First-Year Outdoor Orientation Trips

Leader Application 2020

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. Most trips move to a new campsite each night, while a few “base camp” trips involve day hikes from a campground that has basic facilities (bathrooms, showers, etc). 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, supportive group environment. FOOT leaders must show sensitivity, compassion, and enthusiasm, and have the ability to think calmly and quickly in a variety of situations. Being a FOOT leader is a commitment that lasts through your senior year at Yale.

**If 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 FOOT trips through several leader-training courses, as well as lend you any equipment you may need.

We will unfortunately not be accepting applications from sophomores currently studying abroad or who will be studying abroad in Fall 2020.

**Applications are due no later than 11:59pm on Friday, January 31st.** Please follow the instructions below.

Application Instructions

The 2020 FOOT Leader Application consists of three parts: the written section (this document), the Personal Information Form, and one to two recommendations.

To apply:

1. Write your responses to the questions on the following pages of this document. **Do not include your name or any other identifying information on this document.**
2. Go to the Personal Information Form at [this link](https://forms.gle/jihpEAK9SAt9kw5z5), and enter your information.
3. Upload a **PDF** of this document with your completed responses to the Personal Information Form.
   1. The PDF must be named after your **SID number**, which is the nine-digit number at the bottom-left of your Yale ID (ex. “123456789”).
4. Submit the Personal Information Form by **11:59pm on Friday, January 31st**
5. Direct your recommender(s) to the following webpage, and notify them that recommendations are due on Sunday, February 2nd. More information on whom you may ask for your recommendation(s) can be found below.
   1. Recommendation Link:<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSecGekOJkz7z64p0x6OXb4iyaYkeWRb9Gjq_L8yuEsiLCd99A/viewform>
6. After submitting your application form, keep an eye out for an email with interview sign-up information.

All applications will receive two anonymous readings, and **each applicant will be interviewed** before Spring Break.

Recommendation Information

Only one recommendation is required, but you may choose to submit two. You will inform us of who will be completing your recommendations on the Personal Information Form.

**If you did not go on a FOOT trip:**

Your recommendation(s) should come from a source who is familiar with your character and how you engage with others—for example, a FroCo, a PL, a club leader, faculty member, high school mentor, or current FOOT leader.

**If you went on a FOOT trip:**

You should choose at least one of your FOOT leaders to write a recommendation on your behalf. The other recommendation, should you choose to have one, could be your second FOOT leader or a source like one of the ones listed above.

Please have your recommenders submit the recommendation form by **Sunday, February 2nd**. We will make our decisions based on the interview, the written application, and the recommendations.

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

**| March 28:** Dean’s Office Pre-Orientation Leader Training

**| April 2:** New Leader Meet and Greet

**| April 5:** Spring EQ day: A full day of leader bonding while sorting & organizing FOOT gear

**| April 11:** Shakedown: Welcoming new leaders to the FOOT community

**| May 7-13:** May Training: Two days of leader skill workshops and a four-day training backpacking trip

**| August 18:** All leaders return to campus

**| August 19 at 9:00am:** First all-leader meeting!

**| August 19-28:** 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, Aditi (240.743.9207) or Tommy (253.666.3399). We look forward to hearing from you!

Priscilla Kellert Leavitt Aditi Shetty Tommy Martin

Program Director Co-Coordinator Co-Coordinator

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

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

2. Describe your strengths as a leader and how they would help you address some of the potential challenges of working with a group of 8-10 strangers in a new environment.

3. What is your greatest strength as a friend? Please share a specific instance when you put this quality or skill to use.

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. At a water break, you check the map and realize that you’ve been leading your group in the wrong direction for the past two hours. What are some ways that you might handle the situation?

B. One morning, one of your first years says that they don’t want to hike. Identify two different possible reasons for this and how you would address each one.

5. What do you think are some significant concerns of incoming first years? How would you keep these concerns in mind while supporting first years both in the woods and back on campus?

6. Describe a situation in which you felt out of your comfort zone. What were the most important lessons you learned from the experience?

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’RE DONE!**

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