completion of your FAFSA you will be notified by the Financial Aid Office of your aid for the upcoming school year. In this notification, you will see whether or not you have received a work-study award.

Do I need to have experience with service in the issue in which I will be working?

No. The primary Bonner criteria are a dedication to service and a four-year commitment to working with underserved communities.

What happens if I don't receive work-study funding next year?

If your financial situation changes, either due to changes in your family circumstances or because of receiving additional scholarships, we strongly encourage you to continue in the program.

Bonner Leader stories



AYAT

The best part about working in Northside is that I have the chance to build lasting relationships with members of the community. The four-year commitment ensures that we can create bonds and relationships with the members of the community.

BLANCHE

I wanted to become a Bonner at UNC because I wanted to supplement my academic education with community learning. I have learned so much from working at the Jackson Center in Northside. I have come to understand that history is constantly unfolding and community is all-embracing.

CHLOE

The most rewarding part of my ESL tutoring at Abbey Court is seeing an easier transition to America for new immigrants.

DARON

My favorite part of the Bonner Leaders Program has been the workshops with my fellow Bonners. Not only am I connecting with the Bonners on a personal and intellectual level, but I am also learning vital skills that will help me throughout college and whatever career decisions I make.

HANNAH

The Bonner program has allowed a group of diverse students to unite together with a common passion to serve and impact their community. I have enjoyed building relationships with the kids at Abbey Court and becoming their friend and role model, as well as their tutor.

JOE

What I know as the foundations for family and home have been strengthened. Working and learning with the Bonner Leaders have become an opportunity that unites students with a passion for service and experience, and have taught me the defining characteristics of what we call "Bonner love."

KHRISTIAN

Being a Bonner has taught me things that go way beyond school or engaging in service. Being a Bonner has definitely helped me with the adjustment from high school into college. I have learned how to balance life and school at Carolina, which is a difficult task in itself.

MELODY

Being a Bonner is so much more than a regular work-study job. You interact with community members on a personal level and build relationships with your peers. To me, Bonner means family.

PARIS

Working for the Jackson Center has been one of my greatest experiences since arriving at UNC. Being a Bonner Leader has surpassed my expectations tremendously. It is not only about the leadership skills you gain, but the friends you make, which is why I would recommend this program to anyone who applying to Carolina.

PATRICK

The Bonner program has been an absolutely amazing way for me to serve my community and find new parts of it I didn't know existed. It has been extremely rewarding to get to know the community and participate in leadership building workshops, which have helped me get to know more about myself and UNC.

SOTOS

My favorite part about working with the Bonners is sharing the energy that radiates from each and every student. I have most enjoyed interacting with the diverse community at Abbey Court, while simultaneously becoming more knowledgeable of the greater Chapel Hill area.

ZACK

The best part about working at Rogers Road has been watching the tutoring program grow and the progress that the individual students have made with our help. We have seen the program develop into a dynamic, sustainable influence within the community.

CRITERIA

The Bonner Leaders Program seeks diverse applicants who have demonstrated a commitment to community service and civic engagement.

How can I apply to become a **Bonner Leader?**

REQUIREMENTS

- Commitment to a community internship (approximately 6-8 hours/week) for four years as their work-study assignment.
- Attendance and active participation in training and enrichment activities (1-2 hours/week) as part of their work-study assignment.
- Involvement in campus wide initiatives hosted by the Bonner Leaders Program.

ELIGIBILITY

- Students must be eligible for a Federal Work-Study award.
- Only first-year students are eligible to apply each year.

THE APPLICATION PROCESS

- The application will be due in early August.
- Semi-finalists will be notified shortly before the first day of class.
- Interviews will take place the first week of classes.
- Bonner Leaders will be notified shortly thereafter.

[\(please visit the website for this year's exact dates\)](#)

BONNER LEADER

at Rogers Road Community Center



Community Partners

CHAPEL HILL - CARRBORO HUMAN RIGHTS CENTER

www.humanrightscities.org

Fostering the development of social justice and equal human rights.

DR. JUDITH BLAU Director

The Bonners are the Human Rights Center's Super Heroes! They are eager, helpful, and creative. Besides they are getting to know the people in the Abbey Court community.

MARIAN CHEEK JACKSON CENTER FOR SAVING LIVES AND MAKING HISTORY www.jacksoncenter.info

Dedicated to honoring everyday history-makers by engaging inter-generational dialogue, sponsoring youth initiatives, and pursuing creative community development.

ALECK STEPHENS Associate Director

The model of sustained service employed by the Bonner Leaders program makes it extremely valuable to its community partners. We are very grateful for the energy and creativity that the Bonner Leaders have brought to our work and have loved watching the skills and institutional knowledge they gain each semester build up over time.

ROGERS ROAD COMMUNITY CENTER www.rogersroad.org

Redressing the injustices that affect the health and safety of residents in the neighborhood.

MINISTER ROBERT CAMPBELL President, Rogers Road-Eubanks Neighborhood Association

Bonner students are breaking down barriers. Their work to close the education gap really makes a difference.

PROSPECTIVE NEW PARTNERS

- Blue Ribbon Mentor Advocate Program:
www2.chccs.k12.nc.us/education/dept/dept.php?sectionid=5127
- Street Scene Teen Center:
townhall.townofchapelhill.org/parksrec/chat/StreetScene.html
- Chapel Hill Family Resource Centers:
ctop.org/Programs/FRC.html
- Hargraves Community Center:
www.ci.chapel-hill.nc.us/index.aspx?page=814

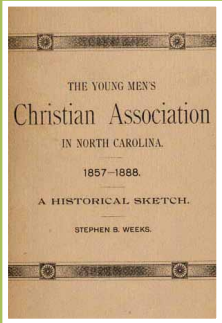
What is the Campus Y?

Since its establishment in 1860, the Campus Y has been one of the largest and most vibrant student organizations at UNC-CH.

With a 15,000 square foot building in the heart of historic north campus, it is the home for

domestic and global service at Carolina. There are 32 student-led social justice committees dedicated to public health, human rights, youth development, environmental advocacy, education, poverty alleviation, and immigration.

Over the past two decades, the Campus Y has seen a significant rise in its international outreach, along with an increased emphasis on entrepreneurial and sustainable strategies for community empowerment. The Bonner Leaders Program increases opportunities for sustained community service while diversifying the Campus Y's student membership.



1860: Founding Constitution for YMCA at UNC

1936: Beginning of YWCA on campus

1947-48: Y establishes model UN and the international student center



Early 1960's Civil Rights Protests: Y staff and student civil rights leaders create a safe-haven for African American students at the Y

Mid 1960's: Y operates a printing press, starts Scholarship Information Center and Writer-in-Residence Program



1970's: Human Relations Committee and Big Buddy begin; Hunger Walk/Starvathon gain momentum

1965: First class of first-year undergraduate women admitted to general college; Y supports female leadership

1966: International Handicrafts Bazaar started

Mid 1980's Anti-Apartheid Movement: Y students assist in the building of shanty towns; get Board of Trustees to divest from South Africa

1989: SEAC Threshold brings nearly 2000 students to campus, starts national student movement for environmental justice, becomes a national non-profit

2011: Launch of the Bonner Leaders Program



2000's: Launched in '03, Nourish International develops into a global NGO with 25 college chapters

1907: YMCA building finished



1940's: Starting of Human Relations Institute, which leads to creation of the Carolina Symposium, bringing speakers on annual topics to campus like "Nuclear Arms," "Red China," and "Desegregation"

1955: Y pivotal in the integration of undergraduates at UNC

1965: Upward Bound program created

1963-1966 Speaker Ban Controversy: Y brings Aptheker to campus, successfully challenges communist speaker ban



1969, 1970 Cafeteria Workers' Strikes: Y staff assist with grievances and coordinate funds for workers; Y students assist Black Student Movement with protests and coalition building

1969-1971 Culmination of Vietnam Protests: Y organizes buses for Washington Witness trip; campus strikes and protests



1990: Founding of national literacy organization, SCALE, and UNC's APPLES Service Learning Program out of Y

2007: Renovated Y re-opens after successful capital campaign led by alumni

2011: Launch of the Global Gap Year Fellowship



Early 1900's: The Y created intramural athletics, the book exchange, career services, new student orientation, Hillel, and housed the *Daily Tar Heel*

Visit us online at
campus-y.unc.edu

For questions contact
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