



YOUNG ADULT RESIDENCY Program Description

A Different Kind of Internship

The residency program helps cultivate the next generation of social change agents by providing the space for young adults to reflect, build community, serve, and pursue their passions. Participants clarify their own sense of meaning and purpose and discover how to carry it into their relationships, work, and life choices. Participants leave The Mountain with concrete skills and a lifelong thirst for greater awareness. They leave with the belief that they have the capacity and responsibility to work with others to bring peacebuilding, meaning, social justice, and environmental ethics to the center of their communities.

Overview

- 20- 30 hours of Mountain service per week
- 3-5 young adults ages 18-26
- 15-week immersion program
- \$1500 stipend; room and board provided at The Mountain

Residents participate in all aspects of the retreat and learning center, including housekeeping, maintenance, food service, finance, marketing, website management, program design and evaluation, and guest services. In addition, they undertake learning projects, community service, and field trips. Due to the program's intensity and schedule, participants are not able to have outside employment during the time of the residency.

Residents share housing on The Mountain's property and have the opportunity to experience building community, respecting differences, living simply, and constructively resolving conflict.

Program Components

- service in various aspects of Mountain Retreat & Learning Center
- live in a learning community with a common purpose
- volunteering with community organizations
- develop an individual initiative to address a social or environmental issue
- facilitate workshops for youth and young adults
- garden management
- intentional time in nature
- individual meetings with Mountain staff mentor to monitor progress on personal goals
- group meetings to process experience
- outdoor education
- artistic expression
- visit social change organizations and meet with staff
- book and film discussions
- research issues of interest and present to fellow residents and Mountain staff
- attend public events (lectures, concerts, etc.) in surrounding area
- team-building
- assist with outcome evaluations of Mountain programs
- participate in collective action in surrounding cities (nonviolent protests, teach-ins, etc.)

Application Deadline: Applications are due May 1, 2009 for the Fall 09 Session. After that time, applications will be accepted on a rolling basis.

Questions: Please contact: **Alisa Pykett**
(828) 526-5838 Ext. 238
alisa.pykett@mountaincenters.org
www.mountaincenters.org



YOUNG ADULT RESIDENCY

The Mountain

Nestled atop a granite cliff in Western North Carolina, The Mountain's breathtaking views evoke a sense of wonder. Our Mountaintop Retreat and Learning Center is at an elevation of over 4200 feet and straddles the Eastern Continental Divide, featuring a four-state panoramic vista, great sunsets, meteor showers, and spectacular views of the surrounding Nantahala National Forest. Rare native plant and wildlife habitats, including a rare stand of ancient wind-worn dwarf white oaks, are just a few components of this rich and diverse ecosystem in the Appalachian Mountains and the Southern Blue Ridge escarpment.

The Mountain is a year-round retreat and learning center that designs, facilitates, and hosts programs and retreats for people of all ages and faiths. **The Mountain's mission is to embrace the diversity of life, creating an environment to energize people to work for positive change.** Further, The Mountain strives to provoke insight and incite humane, sustainable social change through reflection, experiential education, and meaningful action. The Mountain was founded in 1979 by a group of Unitarian Universalists in the Southeast. Today, The Mountain's core values are still grounded in Unitarian Universalist principles:

The Inherent Worth and Dignity of Every Individual

We embrace diversity of ability, age, class, culture, family lifestyle, gender, religious affiliation and affectional orientation and we treat one another as individuals who deserve respect and kindness.

Justice, Equity and Compassion in Human Relations

All philosophies, policies and practices underscore and reflect our commitment to ethical behavior.

Acceptance of One Another and Encouragement to Spiritual Growth

Our constituencies will be multi-faith, multi-generational and multi-cultural.

A Free and Responsible Search for Truth and Meaning

We encourage guests, staff and trustees to engage in new patterns of thinking and to continually learn together in community and as individuals to enhance their personal and professional lives.

The Right of Conscience and the Use of the Democratic Process

We challenge one another (trustees, staff and guests) to "speak our truth calmly" so that we may use our strength in the service of our values and vision; we strive to facilitate both diversity and harmony, recognizing separate paths on a common journey.

The Goal of World Community with Peace, Liberty and Justice for All

In a safe, stimulating environment, we seek to create discomfort with the status quo in order to incite actions that will make a difference – one life, one institution, one community at a time.

Respect for the Interdependent Web of all Existence of which we are a Part

We protect the fragile environment of our site, educating one another and our guests about the uniqueness of this place with the intention of inspiring awareness and initiatives in earth stewardship wherever we live, work and play.

www.mountaincenters.org



The Mountain

Please type or print clearly.

YOUNG ADULT RESIDENCY Application

Applying for: Session _____

Personal Information

Full Name:		Date:	
Current Address:			
Permanent Address:			
Current Address Effective Until?			
Day Phone:		Evening Phone:	
Email Address:			
Age:	Date of Birth:	Social Security Number:	
Are you a U.S. Citizen or Permanent Resident?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Do you speak any other languages besides English?	
Are you currently a student?		If yes, what year are you in?	
Do you have a valid driver's license?			
How did you hear about The Mountain's Young Adult Residency Program?			

Education

The Mountain requires residents to have earned a high school diploma or a GED. Please list all schools attended starting with high school, including military training, trade & technical school, and college & graduate work. Please list any additional educational experiences on your resume.

Name of Educational Institution:			
City & State:		Dates Attended:	
Status / Degree / Certification:		Area/s of Study:	
Name of Educational Institution:			
City & State:		Dates Attended:	
Status / Degree / Certification:		Area/s of Study:	
Name of Educational Institution:			
City & State:		Dates Attended:	
Status / Degree / Certification:		Area/s of Study:	
What are your educational goals?			

Work Experience

Please list your two most recent work experiences, starting with the most recent. Please add any additional work experiences on your resume.

Employer or Organization:		
Address:		
Phone:		Dates Employed:
Title:		Approximate Hours per Week:
Responsibilities:		
Supervisor:		May we contact your supervisor?

Employer or Organization:		
Address:		
Phone:		Dates Employed:
Title:		Approximate Hours per Week:
Responsibilities:		
Supervisor:		May we contact your supervisor?

Involvement

Please list two volunteer or community activities in which you are or have been involved. These could include activities through school, organizations, or religious organizations. If possible or applicable, provide a contact person and phone number for the activity.

Activity:		Dates:
Sponsoring Organization:		
Contact Person:		Phone Number:
What did you do?		

Activity:		Dates:
Sponsoring Organization:		
Contact Person:		Phone Number:
What did you do?		

References

Please list three people who we can contact about your education, experiences, skills, and character. References should not be friends or relatives.

Name:	Phone:	Relationship:
Name:	Phone:	Relationship:
Name:	Phone:	Relationship:

Please have two of these references complete and return the reference form included in this packet.

Short Answer

Please answer the following short answer questions on a separate sheet of paper.

1. What skills do you bring to this residency program? (Please answer this on a separate sheet of paper and, in addition, check below any of the following areas in which you have experience:)

- Writing Skills General Computers Word Processing Spreadsheets Databases Web Design
 Internet Graphic Design Finance Marketing Work with Youth Arts: _____
 Community Organizing Research Skills Carpentry Cooking Program Design
 Environmental Science Outdoor Adventure Facilitation Conflict Resolution

2. Describe an experience where you had to work with a team in order to accomplish a goal. What does teamwork mean to you?

3. You will be living in simple accommodations at The Mountain with other members of the young adult residency program. The Mountain is located in the mountains in national forest, four miles outside of a small town and two- three hours from a city (Asheville, Atlanta, Greenville). What is most appealing about this living situation? What will be most challenging?

Personal Statement

The personal statement is a chance to let us know who you are – what has shaped you, what are you passionate about, what do you want to see in the world, what motivates you. Please address the following questions in 4 single-spaced pages or less.

- What are one or two pivotal experiences that have shaped your desire to work for social change?
- The Mountain is an engagement center that strives to provoke insight and incite humane, sustainable social change. Spend some time looking over our core values in the “Acknowledgement and Signature” section. Why do you want to do a residency at The Mountain? What is exciting to you about The Mountain’s work? What may be challenging?
- What do you see in your community that gives you hope? What changes would you like see in your community?
- How will your participation in The Mountain’s young adult residency program help you reach your goals?

Additional Information

1. In addition to completing this application, please include a current resume.
2. Please have two of your references complete the attached reference forms or write a letter of support that addresses the questions on the form. References should mail the forms directly back to The Mountain. Make sure your reference puts your name on the form.

Application Deadline: For the Fall 09 Session, Applications and Reference Forms are due May 1, 2009. After May 1st, applications will be accepted on a rolling basis. For other sessions, please see The Mountain’s website.

Acknowledgements and Signature

I understand the commitment to The Mountain's Young Adult Residency Program is for the full length of the session for which I am applying. If accepted, I commit to complete the program and to full participation and cooperation in the various components of the residency experience: learning assignments, work/service assignments, housing accommodations, social and cultural activities, and other program arrangements. I further agree to accept the responsibility of cooperating with the program leader, Mountain Staff, and the other young adult residency participants. I also understand that failure to participate actively in the program or unwillingness to be a cooperative group member at any point during the program may result in my immediate dismissal.

I acknowledge that I will be asked to sign and commit to The Mountain Retreat & Learning Center's Covenant of Community Standards and Behaviors. I accept The Mountain's program philosophy and strive to carry out my responsibilities within the framework of The Mountain's core values:

- ❖ The inherent worth and dignity of every individual
- ❖ Justice, equity and compassion in human relations
- ❖ Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth
- ❖ Free and responsible search for truth and meaning
- ❖ The right of conscience and the use of democratic process
- ❖ The goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all
- ❖ Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part

I have not been convicted of any violent or sexual crimes involving children or adults. I have read and fully understand the application information. I hereby certify that the information that I have provided in this application is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge as of this date. I also understand that untrue, misleading, or omitted information herein may result in dismissal, regardless of the time of discovered by The Mountain.

I authorize The Mountain to inquire about this information, my work history and qualifications, and any other information considered relevant, including, but not limited to, my general character and criminal background. I authorize any person or entity to provide the requested information to The Mountain. I release The Mountain and its representatives, and any person or entity (and its representatives) that provides information, from all liability arising from making the inquiries, providing the information, or deciding about my employment as a result of the inquiries or information. Copies of this authorization showing my signature are as valid as the original release form.

SIGNATURE

DATE

Please return all application materials to:

**The Mountain
Alisa Pykett, Residency Program
PO Box 1299
Highlands, NC 28741**

If you have any questions about the application or the program, please contact:

**Alisa Pykett, Residency Program
(828) 526-5838 ext. 238
alisa.pykett@mountaincenters.org**



Young Adult Residency Program

Applicant Reference

The Mountain Retreat & Learning Centers; PO Box 1299, Highlands, NC 28741
(828) 526-5838 Ext. 238 • fax (781)846-1295 • alisa.pykett@mountaincenters.org

Reference for (applicant's name): _____

The Mountain Retreat & Learning Center's young adult residency program helps young adults cultivate a sense of meaning and purpose so that they carry an authentic commitment to social change into their relationships, work, and life choices. Participants in the residency program leave The Mountain with concrete skills, a lifelong thirst for greater awareness, and the belief that they have the capacity and responsibility to work with others to bring peace, justice, and sustainability to the center of their communities. The Mountain seeks mature, well-balanced, and motivated young men and women to participate in the work-study program. Participation will be a demanding experience. Participants will live in an intentional community, commit to living a simple lifestyle, and be confronted with living situations, responsibilities, and learning experiences that will be new and challenging. You can find more information about The Mountain at www.mountaincenters.org.

Please answer these questions to the best of your ability; omit any questions that you do not feel qualified to answer. If you prefer, you can write a letter of support that addresses these questions. Your statements will be kept confidential, unless you indicate below that you are open to sharing your reference with the applicant. Thank you for taking the time to complete this reference. Please return completed form to Alisa Pykett at the above address.

Are you willing to let the applicant see your reference form or letter? Yes No

Name of Reference:		Date:
Daytime Phone Number:		
Address:		
Email Address:	How long have you known the applicant?	
1. What is your relationship to the applicant?		
2. Please describe the responsibilities the applicant had when working with you.		
3. How would you describe the applicant's work ethic, including the areas of punctuality and timeliness?		

(please see other side)

4. The young adult residents will be living, working, and learning together as a team. How do you think the applicant will do in this environment for a 3 ½ month period?

5. What are the applicant's strengths?

6. Describe the applicant's level of interest in learning.

7. Do you have any concerns about the applicant's ability to complete this program or areas in which they may need support?

8. Please add any other comments that you believe would be helpful in understanding the applicant's potential.

Name

Signature

Date



Young Adult Residency Program

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Date