

FOP Leader Application 2018

Questions

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Wednesday, December 6, 2017 at 11:59 p.m.

LETTER OF EVALUATION DEADLINE: Sunday, December 10, 2017 at 11:59 p.m.

Application and letter of evaluation submission instructions are posted at
fop.fas.harvard.edu/apply-lead.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Please answer all questions using the Response Form template available at fop.fas.harvard.edu/apply-lead. Due the large volume of applications, the Steering Committee kindly requests applicants to **limit each response to no more than 150 words**. Section P has a limit of 500 words. Please be specific with answers and illustrate using examples.

In all responses, please consider that FOP takes seriously its central values: compassion, the equality of all people regardless of identity, responsibility to community, and care for the environment.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

Section F(ree response) of FOP

1. Why does leading a group of first-year students on an outdoor pre-orientation program appeal to you?

2. What is a unique perspective or identity that you would bring to the Leader Community and to a FOP trip? FOP would like to emphasize that there is no particular perspective or identity that is being sought in this response. Please speak to a perspective or identity that is salient and important to you.

3. Discuss one community or organization that you are a part of, either formal or informal, and why it is important to you.

Section O(ther experiences and the outdoors) of FOP

4. Describe a time that you meaningfully influenced a group. Explain the context of the situation and the actions you took.

5. Why do you think FOP takes place in the outdoors and how does that make the program unique?

(Applicants with no outdoors experience bring novel perspectives to the program and should not worry about having a “correct” response. Many current leaders did not have previous outdoors experience when they applied.)

Section P (put your feet in their boots) of FOP

Imagine that the following scenario describes a day on a FOP trip you are leading. After reading the scenario, please list three of your concerns, elaborating upon why they are concerns for you and how you would react to them. There are no right or wrong answers, but you should try to pick the three concerns that you feel are the most pressing. Please note that, while being a leader can be a demanding experience, the situation described below is fictional and not typical of a FOP trip. Any resemblance to individuals is purely coincidental. (500-word limit)

You have just finished your third day of hiking with your group of 9 FOPpers. Although you have arrived in camp at a reasonable hour, the day was longer than you expected. The length of the day was due in part to Peter, your co-leader, taking the group down the wrong trail for half a mile and the thunderstorm that passed through around 1 p.m. Still, almost all of your FOPpers tell you what an incredibly positive time they are having.

Two of your female FOPpers, Lizzie and Matilda, have been getting along very well all week and have talked about everything from their favorite TV shows to their liberal political views. Recently, they both have been talking about the many vacations they took throughout their childhoods, such as Lizzie’s family trip touring all of Luxembourg and Matilda’s hikes throughout New Zealand. Renee, a FOPper from a small town in Missouri, used to chat with Lizzie and Matilda while hiking, but ever since they’ve started talking about their upbringings, she’s been hiking directly behind you. She’s also started to talk less and less, usually responding to direct questions with one to two word answers.

Meanwhile, Mark, a FOPper from northern New England, is helping Peter cook. He is by far the most helpful FOPper, and is always the first one to volunteer when you arrive at camp. In fact, when you were moving things around to set up the tarp earlier, you noticed that Mark was carrying a huge amount of weight—he had taken most of the group gear and even some personal gear of other FOPpers. Everyone seems to have taken a liking to Mark, especially a FOPper named Suzy. Suzy always hikes close to Mark and volunteers for all the same tasks as he does. She takes pride in asking him to help her, and Mark certainly doesn’t seem to mind the attention.

Phillip is a very athletic FOPper from New York City. He deferred a year before starting college and enjoys telling you about what he did in his year off, such as surfing in Australia and backpacking through Greece. Daniel, another FOPper, always listens attentively to Phillip’s stories. He seems very impressed by Phillip, and tries to interest Phillip in his own stories, in addition to asking him if he wants to “get trashed” together when they get back on campus. Phillip is quite unresponsive to Daniel, and instead spends a lot of time talking to Peter, more than to the other FOPpers. Daniel sometimes slips in comments about how much he matured over his year off and how he identifies more with your more mature point of view. Peter listens

to all of his stories and occasionally asks questions, but once while Phillip was recounting a trek through the Alps you think you may have caught an eye roll coming from Peter.

The other FOPpers, Kelly and Jack, are fairly quiet. They smile and respond positively when approached but do not talk too much with each other or the rest of the group. You often see Kelly shivering during breaks, but when you ask her about it she says she's fine and just needs to keep hiking. She enjoys doing nice things for others, such as giving away her cookies and dessert treats because she gets full quickly.

In the valley you're in, the sun sets quickly. Before you got into camp, Peter announced that each leader would take a group of FOPpers and there would be a competition to put up the tarps the fastest. He also warns the FOPpers to stay away from the dangerous Gage Caves, a quarter-mile to the northeast of camp.

As dinner cooks, you wonder what to do next. As a leader of the group you want to make sure everyone gets the most out of this FOP trip. Tomorrow the group has five miles of hiking over fairly challenging terrain. You wonder how best to prepare everyone for tomorrow and the remainder of the trip.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

- Do you have any conflicts with the training requirements or dates? If so, please describe the exact nature and timing of the conflict. If not, leave the section blank. (If an applicant is selected for an interview, Steering Committee will discuss any clarifications regarding the applicant's conflict at that time.)
- Have you previously applied to become a FOP leader?
 Yes
 No
- How did you hear about applying to become a FOP leader? (Responses to this question will not be used in the evaluation of the application.)