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River Stewards Informational Brochure

University of Dayton. Fitz Center for Leadership in Community

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Who are the River Stewards?

The River Stewards Program is a three-year, interdisciplinary program designed to engage undergraduate students in experiential and community-engaged learning centered around the Great Miami River Watershed. Each student gains practical experience and leadership skills while working closely with faculty, staff, and community partners to help protect, promote, and preserve the region's rivers and water resources.

The River Stewards Program consists of three cohorts totaling around 50 undergraduate students. Together, they represent over 25 different majors from all academic units at the University of Dayton. First-year students can apply to become River Stewards during their second semester.

Applications for the next cohort of Stewards are reviewed by a committee composed of Rivers Institute members. Around 15 students will be selected and introduced in late spring.



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of Dayton

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River Stewards Program





Personal Benefits

- Leadership development and civic engagement
- Experiential learning around rivers, water resources, and sustainable community development
- Co-curricular experience with students from other majors
- Professional networking and mentoring by building relationships with faculty, staff, and community partners in the region
- River recreation and other off-campus opportunities

Community Impact

- Increased awareness and appreciation of the region's rivers and waterways
- UD student involvement and activity around the region's rivers and watershed
- Collaboration with organizations and partner agencies through student time, creativity, and talent
- Community and education outreach about the region's rivers and water resources
- Cultivation of the next generation of community leaders

River Steward Program Requirements

- Participation in the 5-day River Stewards Orientation program the week before classes begin in the fall
- Attendance at the weekly River Stewards Mini-Course on Fridays from 3:30-5:30pm, which include a variety of activities, field trips, presentations, and discussions.
- Completion of 30 required service hours each semester through local community partners and organizations
- Completion of a cohort capstone community service project during senior year
- Engagement in Rivers Institute and other relevant community meetings
- Involvement with other river-related organizations, based on the stewards' areas of study and interests

The Application Process

The River Stewards Program is open to all first-year students who have achieved a minimum grade point average of 3.0 in their first semester. Students from all majors and concentrations are encouraged to apply.

Applications are due February 15. After a committee review and interview process, selections are announced in late spring.

The current River Stewards offer an information session at the beginning of the spring semester. For more information, please visit our website at go.udayton.edu/riversinstitute and click "Learn about our River Stewards".

