



Civic Engagement Center

Bonner Community Scholars Program

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The Bonner Community Scholars Program is a four-year civic engagement program providing leadership programming, academic support, engagement opportunities and a social network.

Being a Bonner Scholar involves a commitment not only to service, but also to learning how to be an effective change agent for one's campus, community, and beyond. Ideal Bonner candidates are passionate about civic engagement and eliminating systematic inequalities, demonstrate community involvement, embrace working in a team setting, have leadership potential, and a commitment to the Bonner mission of "Access to Education & Opportunity to Serve."

Bonner is founded on six common commitments:

- **Diversity** - We respect and embrace the many dimensions of diversity in our private and public lives.
- **Social Justice** - We advocate for fairness, impartiality, and equality while addressing systemic social and environmental issues.
- **International Perspective** - We develop international understanding that enables us to participate successfully in a global society.
- **Spiritual Exploration** - We explore personal belief while respecting the spiritual practices of others.
- **Civic Engagement** - We participate intentionally as a citizen in the democratic process, actively engaging in public policy and direct service.
- **Community Building** - We establish and sustain a vibrant community of place, personal relationships, and common interests.

Key Bonner Program Features:

- **First-Year Bonner Orientation** - arrive on campus early to meet new and returning Bonner students and staff.
- **First-Year Service Trip** - dedicated meeting times to prepare for a week- long service trip over college break.
- **Sophomore Exchange** - a short service-based experience with Bonners from another school.
- **Summer of Service** - paid summer internship working with a non-profit; available summer after first year.
- **Bonner Congress** - leadership opportunity to represent Macalester's Bonner program at the national level.
- **Summer Leadership Institute** - leadership opportunity to represent Macalester's Bonner program at the national level.
- **Senior Capstone Experience** - culminating project reflecting and synthesizing on learning throughout the Bonner program.

Bonner Community Scholars are changing lives and transforming communities through their passion and work in the areas of college access, mentoring, economic development, health and wellness, human rights, and environmental sustainability.

Recruitment and selection of Bonner Community Scholars begins prior to the start of each academic year and is targeted towards the incoming first-year class. First generation college students, Minnesota residents and students who have participated in college access programs are strongly encouraged to apply.

First-year **EXPLORATION** Service

- Tutoring in local schools for approximately six hours a week
- First-year service trip - week-long intensive service experience over college break
- Lead college visits through Opportunities Abound - a college access awareness program for K-12 schools.

Training & Enrichment

- Bonner Orientation prior to the start of Macalester's first-year orientation
- School based team meetings

Second-year **EXPERIENCE** Service

- Work with local non-profit organizations for eight hours a week
- Lead a group of Mac volunteers to site if good match with organization

Training & Enrichment

- Sophomore Exchange - one day or more service and/or Bonner program idea exchange with another Bonner school

Third-year **EXAMPLE** Service

- Work-study placements continued with local non-profit organization from the year before for eight hours a week with additional leadership responsibilities
- Possible supervision of additional Bonners at site.
- Service abroad for study abroad students

Training & Enrichment

- Lead workshops surrounding specific issue areas and/or work of community organizations
- Recruit, coordinate and facilitate Macalester community members around issues you are passionate about and working on

Fourth-year **EXPERTISE** Service

- Placements continued with local non-profit organization from the year before for eight hours a week with additional leadership responsibilities and/or opportunities for research
- Possible service as Bonner Senior Intern

Training & Enrichment

- Senior capstone experience
- Continuation of training and enrichment experiences from previous years