



CROSS ROADS GAP YEAR PROGRAM

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Last updated 8.1.20

ELIGIBILITY

Who can participate in the Gap Year Program?

The Gap Year Program at Cross Roads is open to young adults ages 18+ who are looking for an intentional community experience in the coming year. Participants can be enrolled in college classes, taking a year off of school to work or do service in the community, or some combination.

Is this program only for recent high school graduates?

No! This program is for anyone 18+ who is taking a year off or whose college plans have changed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Whether you are a recent high school graduate, a student taking a year off during your undergrad time, a student taking some classes online, or you have graduated college, this program is for YOU!

I am 18 and will be a senior in high school. Can I apply?

No. This program is for young adults who are out of high school.

I'm a chemistry major taking a year off of college. Will this be a good opportunity for me?

Yes! There is no major requirement to participate in the Gap Year Program. We welcome applications from young adults interested in a range of subjects and careers. The program can be tailored to fit the needs and interests of the participants, and we will work with you to determine how to make the most out of this opportunity.

Do I have to be Lutheran or Episcopalian to apply?

No! Cross Roads is a welcoming, ecumenical retreat center and camp of the Episcopal Diocese of Newark and the New Jersey Synod of the ELCA. However, our staff and guests come from many faith backgrounds and you need not belong to one specific congregation to apply.

I have never been to Cross Roads before. Can I apply?

Yes! This opportunity is open to all young adults, not just those who have been campers or counselors at Cross Roads.

When is the application deadline?

To begin with the fall semester, participants are encouraged to apply by August 15.

PROGRAM LOGISTICS

When does this program begin?

The Gap Year Program runs from September 1, 2020 – May 30, 2021. Participants can apply to participate in the full year, or apply for either the fall or spring semesters only.

How much does the Gap Year cost?

The cost of the program is \$400 per month, to cover all housing expenses (including WiFi and other utilities).

Are there scholarships available?

Unfortunately, there are not scholarships available at this time. Participants are able to have jobs while in the program. We also encourage participants to find support from their communities, including churches, to help support their participation in the program.

Where will I live?

Participants will be housed on-site at Cross Roads in community living spaces with access to a full kitchen.

Will I be responsible for cooking my own food?

Yes. Participants will be responsible for buying and cooking your own food. There may be opportunity for food service when a retreat group is on-site.

Can I have a job while in this program?

Yes. You can work an on-site or remote job while in the Gap Year Program.

Tell me more about the “Adventure” component of the program.

As part of the community living experience, and in order to embrace living in God’s creation while at Cross Roads, participants will have the opportunity to participate in many outdoor adventures. These will include local hikes, canoeing/kayaking, an overnight backpacking trip, and other outdoor sports and games. There is no level of skill required to participate in any of these, just a willingness to try new things and have fun!

And what about “Service”? What will I be doing for the camp community?

In addition to outside service or volunteer work you may be doing as part of your Gap Year, all participants will serve as stewards of camp. This may look like: assisting with retreat groups, whether in the kitchen or cleaning facilities; helping design and lead youth programming, including retreats or Sunday School; maintenance projects around camp; or using your personal skills or expertise to support the ministry.

Will there be faith formation opportunities?

Yes! As part of the “Study” and “Rest” components of the program, participants will have the opportunity to partake in a variety of community and individual faith formation elements. This may look like communal worship services, group devotions, individual Bible study, worshiping with a church community, and more. Wherever you are on your faith journey, you are welcome to participate in the program.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

What precautions are being taken in response to COVID-19?

The health and safety of our community, including Gap Year participants, is a major priority. Cross Roads has been closely following the guidance of the CDC, the American Camp Association, and local health and government officials, especially for guidelines on cleaning and food service.

Participants in this program will adhere to all health and safety guidelines as members of the Cross Roads community. In addition, participants will be expected to follow strict guidelines for self-isolation prior to arrival on camp. As a small community, participants and camp staff will make a covenant together detailing expectations, restrictions, and guidelines regarding public health and safety. These will include, but are not limited to, procedures for leaving camp, having visitors, spending time together, and cleaning regularly.

If you have other questions while preparing your application, feel free to email kathryn@crossroadsretreat.com or call us at (908) 832-7264. We will get back to you as soon as we are able.

To submit your online application, visit <https://www.crossroadsretreat.com/gap-year-program/> and click "APPLY NOW."