



## DISCERNMENT THROUGH SERVICE PROGRAM AT CEDARKIRK

Discernment Through Service (DTS) is a residential program designed to help young adults explore God's call for their lives and grow in faith as they live, work, study, and fellowship within the camp and conference community at Cedarkirk. Through interactions and conversations with church staff and user groups, time spent in personal reflection and study, hands-on work with program, maintenance, and kitchen staff, guided exploration of discernment materials, and as residents living in intentional community, DTS participants will gain a greater understanding of various ministries as they clarify and discern God's call in their lives and explore questions of vocation.

### GOALS:

The DTS program is intended to prepare participants for a life of service in any vocation and to allow them to more fully develop attributes of a Christian leader. By deepening a personal relationship with Christ and exploring various aspects of ministry within a communal context, it is our hope that participants will be able to better discern God's plans for their lives.

### RESPONSIBILITIES:

DTS participants are expected to:

- Provide 30 hours of service per week to Cedarkirk. *The type of service will depend on the particular schedule of the week and may include hosting groups or retreats, assisting kitchen staff with dishwashing or food prep, doing light maintenance of facilities or grounds, and working with program staff to plan and run events.*
- Live on site in community with other DTS participants and staff. *Fellowship with staff, volunteers, and other ministry professionals is highly beneficial in discerning one's vocational call and all participants are asked to approach this community with openness and enthusiasm.*
- Commit to exploring the Bible and other materials related to spiritual/vocational discernment. *Guided studies and conversations will be held weekly and will build on self-led readings. These spiritual practices will work in tandem with the service aspect of the program to provide clarity in discernment.*
- Maintain high moral character and conduct oneself with the maturity and grace expected of a disciple of Christ and employee of Cedarkirk.

### COMPENSATION:

DTS participants will receive the following compensation:

- A living stipend of \$150 per week.
- Free permanent housing and utilities (valued at \$150 per week).
- Free meals, when served (valued at \$150 per week). *Participants will have access to the kitchen and pantry when meals are not served.*

## **AREAS OF SERVICE:**

### **Camp Activities**

All DTS participants are expected to facilitate and/or assist with the facilitation of Cedarkirk's activities. These include: canoeing, kayaking, tubing, sharks' teeth hunting, hiking, the zip lines, the climbing wall, the elevated challenge course, the initiatives course, line dancing, campfire leadership, hay rides, and others as needed. Participants will receive training in the facilitation of the above activities and will never be asked to lead an activity beyond the level of training they have received.

### **Food Service**

DTS participants will serve in the kitchen on a regular basis and will primarily be responsible for washing dishes, setting up the dining hall, and basic food preparation. While working in the kitchen, they will be responsible to the Food Service Director and should follow all Cedarkirk and Board of Health standards for food preparation and safety.

### **Hospitality**

One of the primary functions of DTS participants will be their interaction with our guests. They will serve as hosts to greet and welcome guests and strive to meet the needs of individuals and groups throughout their stay at Cedarkirk. Participants in the program will be responsible for answering questions, setting up equipment and facilities, checking and cleaning facilities after use, and ensuring that each group's needs are met fully. Program staff will provide appropriate training for the ministry of hospitality.

### **Maintenance**

DTS participants will perform some basic maintenance under the supervision of the Director of Facilities. Participants will attend to minor repairs and improvements across the facilities and grounds.

### **Retreats & Programs**

Participants will work closely with the Assistant Director and Program Director in the planning and implementation of Cedarkirk programs and retreats as well as assisting groups with their own retreats. Participants will assist program staff with logistical and thematic planning for summer camp and help with the publicity and promotion of events, including presentations and mission talks at partner churches.

## **AREAS OF GROWTH AND DISCERNMENT:**

### **Personal Growth**

DTS participants will participate in a variety of opportunities designed to stimulate and encourage personal growth. These experiences will include professional, ministerial, and life skills. Exactly what is offered will depend on the needs of the individual and the service needed at camp at that time. Participants are expected to fully invest themselves in order to ensure they have a positive learning and growing experience throughout the program. In addition to formal written and oral evaluations, participants are asked to be mindful of assessing skills and growing edges to fully utilize their God-given gifts for ministry.

### **Spiritual Growth**

Participants are asked to seek God through their interactions with staff, guests, and other members of the DTS program as they live in intentional Christian community at Cedarkirk. They will be accountable to each other and to members of program staff for actively participating in Bible studies, spiritual disciplines, and discernment-related discussions. Jesus calls us to serve one another and participants will be expected to fully explore that call during their time of residence and service at camp. We encourage all participants to use the opportunities for service, reflection, and recreation to really listen for God's voice in their lives and seek His plan continually. We intend for the term of service to be more than on-the-job training; each person will get out of the program only what they invest in it.

### **Evaluations**

The process of personal discernment is difficult to quantify, but DTS participants can expect regular written and conversational evaluations designed to help them gauge growth in the areas they are exploring. Participants will be asked to complete a written evaluation each month and engage in conversation-based evaluations on a bi-weekly basis as individuals and as a group. DTS participants will have the opportunity to discuss identified areas of growth and growing edges, commitment to the discernment process, expectations they have or have not met, and evaluations of their service in hospitality, food service, maintenance, and program activities. The evaluation process will also provide an opportunity for participants to discuss areas of service they would like to explore, but haven't yet experienced.