



Summer Ministry Leadership Externship Program Description

The Summer Ministry Leadership Externship (SMLE) at the Neighborhood Resilience Project & St. Moses the Black Orthodox Church is a first-of-its-kind program for current Orthodox Christian graduate students preparing for a life of service to the Orthodox Christian Church.

SMLE affords soon-to-be Church leaders (both lay and clergy) with a unique opportunity to develop experience and knowledge related to social ministry, mission work, pastoral care, youth & young adult ministry, parish/ministry administration, and liturgics in an urban setting.

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 SMLE program begins every summer on Memorial Day (move-in to the St. Maria House should occur sometime prior to Memorial Day) and concludes prior to the same summer's Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos.

How long:

12 weeks (all applicants must be able to commit to the full 12-week program)

Who can apply:

All students *currently attending* an Orthodox Christian graduate school and baptized and chrismated in the Orthodox Christian Church are eligible to apply for the SMLE .

*Students who will graduate prior to the start of the SMLE are eligible for the program as long as their application is submitted **before** graduation.*

Students who will soon begin but have not yet begun studies in an Orthodox graduate program are not eligible to apply for the SMLE.

Number of positions available:

Up to 2 SML Externships are available each summer.

Basic expectations:

SML Externs are part of a summer-long program focused on educational servant-leadership to both the Neighborhood Resilience Project and St. Moses the Black Orthodox Church as well as to the St. Maria of Paris Orthodox Mission House and all its residents.

NRP Expectations:

9-5 am Mondays through Fridays

See "Educational pillars" for further details

St. Moses Church Expectations:

Attend all church services & functions

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

See "Educational pillars" for further details

St. Maria of Paris House Expectations:

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

With the permission of the CEO and COO of the NRP, SML externs that are local residents may be allowed to reside at their home rather than the St. Maria House

Must be "on call" and aware of all happenings in the St. Maria House at all hours of the day for all seven days of each week

See "Educational pillars" for further details

***Externs should not be registered in more than 1 online course while participating in the SMCI program

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

Educational pillars:

The SMLE program seeks to fulfill 4 basic educational pillars for Orthodox Christians preparing for a life of service to the Church:

1: Parish/Ministry Administration

Throughout the summer, SML externs are exposed to and involved in the administration process of both the Neighborhood Resilience Project and St. Moses the Black Orthodox Church.

Externs sit in on high-level meetings with ministry partners, donors, and members of NRP/St. Moses staff and volunteers in order to learn how to:

Start and operate an Orthodox parish & non-profit

Fundraise for a parish and non-profit

Oversee the day-to-day operations of an Orthodox parish & non-profit

Contribute to the leadership team's administrative decisions for the wellbeing of the parish/non-profit and its mission

Externs are also directly responsible for the operations, maintenance, and day-to-day life of the St. Maria House. This responsibility affords externs the opportunity to experience an

extended period of positional authority and the burden that comes with being a servant leader of people and caretaker of building spaces.

Externs are expected to exercise discernment, discretion, patience, and prayer in ensuring proper stewardship of the St. Maria House, its occupants, and its resources. This includes but is not limited to:

Enforcing house rules/schedules

Assuring proper treatment and care of St. Maria House facilities & resources

Ensuring proper physical, spiritual, and emotional safety and support for all occupants of the house

2: Ministry Development

SML externs are directly responsible for overseeing the Summer Ministry in Community Internship (SMCI) program and all ministries related to it. This includes but is not limited to:

Intern onboarding & training in the House & at the NRP

Intern task delegation & oversight at the NRP

Weekly theological discussions/lessons

Daily communal prayer in the St. Maria House

Regular retreats/community building trips

SMLE weekly elective

St. Maria House activities

Intern transportation needs and schedules

As student overseers of the SMCI program, SML externs learn to plan, prepare, and execute a variety of ministries and organized formational programs and to adapt them to different contexts and

circumstances. Above all, externs develop skills in catechetical education and spiritual/community formation.

SML externs are also responsible for overseeing all mission trips/groups that visit the NRP/St. Moses Church during the SMLE.

Externs are expected to work with the COO and CEO of the NRP to determine proper training, tasks, and spiritual formation of mission groups based on each group's unique characteristics, including age, size, background, and duration of stay.

3: Pastoral Care

While in the SMLE program, externs are able to develop pastoral skills and experience in a hands-on and practical manner. This is a unique opportunity for externs to learn and develop their pastoral leadership, listening, and social skills.

One of the primary ways that pastoral experience is developed in the SMLE is through the SMCI program.

SML externs are the first outlet of spiritual and emotional support that the young, Orthodox, college-age SMC interns engage with in spiritual reflections, vocational discernment, and personal struggles.

In order to build a relationship with and be available to SMC interns, externs are responsible for dividing up weekly one-on-one meetings with each of the SMC interns in order to get to know each intern, check in with his or her summer experience, and discuss personal struggles or questions.

Through interactions with the interns, externs experience first-hand what it is like being a spiritual mentor and guide to another person.

In their role as spiritual mentors, externs do not engage in any counseling for which they are not trained, including that of a psychologist, therapist, licensed counselor, or presbyter/Spiritual Father. Rather, they are encouraged to

have deep, meaningful, and theologically informed conversations with each person who seeks their support. In this way, conversational engagements between externs and interns allow externs to become more comfortable with discussing serious and personal topics with persons and with being a person that others turn to for guidance and support.

Over the course of the SMLE program, externs also become certified in the following three areas:

Psychological First Aid

Externs have the opportunity to earn up to 6 CPE credits through this training

Mental Health First Aid

Community Outreach Parish Support

Externs are also required to participate in the NRP's annual Trauma Informed Community Development Institute. The Institute introduces the NRP's Trauma Informed Community Development framework to the externs and informs and develops the current and future pastoral ministry of the externs.

Externs will also have the opportunity to become certified Trauma Responders. As such, they will be able to join the NRP Trauma Response Team in responding to acute and long term care of community members experiencing trauma with the hope of building healthy, healing microcommunities.

Certificate

4: Liturgical Life

No Orthodox Christian educational experience would be complete without a rich liturgical life. By regularly attending and participating in the fullness of the liturgical life of the St. Moses Church, SML externs are able to offer their time and talents to the

Church and also grow used to taking on a formal set of responsibilities in a parish setting.

Male externs serve in the church Sanctuary during all services at the NRP and are responsible for the cleanliness and order of the Sanctuary.

All externs with experience in sacred music (particularly Byzantine) have the opportunity to participate in leading chanting during services.

Externs with no musical background may shadow the cantors of St. Moses in order to learn the music of the services.

All externs are responsible for the smooth conduction of the daily midday (6th Hour) services at St. Moses, primarily the assignment of Reader roles to those in attendance.

Externs on the ordination track with a blessing from their local Hierarchy (commonly known as Seminarians) are also expected to preach once a week at the conclusion of the daily 6th Hour prayers.

***All externs report directly to the COO of the NRP and have weekly one-on-one meetings with the CEO of the NRP.

Time off:

Taking into consideration time and responsibilities offered to the NRP, the St. Moses Church, and the St. Maria House over the course of the summer, SML externs each offer approximately eighty-four 24 hour days of service/ministry over the course of the SMLE program.

This type of "on-call" commitment is reflective of that of a Church leader in the Orthodox Church, particularly a clergyman.

As with clergymen and other Church leaders, however, rest and regeneration is an important aspect of ministry.

Externs are encouraged to take up to 14 days off over the course of the 12 week SMLE program.

A "day off" is considered a period of over 12 consecutive hours when an Extern is absent from the NRP, the St. Moses Church, and the St. Maria House at the same time.

A day is considered a "half day off" when an Extern is absent from the NRP, the St. Moses Church, and the St. Maria House at the same time for a period of 6 to 12 consecutive hours.

Time taken off on weekends *is* considered part of the 14 days of "time off" afforded over the course of the program.

All externs must receive a blessing from the CEO of the NRP and permission from the COO of the NRP 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.

Both SML externs cannot take more than half a day off at the same time.

If one Extern wishes to be away from the St. Maria House overnight, the other Extern should be prepared to take on full house responsibilities.

***Emergency situations and time off plans that seem to conflict with the above time off guidelines should be discussed with the CEO and COO of the NRP.

***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 SMLE 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
- Vocational Goals
 - Male & female students pursuing a Masters of Divinity degree with the goal of dedicating their life to serving the Church (whether as a clergyman or layperson) are given priority in the application process over students pursuing other theological/counseling/psychological graduate degrees.
- Dispositional fit
 - While some applicants may possess all the skills and interests necessary for a fruitful summer as an SML Extern, the NRP reserves the right to choose one or two externs based on their perceived ability to work with and complement one another as well as the group of SMC Interns serving at the NRP that summer
- Academic Seniority
 - Students approaching graduation or entering into their final year of studies at an Orthodox institution are, on a case-by-case basis, given priority in the application process over students just beginning their studies

Experience in any aspect of this ministry is NOT a factor in the application process. The SMLE 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:

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

Externs receive a stipend and financial support for basic necessities over the duration of the SMLE program.

Food and housing for the externs at the St. Maria House is fully subsidized for the duration of the SMLE program.

A \$1,500 stipend is paid to each extern over the course of the SMLE program.

The stipend is split into 3 monthly \$500 payments.