



Summer Ministry in Community Internship Program Description

The Summer Ministry in Community Internship (SMCI) at the Neighborhood Resilience Project & St. Moses the Black Orthodox Church is a unique program for current Orthodox Christian young adults looking both to develop a stronger understanding of the Orthodox Faith and how it is lived in day-to-day life and to serve the Church and those in need.

SMCI affords young Orthodox Christians with a formational experience that:

Exposes them to Orthodox mission and social work in an underserved urban community,

Prepares them for day-to-day life in an Orthodox household and empowers them to take hold of the Orthodox faith and make it their own

Connects them with like-minded peers of different backgrounds and fields from throughout the country,

Allows them to study and enter into deep theological conversations with their peers about the Orthodox Christian Tradition under the guidance of graduate-level students of theology and ministry.

Mission of the Neighborhood Resilience Project:

Rooted in the Gospel and teaching of the Orthodox Church, inspired by the Civil Rights Movement (American 1950s-1960s), the mission of the Neighborhood Resilience Project is to support the transformation of neighborhoods from Trauma Affected Communities to Resilient Healing and Healthy Communities through Trauma Informed Community Development.

Mission of St. Moses the Black Orthodox Church:

We welcome all those suffering and broken-hearted to our community with love and acceptance, and we desire to suffer with them, offering the hope and healing necessary to reconcile human beings with one another and with God.

When:

The SMCI program begins every summer on the first Monday of June and concludes on the first Friday after the Feast of the Transfiguration.

How long:

10 weeks (all applicants must be able to commit to the full 10-week program)

Who can apply:

All young adults who have graduated high school, are between the ages of 18 and 22, and are baptized and chrismated in the Orthodox Christian Church are eligible to apply for the SMCI.

Students who will graduate from high school prior to the start of the SMCI program but have not yet graduated are not yet eligible for the program.

Number of positions available:

Up to 10 SMC Internships are available each summer.

Basic expectations:

SMC interns are part of a summer-long program focused on spiritually formative communal living in the St. Maria of Paris Orthodox Mission House and service to both the Neighborhood Resilience Project and St. Moses the Black Orthodox Church.

NRP Expectations:

30 hours a week Mondays through Fridays

See "Pillars of Formation" for further details

St. Moses Church Expectations:

Attend all church services & functions

See <http://stmosesonthehill.com/> for schedule

See "Pillars of Formation" for further details

St. Maria of Paris House Expectations:

Must reside in the St. Maria House for the entirety of the SMCI program

See "Pillars of Formation" for further details

***Interns should not be registered in more than 2 online courses while participating in the SMCI program

***For guidelines for personal time off see "Time off"

Pillars of Formation:

The SMCI program seeks to provide a formative summer experience for young adult Orthodox Christians through an extended period of service within and to two separate communities in the following ways:

1: Orthodox Home Life

Throughout the duration of the SMCI program, interns live in the St. Maria of Paris Orthodox Mission House under the guidance of an SML Extern. This experience affords them the opportunity to take on the habits of Orthodox home-life in a setting independent of their families and friends.

These habits include but are not limited to:

Prayer

Daily communal prayer through a nightly compline service in the House Chapel

Personal daily prayers

Food

Fasting according to the calendar of the Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese

Daily communal supper

Daily cooking for themselves and their housemates during both fasting and nonfasting periods of the Liturgical Year

Order, Space, and Responsibility

Operating and maintaining a House altar and iconostasis

Cleaning and organizing communal and personal spaces

Budgeting and managing House food, funds, and other resources

Time Management

Ensuring adequate time is allotted each day to completing House responsibilities, communal obligations, and service to the NRP/St. Moses

Living in Community

Sharing personal and communal spaces with other individuals

Sharing House resources and food

Respecting spaces of others

Living with and respecting individuals of a different gender

While an SML Extern guides SMC interns in achieving the above goals, interns are given immense freedom in making group and personal decisions regarding the ways they strive to live an Orthodox lifestyle in the St. Maria House

2: Spiritual Formation

SMC interns are given numerous ways to grow spiritually over the course of the program, including the following:

Daily liturgical worship at St. Moses Church

Daily prayer at the St. Maria House (see “1. Orthodox Home Life”)

Weekly Theological Discussions with peers and graduate Theology students (see “3. Theological Education”)

Intentional moments for spiritual reflection with SML externs and clergy at the NRP/St. Moses Church

Intentional moments for spiritual reflection and theological discussion with fellow SMC interns

A series of spiritual retreats over the course of the program (see “Retreats/Time Off”)

3: Theological Education

Over the course of the SMCI program, interns are given the opportunity to increase their understanding of the Orthodox Tradition through thorough theological education and reflection. The purpose of the educational experience is to delve beyond basic “Sunday School” lessons, giving interns the opportunity to learn, reflect on, and discuss the fundamental doctrines and way of life of the Orthodox Church.

The primary mode of Theological Education in the SMCI program is through weekly Theological Discussions. Each week, the SML externs provide a set of materials (written, audio, and visual) on a specific theological topic to the interns. Interns are expected to closely engage with the materials in preparation for the weekly discussion through which the externs expand on the teachings of the materials, answer questions about them, and lead a conversation amongst the interns on the topic of the week.

SMC interns’ daily experience in the NRP/St. Moses Church and St. Maria House also provides opportunities for theological education and the development of a fuller understanding of the Orthodox way of life.

4: Community Engagement

Through the NRP, interns experience how a parish takes on an active role in its surrounding community. Interns learn the basic characteristics of an outward-facing Orthodox parish, particularly a mission parish, and receive certification in Community Outreach Parish Support training.

Interns also engage in daily service to the local urban greater-Pittsburgh community. Over the course of the program, interns serve in an educational support role to the NRP's Trauma Informed Community Development framework in the various ministries of the NRP as listed and described below:

Community Development

Food & Clothing Drive- Collects and distributes free clothes and household items to community members, serves lunch daily, and offers nonperishable items to community members in need

Backpack Feeding Program- provides 6 meals each week to over 2,000 local children.

Emergency Relief Services- Offers social & financial support for a variety of emergency relief needs to those pursuing healing and transformation.

Daily programming- Offers various group activities to the local community, such as arts & crafts, music group, bingo, and more.

Health & Wellbeing

Free Health Center- Offers free personal care physician, dental, and obgyn services to uninsured and underinsured individuals.

Microcommunity Interventions- Offers interventions and programming for communities and individuals experiencing

trauma with the hope of building healthy, healing microcommunities.

Trauma Response Team- Responds to violent incidents in local communities, engages community members to help stop the spread of violence, encourages community members to receive support from our team & professionals.

Leadership Development

Through the above mentioned work, interns develop valuable social, listening, and empathy skills. They are also trained and certified in:

Psychological First Aid

Mental Health First Aid

Retreats/Time Off:

In total, SMC interns offer approximately 300 hours of service to the NRP over the course of the summer program. Considering also the weekly services at the St. Moses Church, interns participate in approximately 110 hours of additional evening and weekend group programming throughout the duration of the program.

Because of this immense time-commitment over just 10 weeks of programming, rest is an extremely important aspect of the SCMI.

Interns are given 4 structured communal days of retreat and rest over the course of the program.

Over the course of the summer, SML externs lead interns on 4 field trips to various remote locations.

On these trips, interns engage in various team-bonding and spiritual activities as well as free time to spend as they wish.

Examples of locations for retreats are local monasteries, state/theme parks, and retreat centers.

Interns are encouraged to take up to 3 additional days off from the NRP over the course of the 10 week SMCI program.

A "day off" is considered a period when an intern is absent from an entire day of service at the NRP.

A day is considered a "half day off" when an intern is absent from the NRP for a period of 4 or less consecutive hours.

Time taken off on weekends *is not* considered part of the 3 days of "time off" afforded over the course of the program, but interns should consult with SML externs prior to scheduling weekends off.

All interns must receive permission from the SML externs at least 24 hours in advance of a day off or half day off and at least 48 hours in advance of more than one day off.

SMC interns should not plan family vacations/trips that last more than 5 days (3 days off plus the weekend, including travel time) during the time-period of the SMCI program.

***Emergency situations and time off plans that seem to conflict with the above time off guidelines should be discussed with SML externs.

***Friends and family of externs may visit them during the summer at the NRP, St. Moses Church, and St. Maria House. However, all house members must consent to visitors and approval must be obtained from the CEO and COO of the NRP at least 48 hours in advance.

Should a visitor seek to lodge at the St. Maria House, consent and approval must also be obtained.

Criteria for acceptance:

The CEO and COO of the NRP are directly responsible for reviewing applications to the SMCI program.

Applicants are chosen based on:

- Prayer and the guidance of the Holy Spirit

- Interest in the program and its educational opportunities, as indicated through:
 - The essay & interview portions of the application process
 - Evidence of prior involvement in social, evangelical, catechetical, and urban Christian ministry
- Dispositional fit
 - While some applicants may possess all the skills and interests necessary for a fruitful summer as an SMC Intern, the NRP reserves the right to choose a cohort of interns based on their perceived ability to work with and complement one another as well as the SML externs serving at the NRP that summer.
- Skills/Vocational Goals
 - Applicants with skills that can fill a current need at the NRP/St. Moses Church (ex: graphic design or chanting) may be given priority in the application process
 - Applicants' interest in pursuing a career related to one of the aspects of the ministry of the NRP may be considered in discerning their fit for the program
- Academic Seniority
 - Applicants approaching 22 years of age are, on a case-by-case basis, given priority in the application process over younger applicants.

Experience in any aspect of this ministry is NOT a factor in the application process. The SMCI is an educational experience that can both build on participants' skills/previous experiences as well as provide an opportunity for those completely new to ministry in the Church to begin to cultivate the skills and wisdom necessary to lead in the Church.

Pay/Finances:

Under the Fair Labor Standards Act, SMC interns are considered unpaid workers of the NRP. Thus, the NRP abides by the U.S. Department of Labor guidelines for unpaid interns.

SMC interns are expected to raise funds for the basic living necessities needed during the program.

Housing/utilities- \$600

Food- \$750

Miscellaneous- \$200

TOTAL- \$1550

Scholarships/grants may be available for interns on a summer-by-summer basis. While some scholarships do become available after the application process is completed, unless noted otherwise, interns should assume that they must fundraise the entire amount necessary to support their summer experience as listed above.