



WAVE WEEK 2020 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT IS WAVE WEEK?

Wave Week, a program of Spark the Wave, is the premier Service Leadership Institute for teens. Through our intensive program of leadership development, community service, team building activities, and summer fun, participants will learn how to plan and execute movements that create lasting community change. Wave Week offers both residential and commuter options.

WHERE IS WAVE WEEK?

Wave Week is held on the campus of Villanova University in Villanova, PA. Villanova is located outside of Philadelphia on the Main Line, close to major highways and easy to access. The state-of-the-art campus will be our home for the week. We sleep in the dorms, eat in the cafeteria, use event space, and attend seminars in real college classrooms. Wave Week gives a fantastic look into college life for anyone interested in pursuing continuing education in the future.

WHEN IS WAVE WEEK?

We hold two sessions of Wave Week to meet your needs.

Session 1: July 13 – 17, 2020

Session 2: July 27 – 31, 2020

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

Wave Week welcomes high-energy participants who have completed 6th - 11th grade during the 2019 – 2020 school year. Participants are divided into two tracks based upon their age (6th – 8th grade & 9th – 11th grade). Each track meets separately for most activities and for dorm assignments. Meals, social events, and large group activities and service projects incorporate both tracks. Additionally, Wave Week offers an Advanced Track for participants to return year after year to continue to build upon their leadership skills.

WILL WE DO COMMUNITY SERVICE AT WAVE WEEK?

Volunteering is a very important aspect of a participant's experience at Wave Week. We partner with local community organizations (such as Cradles to Crayons, MANNA, and Philabundance) to focus our service efforts and resources towards the needs of those who need it most. Through our service, awareness efforts, and change-maker plans, we will work to help the people of our communities and the groups that work with them. Wave Week affects the lives of tens of thousands of people every year through the service of its participants. Each participant receives 40 service hours for attending Wave Week.

WHAT SKILLS ARE TAUGHT AT WAVE WEEK?

- Effective communication
- Group leadership
- Motivating team members
- Service event planning and marketing
- Group dynamics and motivation
- Increasing community impact
- Fundraising and budget planning
- Conflict resolution
- Diversity awareness
- Personal and group evaluation
- Presentation skills
- Creativity
- Understanding and managing your personal strengths and weaknesses
- Confidence to know that teens can and do make a difference!

WHO TEACHES THESE SKILLS?

Wave Week is a unique peer-learning environment where staff is composed of experienced high school and college student leaders as well as professionals in fields such as business coaching, education, and nonprofit management. We are proud that 95% of our staff volunteers their time to make sure that the Wave Week experience is a great one. They are also almost all Wave Week alumni. We keep the lecturing to a minimum and teach most of the concepts through a range of small group experiential activities and engaging discussion.

WHAT IS THE AVERAGE PARTICIPANT LIKE?

There is no average participant at Wave Week! Spark the Wave prides itself on recruiting a diverse mix of participants and staff. Our participants come to us from a broad geographic, demographic, and economic pool. We have found that exposing teens to young leaders from varied backgrounds creates a more comprehensive and dynamic learning environment. This diversity prepares teens for real-world experiences and helps to develop their communication and team-building skills.

CAN I BRING A FRIEND?

Absolutely! We encourage participants to register with classmates or siblings, so they can work on their service projects together once you get home. Not to worry if you are coming solo – plenty of people do, and you will make lifelong friendships once you arrive. **Please note: attending with a friend or family member does NOT guarantee you will be placed in the same groups throughout the week.** We prefer you meet new people when you get to Wave Week and hang with your friends during meals and other social events. There is plenty of free time and social events to hang together, but we'd love for you to meet and work with some new people too!

HOW MUCH IS WAVE WEEK?

The cost of Wave Week varies depending on session and stay. We keep our costs down as much as possible through fundraisers and our volunteer staff. A \$50 per person discount is given to groups of 3 or more students. Payment plans are available in the registration system. Visit our registration page for pricing options. Please contact katie@sparkthewave.org for information about financial aid.

Additionally, Spark the Wave offers multiple incentives to registered participants to aid in keeping costs down. Any registered participant who recruits a friend or neighbor to join them at Wave Week will receive **\$100 OFF** per recruit. That's right—get 5 friends to register and you will receive a \$500 discount on your own tuition (if already registered, STW will provide a refund). **Please note:** \$100 discount cannot be applied for recruiting family members or returning participants.

HOW DO I REGISTER?

Head over to www.sparkthewave.org/register to get started.

WHAT IF I STILL HAVE QUESTIONS?

You can find a lot of information on our website at sparkthewave.org. Otherwise, give us a call or send us an email. We would love to hear from you!

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