First-Year Outdoor Orientation Trips

Leader Application 2019

Dear Prospective FOOT Leader,

Every fall at Yale, groups of eight to ten incoming first-years and two leaders set out on four and six-day backpacking trips in the woods of New England during the week before classes begin. These trips give first-years a chance to form new friendships, enjoy the outdoors, and, most importantly, share a positive experience that will help them start Yale on the right FOOT.

As a FOOT leader, you would play a crucial role in the success of the program. During the August trips, you and your co-leader would be responsible for not only the safety of your group, but also for fostering an enjoyable, stimulating group environment. FOOT leaders must show sensitivity, compassion, and enthusiasm, and have the ability to think calmly and quickly under pressure. Leadership experience takes many forms, and group skills are as essential to a good trip as outdoors skills. **If you think you would like to be a FOOT leader but do not have outdoors experience or did not participate in FOOT as a first-year,** **please do not hesitate to apply**. **Also, you do NOT need to buy or find your own equipment.** We will teach you the skills necessary to lead backpacking trips through several leader-training courses, as well as lend you any equipment you may need. Note: we also organize a few “base camp” trips that include day hikes from a campground that has basic facilities (bathrooms, showers, etc.).

**Applications are due no later than 5:00pm on Thursday, January 31st.**A PDF of the application must be submitted as an attachment via email to [poobahs@gmail.com](mailto:poobahs@gmail.com). The subject of your email submission must be “Lastname  Firstname StudentIDnumber”. Your Student ID number (SID) is the nine-digit number at the bottom-left of your Yale ID, and can also be viewed on Yale SIS. The PDF of the application should also be named after your SID number, for instance “123456789”. We will unfortunately not be accepting applications from sophomores currently studying abroad or who will be studying abroad in Fall 2019.

All applications will receive two anonymous readings, and **each applicant will be interviewed** before Spring Break. If you are a first year who went on a FOOT trip, your leaders will be writing recommendations on your behalf. If you are a sophomore applicant that went on FOOT, please have at least one of your FOOT leaders write you a recommendation letter and then provide a recommendation from a second source who has seen you in a leadership position—for example, a FroCo, a club leader, faculty member, high school mentor, or current FOOT leader. We will reach out to your FOOT leader recommenders on your behalf. If you did not go on FOOT, you must still submit at least two recommendations, ideally from one of the additional sources listed above. The recommendation form for non-FOOT Leaders will be available at<https://foot.yalecollege.yale.edu/leaders/apply-be-foot-leader> on January 27th. Please have them submit the recommendation form by **Sunday, February 3rd**. We will make our decisions based on the interview, the written application, and the recommendations.

**FOOT Leader Requirements (these dates are subject to change):**

**| April 4:** New Leader Meet and Greet

**| Date TBD:** Dean’s Office Pre-Orientation Leader Training

**| April 7:** Spring EQ day

**| April 13:** Shakedown

**| May 9-15:** May Training

**| August 13:** All leaders return to campus

**| August 14 at 8:00am:** First all-leader meeting!

**| August 14-23:** Wilderness First Aid certification and leading FOOT Trips. We arrange for leaders to obtain American Red Cross Standard First Aid and CPR certification

Attendance is mandatory at all FOOT training sessions. If you have any questions, please feel free to email poobahs@gmail.com or call the FOOT Student Coordinators, Natalie (248.765.5390) or Andy (914.409.5357). We look forward to hearing from you!

Priscilla Kellert Natalie Leitman Andy Ballard

Program Director Co-Coordinator Co-Coordinator

First-year Outdoor Orientation Trips

Leader Application 2019

This application is due via email, submitted in compliance with the instructions on the previous page, by 5pm on Thursday, January 31st. Again, if you have any questions/worries/concerns email poobahs@gmail.com or call Natalie (248.765.5390) or Andy (914.409.5357).

Your information will be kept anonymous throughout the first part of the application process.

**Name:**

**Birthday:**

**Gender:**

**Pronouns:**

**Ethnicity (Optional):**

**E-mail:**

**Class:**

**College:**

**College Room #:**

**Cell Phone #:**

If you went on FOOT (it’s okay if you didn’t!), who were your leaders? We will reach out to your leaders on your behalf.

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If you didn't go on FOOT, who will be writing your recommendations?

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If you are applying to lead any other pre-orientation program or Camp Kesem, please write the name of the program here:

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If you are a sophomore, did you apply last year? Y **/** N (underline “Y” or “N”!)

Please mark if you CANNOT attend:

\_\_ Tuesday, April 4: New Leader Meet and Greet

\_\_ Sunday, April 7: Spring EQ Day

\_\_ Saturday, April 13: Shakedown

\_\_ May 9-15: May Training (an extended training program – workshops and backpacking)

\_\_ August 14-23: Wilderness First Aid certification and leading FOOT Trips!

**Please answer the following questions thoughtfully. Your responses are limited three pages—and less is fine!**

1. Why do you want to be a FOOT leader?

2. Please share one formative experience in which you felt like a leader or mentor. What did you learn from that experience?

3. Describe the strengths of your leadership style and how they would help you address the potential challenges of leading first-years through the woods.

4. Consider the following scenarios:

A. (All FOOT trips are led by two leaders.) You and your co-leader are leading a group of eight first years on the trail. You just realized you’ve been walking in the wrong direction for the past two hours. What are some ways that you might handle the situation?

B. One of your first years is complaining about being too tired to continue hiking. Identify some possible reasons for this and how you would address them.

5. What do you think are the greatest concerns of incoming first years? How might you address these concerns both in the woods and back on campus?

6. Describe a situation in which you worked with a person or group of people different from yourself. What were the most important lessons you learned from the experience?

7. Really quick: Would you rather fight one-hundred duck-sized horses or one horse-sized duck? (Just for fun!)

**YOU’RE DONE!**

Please tell us about any special circumstances or information that would be important for us to know while reading your application *that you have not already touched on*. Otherwise, feel free to just leave this portion blank!

You will be hearing back from us soon when we begin to schedule interviews. Good luck!