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How do you see yourself as a leader in the River Stewards program?

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Tuesday, April 5, 2022

How do you see yourself as a leader in the River Stewards program?

Natalie Yersavich, 2023 cohort

Leadership and service have always been a big part of my life and even since I was a kid, I have tried to seek out as many opportunities to lead and serve as I can. When I first started at UD, these two ideals were the driving forces that inspired me to get involved on campus and in various groups. I found some opportunities to lead and serve in campus ministry and in my faith, but I wanted more. I wanted to reach a larger population, not just those in my residence hall or those who shared my faith.

When I first applied for River Stewards, I was drawn to the focus of the group: leadership through service and community engagement. The program is centered around building and developing leadership through serving the Dayton community. I could not have asked for a better opportunity to grow and learn about these skills that I value so highly.

Now, after being in the program for two years, I have learned more than I thought I ever could about leadership and service. From a young age, I have always understood that leadership comes from service and that a good leader is one who serves, but after going through this program, I understand this to be true on a deeper level. River Stewards has taught me that in order to lead, you have to first listen and serve the people that you are leading. How can you lead people in the right direction if you do not know the obstacles and challenges that they are facing? If you do not take the time to listen and understand the problems, you cannot come up with successful solutions. Leadership ultimately is not about the individual. It is about collaboration in order to achieve a common goal and lift up the group as a whole.