

MT IRENAEUS SUMMER SUPERVISED MINISTRY DETAILS

PROGRAM: Supervised Experience in Ministry

POSITION: Student Mountain Companion Minister

DESCRIPTION: The Student Mountain Companion Minister at Mt. Irenaeus will share in the goals of the Franciscan Mountain Retreat – dedication to the formation of a Gospel community and provision for personal solitude grounded in the Lord. The ministry experience is an in-depth continued experience of life and ministry with times off as noted in the application form and agreed to previous to the summer.

Student Mountain Ministry Responsibilities will include:

- Preparation of prayer
- Prayer leadership and participation
- Participation in Planning and Review Meetings
- Leadership of day activities
- Manual labor
- Domestic chores, including cooking
- Non-skilled maintenance
- Hospitality

Responsibilities of the Mountain toward the Student Leaders

- Supervision
- Frequent check-ins
- Attention to goals a student may have for the Summer
- A stipend given at the middle and end of the experience

Student Ministers will enter fully into community life as members of The Mountain Community, including the community prayer life and reflection so as to learn ministry in the context of our life style.

As a way to enter more fully in an experience of the natural world, student companions will tent out for the summer with indoor room for storage of clothes and changing, sleeping in, in highly inclement weather.

Time off will be discussed with each student during his or her interview.

MT. IRENAEUS SUMMER COMPANION NARRATIVE:

Mt. Irenaeus is a year-round community and place for “peace and prayerful re-creation offering hospitality and service to more than 300 visitors monthly. These visitors are people of all backgrounds and experiences who come as nearby as St. Bonaventure University and from the distant corners of the world.

Begun in 1983, Mt. Irenaeus enjoyed two summers in temporary residence in the town of Allegany until its 1985 move to a hilltop in Allegany County, New York. Here in its permanent home, “The Mountain” developed a plan to become a place for “prayerful re-creation.”

Although the Mountain experience differs from person to person, The Mountain vision remains the same: that those who come may know personal solitude grounded in the Lord, and, at the same time, participate in the formation of a Gospel community.

To that end, The Mountain serves as a simple, joyful lifestyle that offers time and space for rest from everyday life in order to review values and directions and “begin again.” By encouraging a life that is in harmony with the land and local people, The Mountain provides an alternative living situation that is supportive of the Christian sense of person-within-community. This alternative, in turn, nurtures a more profound relationship with the larger world with the hope of influencing that world for the common good.

Our hope of influencing the world for the common good, coupled with the desire of many students to seek a more extensive immersion into the “life and ministry” of The Mountain has inspired The Mountain Summer Supervised Ministry Companion Program. This program will accept young college people as companions at Mt. Irenaeus for nine weeks in the Summer of 2022 to help maintain and extend The Mountain ministry. Priority will be given to SBU students and if space permits, to students from other schools.

The Summer Ministry Companion Program will consist of a nine-week period. “Work” hours will vary depending on programming, community life and other needs during the summer. Companions will take on a variety of roles. A large part of the time commitment will be spent in preparation of prayer and prayer leadership, combined with leadership of daily activities such as conference groups, nature walks, prayer days, participation in programs for people both young and not so young, seeking respite from troublesome situations. The content of the programs themselves flow from a foundational goal of The Mountain which is to be responsive to identified community needs. Other significant roles will include extending hospitality to Mountain guests and manual work both inside the buildings and on the grounds. Experience has shown that this schedule will be sufficiently flexible to allow time for summer companions’ own experience of peaceful recreation, and that this time will enrich their role as ministers to others.

The quality of personal participation made by the companion as members of the “Summer” Resident Community will be a key to the success of his or her program. “Success” can be measured by how well the companions interact with the year-round community and function as full partners during their time here. Companions will join in leading daily prayer, attending weekly planning meetings and scripture sharing, and taking part in meals and recreation.

Summer Ministry Companions will be selected from students who have already exhibited themselves as leaders among their peers and who may have demonstrated this quality through their experiences at The Mountain or offer significant reasons why they might participate as a summer companion. This selection will be guided by The Mountain's Resident Community and will be based upon such considerations as interaction, interest, successful completion of a personal interview, and a clear articulation of his or her hopes/ areas of growth and challenge for the summer. The ability to offer and/or name what they hope to gain from the summer experience will help the Supervisor and year-round Resident Community see where The Mountain's "manner of life and ministry" might serve the companions' goals as well as ours for the summer.

Supervising the Summer Companion Program will be Kevin Kriso, OFM. He will function as the on-site supervisor of the Summer Companion Program. The other members of The Mountain's Resident Community will aid Br. Kevin in his supervisory role. Companions will meet weekly with Br. Kevin or another Mountain Resident Community Member to reflect on their experiences and growing edges in their development as ministers. Possibly at several points during the summer Mt. Irenaeus companions, Br. Kevin and others from the year-round resident community will get together with the summer companions and Supervisor from the Warming House. During these times we might work together at our various ministry sites, do group sharing about our reflections on our ministries, and take time for socializing and recreation.

It is likely that students who are interested in the Summer Ministry Companion Program are financing some portion of their own education. A stipend to help toward their education must at least, albeit on a minimal level, make up for lost wages from other summer employment opportunities. Consequently, the stipend offered for this supervised experience in ministry is \$3,000 for the nine-week period, with room and board included. Taxes and Social Security will be deducted from the stipend. Companions will also be able to take two weeknights and one weekend away from The Mountain during this period.