

HIGHLAND RETREAT INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Fact Sheet

Our internship program is an opportunity for young people to experience a year or two of discipleship and ministry. We work with each intern to identify their skills and areas of interest, then use that to direct their area of focus as they serve at Highland and in the local community. This internship is offered in partnership with VMissions and their tranSend program*.

What Do Interns Do?

Interns live in the rural setting of Highland Retreat for a one-year internship to engage with local church families, develop and explore personal giftings, and provide service both at Highland and within the communities of Bergton, VA and/or Mathias, WV. Areas of focus for interns can vary widely based on personal interests and the needs of Highland and the community.

- **Engage with local church families:** Interns are encouraged to fully fellowship with one of several local churches. Interested families within each church will offer friendship and support to the interns through home-cooked meals, game nights, etc.
- **Develop and explore personal giftings:** Facilitators will help interns to identify personal giftings and vocational interests that can then be areas of focus for their contributions to the camp and community. These may include hospitality, environmental sustainability, worship leading, marketing, food service, construction, youth ministry, programming, or pastoral care.
- **Service at Highland Retreat:** Interns will help in areas of need (ex. maintenance projects, occasional housekeeping or food service, programming for guests and/or summer campers) and of personal interest. Especially during the busy summer season, interns would take significant roles at Highland that utilize their interests, training, and giftings.
- **Service in the community:** The community will help identify areas consistent with the mission of Highland Retreat where the interns, along with the resources of Highland, could be of service. Possible areas of service may include providing weekly meals to community seniors, helping local food pantries, or involvement with a nearby youth center or kid's club.

Is This a Paid Internship?

Yes. Both Highland and VMissions have pledged to provide a set amount of funding for each intern -- more than enough to live on for the year, particularly as *housing is provided*. VMissions will also provide fundraising support for interns to augment their wage in that manner. Interns who maximize their fundraising will achieve a comfortable salary that is on par for ministry positions.

What's the First Step?

Begin by filling out the inquiry form (highlandretreat.org/internship-form) to start the conversation. If you want to move forward, we'll guide you through the process, which includes applying with VMissions. Applicants will be interviewed, and then, if accepted, will need time to organize a support team and do some fundraising prior to starting the term of service.

**tranSend is a one- to two-year missions placement designed to help you discern your spiritual giftings and give you the opportunity to put them into practice. tranSend functions like an internship or apprenticeship and gives you a chance to explore God's calling in your life and learn from established ministry mentors while you consider your own future steps in joining God's mission to the world.*