



FIRE Week

Igniting Your Passion

Wittenberg University

March 1 - 5, 2027





FIRE WEEK 2027



Let's Explore

Welcome to FIRE Week 2027!

FIRE Week (Focused, Integrative, Reflective Experience) programs are fun, unique, and impactful experiences that give students a chance to engage in-depth with faculty, staff, and other students on a wide range of topics outside of the traditional classroom. Check out all of the opportunities for the coming year and then make plans to join us for one of these unforgettable experiences! The costs, program dates, and application deadlines are listed on each page, and in the table at the back of this booklet.

All FIRE Week programs count toward the experiential learning requirements in LO1 of the Connections Curriculum. Three of the 2027 offerings may be counted toward the civic engagement requirement in LO1 or, for students who already have met that requirement, it may be counted as one of the experiential learning requirements. Programs that have been approved for civic engagement are designated as such in this booklet.

Regardless of which program you choose, FIRE Week will give you hands-on experiences and a whole new perspective on your education!

**Applications open on Monday, September 7, 2026
at www.wittenberg.edu/connections/fireweek**

Please note that program dates, costs, and application deadlines differ by program.



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Why should I participate?

The student testimonials in this booklet capture the very best aspects of FIRE Week programs – the sense of community, the adventures, and the opportunity to try something new.

FIRE Week programs are also an easy way to complete part of your experiential learning (or, in a few cases, civic engagement) requirements – just pick the one that looks like the best fit for you, have a great time, and complete the required reflections.

How do I apply?

Applications open on Monday, September 7, 2026 on the FIRE Week website: www.wittenberg.edu/connections/fireweek. Please take your time and answer all of the application questions as completely and thoughtfully as possible. There are limited spots, and the directors carefully review the applications in making decisions about acceptance into their program.

Please note that application deadlines differ by program. Students may only have one active application at a time, so take some time to explore all of your options before applying. Choose the program that excites you the most and submit your application. You will have the option to indicate a second-choice program in case your first choice is full. If that happens, we will work with you to make that change.

What if I want more information?

The directors for each program are listed on each page, so you can reach out and get your questions answered as you are deciding which program you'd like to apply for.

If you have general FIRE Week questions or would like to know more about payment plans, please email fireweek@wittenberg.edu and we'll get back to you with the information you need!



Student Reflections from FIRE Week 2026

"Truly everything in this week was everything and more than what I could have expected. Thank you for this wonderful experience in such a beautiful community."

"I liked the experience. I truly felt like I learned new things and this experience has helped solidify what career path I'd like to take."

"The biggest highlight for me was being in the outdoors and enjoying nature. The directors made my experience a great one and I hope they continue to help other students grow."

"I loved getting to work with Habitat for Humanity!"

"The tours and exploring art in cities were my favorite parts of the trip. The creation days were also a lot of fun."

"Even though I came into this trip only knowing a few people, I came out of it knowing every single person involved! Not only was that an amazing experience of gaining connections between my FIRE Week group, the staff, and the Costa Rican community, it was also amazing to see how much teamwork, dedication, and perseverance as a unit we had just in a short amount of time."

"I would have never imagined being able to accomplish so many amazing things with people I didn't even know, and full of so much love, support, and care in the service we provided!"

"Both of the directors were great. Very knowledgeable and passionate about their fields. I liked learning about the culture and history of the area."

"I am so thankful for this experience, and I just want to share my gratitude! With this FIRE Week experience, I was able to truly discover my desire for service and my desire for cultural competence. I absolutely loved this experience and I am so very thankful that I had such an amazing time!"

"In the down time of our trip, I appreciated the community I was able to form with the other students on the trip."

"The biggest highlight for me was getting to explore more of the world. I've never been that far from home, and it was a pretty liberating experience."

"My overall experience was fun and informative. I would recommend it to others."



Becoming Bavarian: A Cultural Exploration in Southern Germany

Immerse yourself in the rich culture of Munich, Germany, along with a day trip to Salzburg, Austria. This experience offers a vibrant mix of Bavarian history, heritage, and hands-on discovery. We will begin by exploring Munich's must-see sights, including royal palaces, iconic churches, and bustling public squares, all deeply connected to the city's rich history and traditions. Students can enjoy a *Maß*, or liter of beer, from Munich's world-famous Oktoberfest breweries while connecting with locals, alumni, and experiencing the city's renowned beer culture. The itinerary includes excursions beyond Munich, including a visit to the former concentration camp memorial site in Dachau, a tour of the world's oldest brewery Weihenstephan in Freising, and a day trip to Salzburg, Austria, the birthplace of Mozart. By the end of the week, students will leave with a deeper understanding of Munich's unique blend of tradition and modern life, a few German phrases in their back pockets, and a serious craving for another warm *Brezn*. The program fee includes airfare, lodging, regional transportation, excursion tickets, and most meals. Students should budget about \$200 for some lunches and local transportation on their own, as well as personal spending money (recommend \$150).



Program Directors: Stephen Mathews (COMPASS) & Kristina Bryant Reed (Student Development)

Program Dates: Saturday, Feb. 27 – Friday, March 5, 2027

Program Cost: \$1,930

Applications Due: Thursday, Oct. 1, 2026



Beyond the Game: Building Your Life After Witt

For years, your sport has shaped your schedule, friendships, goals, and identity. But what happens when the final game is over? Join us for a week dedicated to exploring life beyond athletics. Throughout the week, you'll hear from former student-athletes who have successfully navigated the transition from college sports to careers, graduate school, and life after competition. You'll spend time outdoors exploring local recreation opportunities, learn how to stay active after organized sports, and participate in fitness and wellness activities designed specifically for former athletes. You'll also explore practical life skills through nutrition education, discuss work-life balance and career transitions, and discover ways to build community and friendships after college. You'll participate in a local service project, connect with alumni, and try creative activities that encourage you to discover interests beyond your sport. Whether your athletic career is ending because of graduation, injury, or simply the passage of time, this FIRE Week experience will help you prepare for what's next and leave Witt ready to thrive in your next chapter. Light breakfasts, lunches, program activities, transportation to/from program sites, and admission tickets are included in the program cost. Personal expenses, dinner during the week, and transportation to/from campus are not included. Program participants may stay on campus during the week.



**Program Directors: Kaci Morin (Office of Career Engagement)
& Ellen Crosbie (Athletics)**

Monday, March 1 – Friday, March 5, 2027

Program Cost: \$20

Applications Due: Thursday, Nov. 5, 2026



Caledonian Crossroads: Examining National Identity Through Scottish History and Culture

Scotland is a country of powerful contrasts: an ancient nation with a fiercely distinct identity, yet one contained within the modern, multinational state of the United Kingdom. This experience takes you beyond the textbook to explore how history, landscape, and shifting economic realities actively shape modern political identities and conflicts. Our journey begins in the historic capital of Edinburgh, where we will traverse atmospheric *clooses* and *wynds*, contrasting the ancient sovereignty of Edinburgh Castle with the nearby seats of modern political devolution. We will travel south to the historic villages of the Scottish Borders and the Roman-built Hadrian's Wall to examine how centuries of frontier friction along the English border forged a unique regional consciousness. Taking the train to Glasgow, we will explore the former "Second City of the British Empire" and its transition to a postindustrial city of the present. From the vibrant, urban central belt, we will travel to the spectacular scenery of the Highlands and the Isle of Skye. Visiting locations such as Eilean Donan Castle, the Quiraing, and the Old Man of Storr, we will unpack the complex lore of the clans and the political consequences of the Highland Clearances. Finally, free time will allow for personal exploration. Join us to experience the natural beauty, rich history, and living political laboratory of Caledonia. Transportation, guided tours, and some meals included. Students should budget for luggage fees, visa entry, and half of meals, approximately \$400.



Program Director: James Allan (Political Science)

Program Dates: Saturday, Feb. 27 – Friday, March 5, 2027

Program Cost: \$2,450

Applications Due: Thursday, Oct. 1, 2026

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Camp Witt: Adulting

This is your crash course in real-world survival. No textbooks, just life skills you'll truly use. Join us for a hands-on week designed for students who want to level up their independence without the stress. You'll gain experience with things you will need to know, such as how to budget smart, clean, pack, paint, fix a flat tire, and whip up meals that don't come from the CDR or Post 95. You'll also build confidence navigating things like health, fire safety, insurance, first aid, social etiquette, and even what to do if your toilet floods at 2 a.m. Each day features interactive real-life scenarios where you'll practice instead of just listening. From jumpstarting a car to jumpstarting your future, this isn't a boring lecture series, it's an empowering, judgment-free zone to ask questions and try things out. You'll leave with new knowledge, new friends, and a sense of "I've got this." Adulting is hard — we'll help you make it make sense. Students will be housed on campus. Breakfasts, lunches, and snacks all week are included. Personal expenses, dinner during the week, and transportation to/from campus (if not staying on campus) are not included.



Program Directors: Madison Green (COMPASS), Mary Britton (Career Development), & Mercedes Singleton (COMPASS)

Program Dates: Monday, March 1 – Friday, March 5, 2027

Program Cost: \$55

Applications Due: Thursday, Nov. 5, 2026



Common Problems, Common Good: Service in the South

When people within a community have a common problem, what power does a community have to create a solution? Can that solution really make a difference? This FIRE Week program will allow you to explore the power of a community coming together around a common issue, all through the experience of a week of community service. The trip will focus on serving with the Fuller Center for Housing in Americus, Georgia, where we will renovate, repair, or rebuild housing projects wherever is needed. We will explore community by staying at the intentional community of Koinonia Farm and experience Southern hospitality with meals and excursions in the city of Americus. We will also engage in reflection throughout the week exploring the civil rights history of the area, culminating in a visit to Birmingham to learn at the Civil Rights Institute. By engaging in service and community, you can see the power a community can have on major problems, in big and small ways. Travel will include flying to Birmingham with transportation, lodging, activities, and most meals (except for travel days) included. Students should budget around \$50 for travel meals and consider additional money for souvenirs, coffee, etc.

This FIRE Week program has been approved to count toward the civic engagement requirement in LO1. Students must enroll in CCUE 100-FIRE for the spring semester and fulfill all the requirements of the CCUE 100 course during that semester. For students who have already completed that requirement, this program will count toward the experiential learning requirement in LO1.



Program Directors: Rachel Scherzer (Hagen Center)
& Kristen Collier (Hagen Center)

Program Dates: Sunday, Feb. 28 – Saturday, March 6, 2027

Program Cost: \$250

Applications Due: Thursday, Oct. 15, 2026



Harnessing Old Man River: Nature Meets Culture in Mississippi

The Mississippi Delta. This 6,875 square mile alluvial floodplain is known as the “most southern place on earth.” Join Wittenberg professors as we trace the Delta from its metaphorical “beginning” in the lobby of the Peabody Hotel in Memphis, Tennessee, all the way to Catfish Row in Vicksburg, Mississippi. We will explore how water, land, and wildlife have coalesced into a culture of “place.” We’ll take vans from Wittenberg to Memphis, viewing the river from our house, perched on the banks of the Bluff City. A canoe trip will provide a perspective from the river itself, right before it enters the Delta. We will examine how the physical waters of the river flow into the culture of the place as we venture south to the Shack Up Inn and hear some blues in Clarksdale, Mississippi. We’ll visit Marks, MS, and speak with folks who participated with Dr. King on this landscape. We will continue to Tara Lodge near Vicksburg, as we transect 200 miles of delta, to see the intersection of water and land, and its impact on wildlife. Over 6 days, we’ll dig our fingers into the richest soil on earth, paddle canoes on the river, walk the roads where Martin Luther King, Jr. did some civil rights work, tap our toes to the Blues, and indulge in local fare like catfish. Program price includes transportation, lodging, all activities, and all meals except during travel and Saturday’s dinner.



Program Directors: Richard Phillips (Biological & Environmental Sciences) & Catherine Waggoner (Communication & Digital Media, Emerita)

Program Dates: Saturday, Feb. 27 – Friday, March 5, 2027

Program Cost: \$555

Applications Due: Thursday, Nov. 5, 2026



MurALL: Public Art and Community

From neolithic cave paintings to modern murals and sculpture, art in public spaces has tremendous power to tell a story, evoke emotions, and to create a sense of shared belonging. For this FIRE week experience, we'll take tours of public art in Springfield, Cincinnati, and Yellow Springs, speak to artists, and design and create murals in Thomas Library and with a community partner. We'll explore how art in public spaces is tied to community and reflective of not just our past but our shared future. No prior painting experience required, but be prepared to get your hands dirty. Lunch in Cincinnati and Yellow Springs, as well as all materials and tickets, are included. Students are welcome to stay on campus during the week. Personal expenses, most meals, and transportation to/from campus are not included.

This FIRE Week program has been approved to count toward the civic engagement requirement in LO1. Students must enroll in CCUE 100-FIRE for the spring semester and fulfill all the requirements of the CCUE 100 course during that semester. For students who have already completed that requirement, this program will count toward the experiential learning requirement in LO1.



Program Directors: Amanda McLellan (Thomas Library) & Kelley Booze (Art)

Program Dates: Monday, March 1 – Friday, March 5, 2027

Program Cost: \$20

Applications Due: Thursday, Nov. 5, 2026



Pacific Crossroads: Culturally Competent International Business in Hawai'i

Ready to look beyond the resort postcards and dive into one of the world's most dynamic East-West economic and cultural intersections? Join Dr. Sunny Jeong (International Business) and Dr. Lauren Crane (Sociocultural Psychology) for an immersive five-day journey to Oahu, Hawai'i: America's gateway to the Asia-Pacific region. Applying cultural competence to global market strategies, this trip pulls back the curtain on Hawai'i's unique economic ecosystem and how multinational enterprises bridge U.S., Asian, and native Hawai'ian frameworks. We will speak with professionals at a global maritime logistics hub, engage with a grassroots agricultural enterprise implementing traditional Hawai'ian practices, visit the University of Hawai'i's Shidler College of Business and East-West Center, and more! Through site visits, a professional career panel, and community-based learning, you will discover firsthand how modern organizations manage heritage, sustainability, and cultural diversity – and still have time to attend a luau and go to the beach in this unique Pacific crossroads learning experience. The program fee includes round-trip airfare, accommodations, all scheduled activities, and most meals. Students should budget an additional \$175 - \$225 for all other meals plus personal expenses.



Program Directors: Lauren Crane (Psychology) & Sunny Jeong (Business)

Program Dates: Monday, March 1 – Sunday, March 7, 2027

Program Cost: \$2,155

Applications Due: Thursday, Oct. 1, 2026



Science and Education at Great Smoky Mountains National Park

The Great Smoky Mountains are among the most biodiverse geographical regions in the U.S. The Smokies are the ideal landscape for hiking, observing stunning flora and fauna, and practicing mindfulness in nature. We will spend four days at the Institute at Tremont, an environmental education center housed within Smoky Mountains National Park. There's something at Tremont for everyone, and you will be able to fill your schedule with activities that interest you. Do you want to get a closer look at biodiversity in the Smokies? Assist Tremont with monitoring salamander populations in mountain streams and documenting the abundance of species like trees and songbirds in the National Park. Are you interested in pursuing a career in education? Connect with Tremont faculty to learn how teachers from across the country implement experiential learning opportunities in classrooms without walls. Do you enjoy thrill rides and scenic views? This year's trip will bring back a fan-favorite from last year, the longest coaster in Tennessee, the Rocky Top Mountain Coaster. Whether you have visited Tremont before or are interested in your first adventure to the Smokies, all students interested in a STEM field or education are encouraged to apply! All expenses are included, but students may wish to budget about \$30 for snacks during travel.



Program Directors: Hope Elliott (Biological & Environmental Sciences) & Tami Wallace (Education)

Program Dates: Monday, March 1 – Thursday, March 4, 2027

Program Cost: \$280

Applications Due: Thursday, Nov. 5, 2026

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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 area 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 part of your LO1 requirement (civic engagement or experiential learning). The program fee includes airfare, ground transportation, hotel room, breakfast and dinner daily, and the catamaran tour. Students should budget about \$150 for lunches plus personal spending money.

This FIRE Week program has been approved to count toward the civic engagement requirement in LO1. Students must enroll in CCUE 100-FIRE for the spring semester and fulfill all the requirements of the CCUE 100 course during that semester. For students who have already completed that requirement, this program will count toward the experiential learning requirement in LO1.



Program Directors: Stefne Broz (Provost's Office) & Stephanie Little (Psychology)

Program Dates: Saturday, Feb. 27 – Saturday, March 6, 2027

Program Cost: \$2,360

Applications Due: Thursday, Oct. 1, 2026

Program	Program Dates	Application Deadline	Cost
Becoming Bavarian: A Cultural Exploration in Southern Germany	Feb. 27 - March 5	Oct. 1*	\$1930
Beyond the Game: Building Your Life After Witt	March 1 - 5	Nov. 5	\$20
Caledonian Crossroads: Examining National Identity Through Scottish History and Culture	Feb. 27 - March 5	Oct. 1*	\$2450
Camp Witt: Adulthood	March 1 - 5	Nov. 5	\$55
Common Problems, Common Good: Service in the South	Feb. 28 - March 6	Oct. 15	\$250
Harnessing Old Man River: Nature Meets Culture in Mississippi	Feb. 27 - March 5	Nov. 5	\$555
MurALL: Public Art & Community	March 1 - 5	Nov. 5	\$20
Pacific Crossroads: Culturally Competent International Business in Hawai'i	March 1 - 7	Oct. 1	\$2155
Science and Education at Great Smoky Mountains National Park	March 1 - 4	Nov. 5	\$280
Service in Sunny Costa Rica	Feb. 27 - March 6	Oct. 1*	\$2360

Payment deposits, schedules, and amounts differ by program; see the full program descriptions online for more information. Payment plans are available.

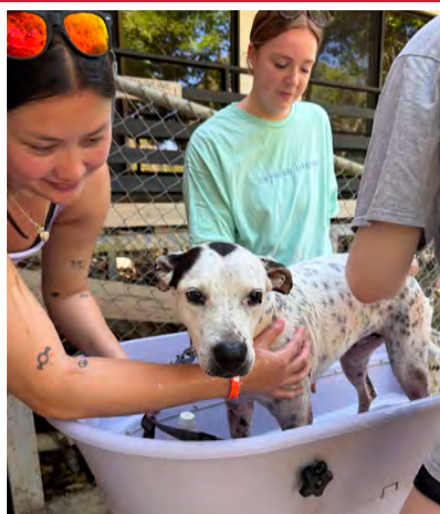
**International travel requires a valid passport, typically with an expiration date that is at least six months after the end date of the program. The application deadlines are earlier for these programs to facilitate passport application/renewal if needed.*

Note: U.S. travelers must be REAL ID compliant to board domestic flights. Students who are accepted into *Common Problems, Common Good: Service in the South* and *Pacific Crossroads: Culturally Competent International Business in Hawaii* will be required to have a REAL ID driver's license or identification in order to be able to participate.



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"I enjoyed the hands-on experiences the most, like making dinner, and the field trips, like going to the campus apartments to learn skills I'll need as an adult."

"Highlights included time spent outside in the highlands, art museums and free time, time in Edinburgh."

"Had a lot of fun! Made great memories and met cool adventurous people."

"My highlights were being able to connect with people from different cultures and learning about the importance of intentionality."





"I LOVED this program so much and directors made it 10x better. The highlights were exploring a new country and being exposed to a different culture."

"Highlights of the program? Everything! This was the most amazing trip, but if I could only pick a few highlights I would say volunteering at the animal rescue shelter, working at the kids camp, and trying all of the amazing food and swimming in the ocean!"

"My favorite parts were getting to work with other students from Witt that I had never worked with before and getting to help build a house from the ground up!"

"The highlights for me were being exposed to several different areas of importance and interest that both furthered my understanding and were fun. I really enjoyed this experience a lot. It was affordable and educational."





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