

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

THE FRANCISCAN EXPERIENCE SUMMER INSTITUTE

We understand that the formation and safety of your child is a priority for you as a parent. Our team at The Franciscan Experience Summer Institute (TFE Summer) takes this seriously and works with much care, prayer, and discernment toward creating a space suitable for their development and well-being.

We thank you for trusting us to provide a concentrated time for your child to commit themselves to prayer, service, community building, and growing in knowledge and love of Jesus Christ. Those who have attended TFE Summer have:

- Built a solid, faithful community of peers
- Experienced Christ in their everyday lives, especially through the poor
- Forged a deeper appreciation for the beauty of the Catholic Church and the Sacraments
- Embraced a more positive self-image in their identity as sons and daughters of God
- Grown in confidence to discuss and share their faith
- Become more active in the Church through youth groups and the liturgical life
- Developed a deeper sense of calling, or vocation, and how they discern vocation

Hopefully this resource provides information that will help you understand the institute and how we provide a safe and formative experience for all participants.

ADULT LEADERSHIP

The adult leaders of TFE Summer are faculty and staff of FranU who collectively have significant years of experience working or volunteering in the Church. Our theology professors, who provide the theological formation of the participants, have experience in high school ministry, collegiate ministry, teaching at different educational levels, and are well-known in the local diocese for their engaging and thoughtful presentations and lectures at church parishes and events. All our theologians have received the Mandatum (acknowledgement by the bishop that a theology professor is teaching within full communion with the Catholic Church).

COLLEGE TEAM

The college team of 10 FranU students, representing a variety of majors and experiences, are selected through an application process to act as mentors and support staff of the institute. Most of our college team are previous participants of TFE Summer and, therefore, understand the responsibility and expectations of the week. All college team members participate in trainings prior to the institute that prepare them for their leadership role at the institute.

Roles & Responsibilities:

Each member of the college team assumes one of two roles:

- *Saint Group Mentor:* Mentors have direct responsibility for the participants. They serve as small group leaders, facilitate conversations that support learning and reflection, and are a presence and model of authentic witness to Jesus Christ.
- *Support Staff:* Support staff play a vital role toward the success of the institute by supporting the behind-the-scenes functions and community building of the institute. Not only do they assist with logistical needs and all the fun aspects of the institute, but they also act as prayer intercessors and support for the participants.

No matter the role, all college team members are expected and trained to create a safe and enjoyable environment.

LODGING

All participants, college team members, and select adult staff stay overnight at The Tracy Center, a retreat center in Baton Rouge that includes meeting spaces and a dorm-like facility with 3 stories. Girls and guys stay on separate floors with adult (21 and over) team members of the same sex on each floor. It is verbally shared at the beginning of the week that men are never allowed on the women's floor and vice versa. During breaks and unstructured time before lights out, members of the college team and adult staff monitor all hallways.

The dorms include 4 beds in a spacious room that includes a restroom with its own shower. There are no communal restrooms and showers within the dorms. Food and snacks are provided by TFE Summer so there is no need to pack any snacks or drinks.

SAFETY AND SECURITY

During the evening and overnight hours, security is provided by a Baton Rouge Police Officer or trained security personnel contracted through The Tracy Center. During the day, all participants are expected to stay within the perimeter of The Tracy Center. During break times, all college team members and adult staff are stationed in dorm hallways or within gathering spaces, closely monitoring the campus for everyone's safety.

All college team and adult staff complete the Safe and Sacred Training through the Diocese of Baton Rouge, which certifies us to safely work with minors and vulnerable adults.

Service Sites:

The participants are organized into groups and are assigned to different sites each day. Each group is led by members of the college team and adult staff at each location for supervision.

Personal Vehicles:

If your child is driving to TFE Summer at registration, keys will be collected since no one is allowed to leave the campus. The only time we will leave The Tracy Center is for our service and our visit to the Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady University campus. All participants, college team, and adult staff travel by school bus to these different locations.