



# FIRE Week

Igniting Your Passion

Wittenberg University

February 26-March 1, 2024

WITTENBERG  
UNIVERSITY







### Let's Explore

Welcome to FIRE Week 2024! FIRE Week experiences are designed to give students a chance to engage in-depth with faculty, staff, and other students on a wide range of topics. What follows are the opportunities for the coming year. Some of them are free of charge, while others do have a cost associated with them (the costs are listed on each page, and also in the table at the back of the brochure). Regardless of which experience you choose, we know the week will allow you to step outside the classroom and gain a whole new perspective on your education.

**Applications open on Monday, September 11, 2023**

Please pay attention to the application **deadlines**, as they can differ by experience. All applications can be accessed at:

**[www.wittenberg.edu/connections/fireweek](http://www.wittenberg.edu/connections/fireweek)**



## **Adolescent STEM and the Great Smoky Mountains National Park**

Do you enjoy a hike, either around a national park or between thrill rides? Are you interested in mentoring future generations of students, whether it be inside the classroom, in a therapeutic environment, or in less formal settings? If so, this FIRE Week experience at the Great Smoky Mountain National Park Institute at Tremont is for you! Learn from the faculty at Tremont about how teachers from across the country implement experiential learning. Stimulate your curiosity and creativity in the stunning biodiversity of the Great Smoky Mountains while learning about the endless opportunities provided by “classrooms without walls.” You’ll get a chance to learn about how rollercoasters can teach STEM content and how they can be used in therapeutic treatment. As you race down the award-winning Moonshine Mountain rollercoaster, you’ll monitor your heart rate and consider how you might incorporate thrill rides into experiential learning opportunities. Of course, you’ll also enjoy some delicious food along the way! **Cost: \$200**



Project Directors: Mike Daiga (EDUCATION)  
& Stephanie Eveland Parrott (CHEMISTRY)

**Applications Due: November 10**





## **Black History at the Nation's Capital**

In our current political climate, history, truth, and how we educate future generations is being challenged. It is important that we hold steadfast to learning the truth of our nation's history. Join us as we explore Washington, D.C., a city where so much of our history is preserved and presented. This trip will be particularly focused on the historical significance of underrepresented, marginalized groups as well as their impact on our country's history. During this FIRE Week experience, we will visit key historical sites (museums, monuments, small businesses, HBCUs, and historic sites) and grapple with tough questions around our identities juxtaposed against America's history and how that history is portrayed. As we learn about and discuss the history on display in our nation's capital, we can begin to visualize ourselves in the landscape of our country's future and how we can engage with others on a global scale. **Cost: \$500**



**Project Directors: Joi Garrett Scales & Brianna Langs**  
(McCLAIN CENTER)

**Applications Due: November 10**



## **Business in the Big Apple**

Picture this: networking with accomplished alumni working in diverse business and government fields, gaining invaluable insights into potential careers, and building connections that could shape your future. Join us on an exciting trip to the city that never sleeps – New York City! Get ready to expand your horizons, connect with successful alumni, explore exciting career opportunities, and immerse yourself in the vibrant culture of NYC. From the breathtaking skyline to the historic landmarks, NYC offers a cultural tapestry like no other. We will see the world of New York's business firsthand as we visit renowned corporations, financial services, and marketing agencies. You will get to engage in dynamic discussions with your peers and alumni, learn from the experience of Witt grads, and be inspired by their success stories. Don't miss out on this extraordinary opportunity to soak up the energy of the city! Join us for a transformative educational journey and create memories that will last a lifetime!

**Cost: \$1150**



**Project Director: Lindsay Meermans (BUSINESS)**

**Applications Due: October 13**



## **Building a Healthy Community: Habitat for Humanity and Clean Up Springfield**

Would you like to help build a new home to provide housing for a family in need? Would you like to help Springfield keep its parks clean? Join the Nursing Department in its efforts to help the local community. Start off your week building a healthy community by removing branches and debris from a local park and then travel to a Habitat build site to help construct a home over four days. You will have the opportunity to get out of the classroom and learn skills in construction and renovation – everything from driving a nail to wielding a paint brush. Prepare to roll up your sleeves and immerse yourself in a week of service. You can make a concrete difference in someone's life in just a week! **No Cost**

*This FIRE Week experience has been approved for the civic engagement requirement (for students on the Connections Curriculum) or community service requirement. Students who wish to have this experience count for this requirement must enroll in CCUE 100-01 for the spring semester and fulfill all the requirements of the CCUE 100 course during that semester.*



**Project Director: Marie Bashaw (NURSING)**

**Applications Due: November 10**



## **Building for Change: Fuller Center Build in Georgia**

Join the 30+ year Witt tradition of traveling to the Fuller Center for Housing in Georgia to renovate, repair, or build a house alongside the family who lives there. Along with a group of fellow students, you will have the chance to participate hands-on in a project that creates meaningful change in the lives of people experiencing housing insecurity while connecting with those community and nonprofit leaders who do this work. The week will also consist of evening activities to learn more about the community and field trips to several locations to discuss social change. The week will then wrap up with a visit to Fuller Center Headquarters in Plains, Georgia, home to peanut butter ice cream! This trip will also have an opportunity for students to apply for a trip leader role (see application for details). Through this experience, you'll be doing good in one community and be inspired to make more meaningful change in your own community in the future! **Cost: \$100**

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**Project Director: Rachel Scherzer (HAGEN CENTER)**

**Applications Due: November 10**





## **The Business of Craft Beer**

Have you ever wondered how someone gets into the business of craft beer? There are more than 400 craft breweries right here in Ohio, with over 70 new ones scheduled to open in 2023 alone. Ohio ranks 7th in the nation in terms of the overall economic impact of its breweries and 4th in total barrel production nationwide, and the business only continues to grow. During this FIRE Week experience, you will go through the whole process of craft brewing – starting off with some homebrewing, visits to small local breweries to see their inner workings, and finally you will see how a large production facility operates. Along the way, you will meet the people who brew, market, and distribute craft beer throughout the region. (Yes, there will be an opportunity to sample and evaluate the products.) **Students must be 21+. No Cost**

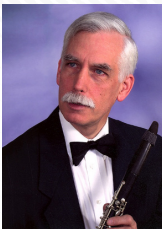
**Project Director: Ray Dudek (CHEMISTRY)**

**Applications Due: November 10**



## **Chamber Music Intensive**

Are you looking to broaden your musical horizons and performance experience? Are you interested in chamber music repertoire, but you haven't had the chance to play it? Do you want to understand what a week in the life of a professional musician looks like? If so, join other student musicians in a weeklong Chamber Music Intensive experience during FIRE Week. Over the course of the week, Wittenberg student musicians will rehearse, collaborate, and perform in small chamber ensembles. You will work with faculty coaches and your ensemble to choose your piece and take your repertoire from first rehearsal to final performance. You will also get one-on-one mentoring and multiple skills workshops throughout the week. If you want to apply as a specific ensemble group, consult with Mr. York prior to your application! **No Cost**



**Project Director: Richard York (MUSIC)**

**Applications Due: November 10**



## **Clark County Criminal Justice Experience**

Are you interested in the criminal justice field? If so, the Clark County Criminal Justice Experience is for you. Students will have the opportunity to work with the Springfield Police Department, the Clark County Sheriff's Office, the Clark County Municipal Court, and the Park District, learning about various aspects of criminal justice along the way. You'll go on ride-alongs with law enforcement officers, tour a jail, and sit in on court proceedings. You'll talk with corrections officers, deputies, detectives, prosecutors, public defenders, and judges—each of whom can offer a different perspective on crime and justice. There will also be an opportunity to tour the Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) building and gain an insider's view of the investigative work done there. So if you are curious about a career in law or law enforcement, or if you're just interested in learning more about it, sign up for the Clark County Criminal Justice Experience. **No Cost**



**Project Director: Katelyn Hammond (POLICE DEPARTMENT)**

**Applications Due: November 10**





## **Connecting Generations**

Spend FIRE Week 2024 collaborating with fellow students to create meaningful, enriching experiences for the residents of a local assisted living agency. Capture the stories of older generations to create a historical gallery walk of their lives; host a game day or a cooking challenge; design a scavenger hunt; provide technical support; or stage a talent show for everyone to participate in. Each student will also work individually with a resident during the week to build a memory book for them to share with their loved ones. **No Cost**

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**Project Director: Stacy Gilson (NURSING)**

**Applications Due: November 10**





## **Creative Writing Retreat**

Do you long to write but struggle to find the time and space? Join us for a week-long retreat in the Ohio valley to foster your creative process and share with other writers. The retreat will offer you the opportunity to focus on your novel, story, essay, or poetry by unplugging in the scenic village of Yellow Springs. Our retreat will include talks from published writers, structured sessions with prompts for inspiration, and ample time to write in the solitude of nature. The retreat will conclude with a community reading, where participants will share favorite works produced over the course of the week.

**Cost: \$300**



Project Directors: Andrew Graff (ENGLISH)  
& Marlo Starr (ENGLISH)

**Applications Due: November 10**



## **Cross Pollination: The Diaspora of West African & Cuban Music, Religion, and Culture**

Do you want to travel the world and experience different cultures through their music? This FIRE Week, your ears can travel to West Africa and Cuba to explore their music – no passport required. Through this experience, students will study the traditional music, folklore, religious practices, and norms of non-western cultures. You will have the chance to perform on traditional instruments, dance, and work with the professional musical group Africa West Trio. Spend FIRE Week examining the way we perceive music and cultures from around the world through daily lectures and masterclasses and expand your personal performance repertoire. The week will culminate with a public lecture and performance by Africa West Trio. **No Cost**



**Project Director: Ed Dunlap (MUSIC)**

**Applications Due: November 10**



## **FIRE and Water: What Do Marine Scientists Really Do, Anyway??**

So you think you want to study marine science and become a marine biologist, but what does that actually mean? During this FIRE Week experience, we will travel to coastal North Carolina and explore some of the many career paths that involve studying the ocean. We will be based at the Duke Marine Laboratory and will spend some time getting sandy and muddy (and maybe a bit wet) while we explore local habitats. We will also meet and work with people who study marine organisms (plankton, coral, sea turtles, and marine mammals!), educate the public about marine life and conservation, and work to protect marine habitats. Along the way, we may even meet a few Witt alums who are living their dreams! You will keep a daily journal of what you've experienced, and at the end you will compose a reflection describing how the week has impacted your attitude toward marine science and reflect on your career goals. **Cost: \$525**



Project Directors: Jim Welch (BIOLOGY)  
& Kathy Reinsel (BIOLOGY)

**Applications Due: November 10**





## **Gambling with Vegas History**

Get ready for an unforgettable FIRE week experience in Las Vegas! This trip will allow you to delve into the captivating history of this vibrant city, explore the intriguing world of gambling and its practical and ethical consequences, and learn how the house “always wins.” You will embark on an unforgettable journey that combines education, entertainment, and critical thinking. You will have the opportunity to visit iconic landmarks such as the Hoover Dam, Mob Museum, Neon Museum, Fremont Street downtown, and the Las Vegas Strip. Additionally, we will travel to the International Gaming Institute at UNLV where experts will provide an in-depth understanding of how popular casino games work. You’ll have the chance to witness the excitement of gaming while exploring the mathematical foundations that govern these games. What are the odds you’ll join us? **Must be 21 or older by the start of the trip. Cost: \$1400**

Project Directors: Amy McGuffey (EDUCATION) & Alyssa Hoofnagle (MATH)

**Applications Due: October 13**





## **Great Lakes Lighthouses, Shipwrecks, and Sand Dunes**

The Great Lakes contain 20% of the world's fresh water and provide drinking water for 10% of the U.S. population (including much of Ohio). They serve as a transportation route from the Atlantic Ocean to Chicago and everything in between. Cities and industries have sprung up along this highly trafficked waterway, generating unintended environmental consequences in the process. Despite an abundance of lighthouses warning of hidden dangers, this shipping route has accumulated the greatest concentration of shipwrecks in the world. On this week-long trip, students will see shipwreck artifacts at Toledo's National Museum of the Great Lakes; visit lighthouses along Michigan's west coast; hike sand dunes, including Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore; and stand above a buried city. See firsthand the beauty and danger of the Great Lakes, and take away a better understanding of society's need for caution when harnessing nature's power. **Cost: \$650**



**Project Director: Gabe Courey (ECONOMICS)**

**Applications Due: November 10**



## **Harnessing Old Man River: Nature Meets Culture in Mississippi**

The Mississippi River is revered for its mythical, life-affirming power as Father Water on the one hand and feared for its devastating potential to destroy lives and property on the other. Land, water, and wildlife have coalesced into a culture of “place,” as residents weave stories of the river’s paradoxical power into their lives. We’ll travel to northern Mississippi, engaging with environmentalists, politicians, hunters, farmers, artists, and residents seeking to understand the controversy of what to do about rivers that flood: let them flow naturally, potentially ruining people’s homes and livelihoods? Or control them with levees and floodgates and risk destroying wildlife? Journey into this “most southern place on earth” with two professors/native Mississippians, driving from the hill country down into the Delta, stopping overnight at the Shack Up Inn and the historic Hotel 27. We’ll meet with knowledgeable folks to hear their stories, stick our toes in the river (maybe even hop into a boat with local guides), listen to some Blues, and of course, indulge in good food and belly laughs in this most unique place. **Cost: \$200**



**Project Directors: Catherine Waggoner  
(COMMUNICATION & DIGITAL MEDIA)  
& Richard Phillips (BIOLOGY)**

**Applications Due: November 10**



## **Leadership Through Change**

“What is right is not always popular and what is popular is not always right.”

– Albert Einstein

Many people seek out leadership roles without realizing the difficulties involved in leading. There are additional challenges when a leader is expected to enact change within an organization or team. Join Student Involvement on an unforgettable trip to North Carolina and learn how to create organizational change through the “7 Cs of Social Change Model.” In your travels, you’ll visit the International Civil Rights Center & Museum, meet with staff at the University of North Carolina Pembroke, and learn from leaders of the Lumbee Tribe. Through discussions with your peers, professional staff, and community leaders, you will learn tips on how to work through change within your own organizations and teams. **Cost: \$650**



Project Directors: Jade Jones & Katie Simms  
(STUDENT INVOLVEMENT)

**Applications Due: November 10**





## **The Politics of Water in the West**

The Coachella Valley desert in Southern California is a microcosm of the challenging water politics that confront the entire Western United States. With only 3.3 inches of annual rainfall, the Valley struggles to support the enormous infrastructure and development that has occurred in the last century. As these development pressures continue, the Valley’s aquifer is under great stress, all in the midst of one of the most sustained droughts in California’s history that has only been lessened slightly because of a recent wet winter. Students will travel to the Valley and learn hands-on about water usage, local and state water conservation policies, laws and regulations associated with water rights, usage, and the development pressures that continue to strain the water supply. Guest speakers, walking and riding tours, and selected readings will serve as the primary course content. Each student will create a 10-minute video memoir/reflection about their experience focusing on their own “water ethic” as a way of synthesizing what they’ve learned and to make connections to other courses and Wittenberg experiences. **Cost: \$800**



**Project Directors: Rob Baker (POLITICAL SCIENCE)  
& John Ritter (ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE)**

**Applications Due: October 13**





## **Queen City Freedom: Cincinnati's Underground Railroad**

Civil disobedience at the risk of death – how did our ancestors find the courage? During this FIRE Week experience, students will trace the steps of enslaved Black Americans seeking freedom in Southern Ohio. Standing on the front porch of an abolitionist's home on the banks of the Ohio River, students will envision the dangerous journey that enslaved people endured to escape bondage. Students will stay at a bed and breakfast in Cincinnati that was once a Quaker safe house for freedom-seekers. Highlights of the trip will include museums and landmarks that celebrate those brave enough to risk everything for a chance at basic human rights. Students will investigate how contemporary citizens and lawmakers are working together to keep the memory of our past fresh so that we avoid repeating history. **Cost: \$150**



**Project Directors: Layla Besson (EDUCATION)  
& Chad Sloss (SOCIOLOGY)**

**Applications Due: November 10**



## **Service in Sunny Costa Rica**

Spend FIRE Week in sunny Costa Rica, one of the most beautiful and biodiverse places in the world! While staying in a beach town on the Pacific Coast of Guanacaste province, you'll engage in impactful local community service projects (e.g., children's programming, animal rescue, nature conservation, etc.) and learn about Costa Rican culture and people. You'll enjoy authentic Tico food, have plenty of time to explore nearby towns and beaches, and set sail on a fun sunset catamaran excursion. Pack your shorts and sunglasses, escape the gray Ohio winter, and immerse yourself in the friendly and laid-back pura vida culture as you broaden your worldview and fulfill your civic engagement (CCUE) or experiential learning (EXPR) requirement. The program fee includes airfare, ground transportation, room, breakfast and dinner daily, and the catamaran tour. **Cost: \$2300**

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**Project Directors: Stefne Broz (COMMUNICATION & DIGITAL MEDIA) & Kristen Collier (HAGEN CENTER)**

**Applications Due: October 2**



## **SpiritQuest Chicago: Psychology & Religion in the Windy City**

Get ready for an enlightening journey into spirituality and the human mind, as we explore the religiously diverse city of Chicago! From churches to synagogues to temples to mosques, you will witness firsthand how people of different faiths express their beliefs. Along the way, you will enjoy some tasty cuisines associated with these rich traditions. Our home base will be downtown Chicago, with its towering skyscrapers and lakefront views. As we explore the city's religious tapestry, we also will venture into the vibrant cityscape with visits to landmarks like Millennium Park, the Art Institute of Chicago, and Willis Tower's famous Skydeck. Expect to do some walking! To ensure that everyone has a foundation of basic knowledge of the world's five major religions, several required readings must be completed prior to our departure. At the end of each day, participants will be asked to reflect on their experiences and capture their thoughts in a journal entry. At the end of the trip, you will submit a summary video reflection. Overall, this journey will not just expand your perspective and challenge your mind, but perhaps touch your heart as well. Are you ready? **Cost: \$750**



**Project Director: Lauren Crane (PSYCHOLOGY)**

**Applications Due: November 10**



# FIRE Week

Igniting Your Passion



<b>Experience</b>	<b>Application Deadline</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Adolescent STEM and the Great Smoky Mountains National Park	<b>November 10</b>	<b>\$200</b>
Black History at the Nation's Capital	<b>November 10</b>	<b>\$500</b>
Business in the Big Apple	<b>October 13</b>	<b>\$1150</b>
Building a Healthy Community: Habitat for Humanity and Clean Up Springfield	<b>November 10</b>	<b>No Cost</b>
Building for Change: Fuller Center Build in Georgia	<b>November 10</b>	<b>\$100</b>
The Business of Craft Beer	<b>November 10</b>	<b>No Cost</b>
Chamber Music Intensive	<b>November 10</b>	<b>No Cost</b>
Clark County Criminal Justice Experience	<b>November 10</b>	<b>No Cost</b>
Connecting Generations	<b>November 10</b>	<b>No Cost</b>
Creative Writing Retreat	<b>November 10</b>	<b>\$300</b>
Cross Pollination: The Diaspora of West African & Cuban Music, Religion, and Culture	<b>November 10</b>	<b>No Cost</b>
FIRE and Water: What Do Marine Scientists Really Do, Anyway??	<b>November 10</b>	<b>\$525</b>
Gambling with Vegas History	<b>October 13</b>	<b>\$1400</b>
Great Lakes Lighthouses, Shipwrecks, and Sand Dunes	<b>November 10</b>	<b>\$650</b>
Harnessing Old Man River: Nature Meets Culture in Mississippi	<b>November 10</b>	<b>\$200</b>
Leadership through Change	<b>November 10</b>	<b>\$650</b>
The Politics of Water in the West	<b>October 13</b>	<b>\$800</b>
Queen City Freedom: Cincinnati's Underground Railroad	<b>November 10</b>	<b>\$150</b>
Service in Sunny Costa Rica	<b>October 2</b>	<b>\$2300</b>
SpiritQuest Chicago: Psychology & Religion in the Windy City	<b>November 10</b>	<b>\$750</b>

**Payment plans will be available**



# **FIRE** Week

**Igniting Your Passion**

**Wittenberg University**

**To apply for FIRE Week, please visit  
[www.wittenberg.edu/connections/fireweek](http://www.wittenberg.edu/connections/fireweek)**

**Applications will open Monday, September 11**

**FIRE Week Experiences are Open to All Wittenberg Students.**

Some experiences have limited capacity, so do take your time and answer all application questions as completely as possible—all applications are blind reviewed by the leaders. Each of these experiences can count as LO1 credit for those students on the Connections Curriculum. Those experiences that count for community service/civic engagement are noted in the brochure.



### Reflections from FIRE Week 2023

*It was one of the best things I have experienced at Wittenberg. I loved every bit of it and the highlights were seeing the amazing city, meeting and talking to the different entrepreneurs, and all of the amazing food.*

*I really enjoyed all of the places that we visited. We did a couple of really fun scavenger hunts that the professor created. He had a lot of really interesting facts and information in addition to the information we were already learning from the sites that we visited.*

*The highlight of my FIRE Week experience was the meeting with the alumni. They provided a lot of guidance on stressing about one's career path and making educated decisions on what companies to apply at.*

*Working with the children at Abriendo Mentes was amazing; I connected with the kids even though I couldn't speak Spanish well. I also loved the other students that came on the trip; they were amazing and very kind, and they took care of each other like family. The boat was also super cool; I got to face my fears and swim in the ocean.*

*The highlights of my week were growing closer relationships with the students in my group, as well as forming connections with the geriatric community. I was able to directly see the impact I had at the assisted living home, as well as meet students outside of the nursing cohort.*



# **FIRE** Week

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