Orientation
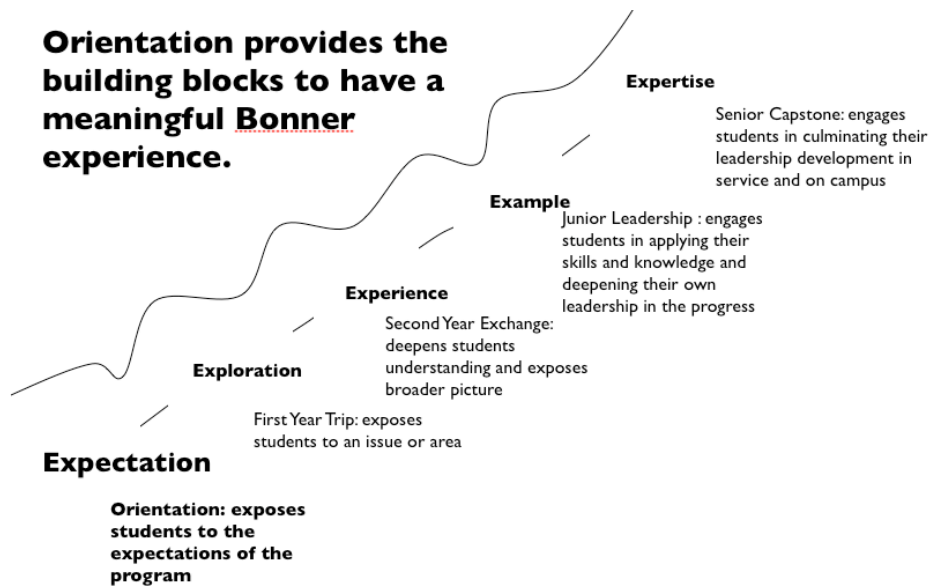
Description
- A 1-3 day event that orients students to the Bonner Program before it starts
- It provides students with a sense of
    - identity and belonging in the Bonner Program
    - community of staff and peers
    - basic knowledge
- Orientation will build the momentum that will last throughout the students experience

Cornerstone Activity: How it fits

Orientation provides the building blocks to have a meaningful Bonner experience.

Expertise

Senior Capstone: engages students in culminating their leadership development in service and on campus

Example

Junior Leadership : engages students in applying their skills and knowledge and deepening their own leadership in the progress

Experience

Second Year Exchange: deepens students understanding and exposes broader picture

Exploration

First Year Trip: exposes students to an issue or area

Expectation

Orientation: exposes students to the expectations of the program

Building Blocks

Every orientation should include the following items:

Community Building

Bonner: The Big Picture

Bonner: The Goals

Getting to Know: the College

Getting to Know: the Local Community

Personal Exploration

Community Building

- These activities provide new Bonners with an opportunity to meet each other and form relationships

- Occuring througout Orientation, these activities typically work to:

  - **Introduce people:** Icebreakers such as *"Get to know you" name games*

  - **Build the team:** Team building activities *such as Challenge Courses*

  - **Create a fun, meaningful community:** Group activities such as *Kickball, Karaoke, Cooking dinner together, etc...*

Campus Center Orientation

These activities introduce the students to the campus structure and your specific program requirements

• **Campus Structures:**
  - Campus Center
  - Center Staff & Interns
  - How to work with others across campus

• **Your Program Guidelines**
  - Program Expectations Overview
  - Rules, Requirements, Meeting Times
  - Themes of the Year

Tip: Be creative in your presentation of this material. Create a campus center scavenger hunt!

Personal Exploration & Reflection

These activities provide a student a time to reflect on their expectations of their upcoming experience as a Bonner Student. We have broken this down into two sections:

- **Personal Reflection**
  - Set goals for the year
  - Create a Personal Mission Statement

- **Personal and Cultural Awareness**
  - These activities provide Bonners with a chance to consider their own and others' identity and issues of class, age, race, ethnicity, and gender that may be important to functioning within a diverse group

Resource Modules: Cover Story, Identity Circles, BHAGS

Introduction to the Community

These activities expose the students to the surrounding community where they will serve as an active member of the Bonner Program. Specifically, these activities should:

- educate students on community assets and needs
- include ways to work effectively and sensitively with agencies
- be creative
- create a video
- create a community scavenger hunt
- involve community based research
- get students off campus if possible
- involve partners as presenters

Resource Module: Community Asset Mapping

Bonner Network

These activities expose students to the broader vision of the National Bonner Program. Specifically, these activities should introduce:

- **History, Vision, and Purposes:** Resources to use: The Bonner Quiz or Jeopardy

- **Common Commitments:** Interactive skits and video creation based on the commitments

- **National Bonner Network of Schools and Partners:** Show network google map and database of partners

Bonner: The Goals

These activities expose students to the goals of every Bonner Program:

- Student Development
- Community Partnerships
- Academic Connections
- Campus Wide Culture of Service

These activity should introduce basic information surrounding these goals. With this knowledge, student will be able to know what they should expect to experience while they are in the program.

Other Possibilities

If time allows, we suggest that you include the following:

- AmeriCorps Training
- Workshops that model communication techniques
- Parent Workshops
- Service Projects
- BWBRS Training

These topics should also be presented in Class Meetings or other sessions.

Essentials Reminders

- Orientation occurs before the beginning of school and other first year activities (Bonners move on campus early, like athletes)
- Full agenda (a minimum of two full days) to offer opportunities for fellowship, team building, training and inspiration
- Consider having at least part of it off campus (with overnight)
- Engage upper class students and community leaders in orientation
- By end of orientation students should know what they are getting into and have their fall placement established
- Invite a Foundation staff member

Implementation Guide

Bonner Network *Wiki*

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Freshman Orientation

last edited by Robert Hackett   23 hours, 43 minutes ago   Page history

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BONNER FOUNDATION

**Background & Purpose | Benchmarks | Examples of Excellence and Innovation |
Campus Examples & Resources**

Background and Purpose:
Freshman Orientation is the Bonner student's first experience with the Bonner Program, so it's important that that experience be characterized in a few ways. Freshmen Orientation (regardless of its length or location) should impart students with a sense of identity, community, and basic knowledge with which to begin their work in the Bonner Program. By identity, we wish to convey that students take away a sense of what the Bonner (Scholar or Leader) Program is and a feeling of belonging in it. By community, we mean a sense of who are the staff and peers that make up the Bonner community, either by class, the whole, or both. Campuses also selectively include the basic orientation to the mission, values, and purpose of the campus's program and the nuts and bolts about requirements. After Freshmen Orientation, the campus should have a first-semester plan designed for freshmen that intentionally exposes them to a range of skill- and knowledge-building opportunities that they will find critical to their success in the program.

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