



**COLLEGE of
CHARLESTON**
BONNER LEADER PROGRAM



Application for Bonner Leader Program 2016 - 2017

Bonner Leaders are outstanding students who commit themselves to leadership through service and making positive changes across campus and in the community. This four-year service-based program pairs real-life work experiences in Charleston nonprofit organizations with powerful leadership development training and education that helps students transition from volunteers to leaders in their community. The first group of 7 Bonner Leaders began the program in September 2008; currently, there are 30 Bonner Leaders. Our program represents one of only a small handful of urban Bonner campuses in the country.

Being a Bonner Leader means:

- Having a commitment to strengthening the community through service.
- Leadership development and opportunities.
- Organizing campus and community-wide service projects and events.
- Involvement in a community of peers dedicated to making a difference.
- Participating in national service conferences and other travel.
- Being open-minded and willing to work with diverse groups of people.

Requirements for Bonner Leader:

- Commitment to a service placement and weekly meetings for 300 hours each year (10-12 hours/week).
- Complete 30 credit hours per academic year.
- Maintain a 2.7 CofC GPA.

Financial Package:

- There is a scholarship for all Bonner Leaders who meet the above requirements.
- Bonner Leaders eligible for work study can be compensated through the work study program for their off-campus volunteering.
- All conference and training travel is covered by the program.
- The majority of domestic and international service immersion travel is covered by private donors.



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CONTACT INFORMATION:

Applicant's name _____
Last First Middle initial
Permanent address and Mailing Address (if different)
Permanent Address _____
Address City State Zip
Mailing Address _____
Address City State Zip
Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____ E-mail _____
Date of Birth _____

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND:

High School Attended _____ Unweighted GPA (0.0 – 4.0 scale) _____
Best SAT scores _____
Critical reading Math Writing
Best ACT scores _____
Comp English Math Reading Science Writing
Major (if decided) _____ Have you been accepted to the Honors College? _____
Yes/No
Does your financial aid package for the College of Charleston show that you are eligible for Federal Work Study? _____
(Please log onto your MyCharleston account and go to your Financial Aid tab. See if "Federal Work Study" is listed) Yes/No
If yes, what is the amount listed? _____ What is your FAFSA EFC? (if you don't know, leave blank) _____

VOLUNTARY DEMOGRAPHIC DATA:

Colleges and universities are asked by many, including the federal government, accrediting associations, college guides, newspapers, and our own college/university communities, to describe the backgrounds of our students and employees. In order to respond to these requests, we ask you to answer the following questions. Submission of this information is entirely voluntary.

Gender _____ Do you consider yourself to be Hispanic/Latino? _____
Yes/No

In addition, select one or more of the following racial categories to describe yourself (mark all that applies):

_____ American Indian or Alaska Native _____ Black or African American _____ White
_____ Asian _____ Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander _____ Other

The Center for Civic Engagement, 160 Calhoun Street, Lightsey Room 203, Charleston, SC 29424
Telephone: 843-953-5838 **E-mail:** bonner@cofc.edu **Website:** <http://volunteer.cofc.edu>



Provide a typed essay addressing the following questions. Please limit responses to a single-spaced, half page per question.

- Why are you interested in the Bonner Leader Program, and what do you hope to gain from the program?
- What is one social, political, or economic issue that is important to you and why?
- What motivates you to keep a positive attitude and accomplish your goals?
- What does diversity mean to you? What will you bring to a diverse group? What do you hope to gain from a diverse group?
- What is your idea of "community"? Can service ever be selfless? Why or why not?
- Would you rather be a hammer or a nail? Why?
- Read the passage below and respond to the following question.

From: bell hooks, Teaching Critical Thinking, 2010

Thinking is an action. For all aspiring intellectuals, thoughts are the laboratory where one goes to pose questions and find answers, a place where visions of theory and praxis come together. The heartbeat of critical thinking is the longing to know-to understand how life works. Children are organically predisposed to be critical thinkers. Across the boundaries of race, class, gender, and circumstances, children come into the world of wonder and language consumed with desire for knowledge. Sometime they are so eager for knowledge that they become relentless interrogators-demanding to know the who, what, when, and why of life. Searching for answers they learn almost instinctively how to think.

Sadly, children's passion for thinking often ends when they encounter a world that seems to educate them for conformity and obedience only. Most children are taught early on that thinking is dangerous. Sadly, these children stop enjoying the process of thinking and start fearing the thinking mind. Whether in homes with parents who teach via model of discipline and punish that it is better to choose obedience over self-awareness and self-determination, or in schools where independent thinking is not acceptable behavior, most children in our nation learn to suppress the memory of thinking as a passionate, pleasurable activity.

Question:

- What does bell hooks say about the passion for learning? What do you agree or disagree with, and why?
- Is there anything else you would like the selection committee to know about you that you feel is not adequately reflected in your previous answers? Feel free to be creative.



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Please attach the following additional information to the application:

- A resume with a list of service, school, religious, athletic, family, or work responsibilities to which you have been most committed (specify the activities, positions held and length/frequency of commitments).
- Two letters of recommendation which detail why you would be successful as a Bonner Leader and/or what you would most uniquely bring to the program. Please do not have friends or family provide these. Letters of recommendation should be mailed or emailed directly from the letter writer by the application deadline.

APPLICATION DEADLINE:

Completed applications are accepted by email attachment (Microsoft Word or .pdf format) or postal mail.

Completed applications are due **Friday, April 29, 2016** by 3pm.

Postal mail applications must be post marked by Monday, April 25.

SEND TO:

Domenico Ruggerio
The Center for Civic Engagement
160 Calhoun Street, Lightsey Room 203
Charleston, SC 29424

E-mail: bonner@cofc.edu

Phone: 843-953-5838

***YOU WILL BE NOTIFIED BY MAY 15TH IF YOU HAVE BEEN SELECTED FOR AN INTERVIEW.
YOUR INTERVIEW WILL BE SCHEDULED TO OCCUR VIA SKYPE.***

Please feel free to contact us with any questions!