

2026-2027 Bonner Leader Application

About Bonner

The Bonner Leader Program model "access to education and opportunity to serve" combined with Washburn University motto, "Not for Ourselves Alone," allows students to gain practice with community-based experiences, mentorship, and training and enrichment activities as members progress through a developmental model of civic leadership. The Bonner Leader Program at Washburn is part of the Aleshire Center for Leadership and Community Engagement alongside a larger Bonner network of colleges and universities supported by the [Bonner Foundation](#) in Princeton, NJ. This provides national opportunities for students during both their time in the program and after graduation.



The program model is cohort-based (approximately 15 students per cohort) and developmental (integrating experiential, curricular, and co-curricular service and learning leading to a capstone community-engagement project and a culminating reflection presentation). New Bonners are intentionally involved in the Pre-Bonner experience that provides a variety of service sites and activities to provide a smooth transition. This transition helps them identify their passions and make a long-term commitment to a particular place (community), site, and issue areas.

Bonners serve in schools, nonprofit organizations, and governmental agencies to address community identified needs and to tackle issues like education, safe and affordable housing, food insecurity, college access and youth development, environmental sustainability, and so on. Students identify, develop, and integrate service and civic engagement passions, academic studies, and career interests.

Bonner Eligibility Criteria

- Have three or more years of undergraduate education remaining when starting the program in August
- Desire to enroll at Washburn University in the upcoming academic year

Participation Requirements

- Available Tuesdays from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. for regular All Bonner and Cohort Meetings
- Make consistent annual progress towards 1,000 total hours of community service and training before graduation
- Attendance at Aleshire Fall Kick-off (mid-late August), Spring Kick-off (late January), and Spring Celebration (late April)

Application Timeline

- April 10, 2026 – Early Admission Deadline for Current Washburn Students
- July 17, 2026 - Early Admission Deadline for Incoming/Transfer Students
- Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis until capacity is reached

Autobiographical Information

Name: _____
Last _____ First _____ MI _____ Preferred Pronouns _____

Permanent Address: _____
Number and street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

E-mail: _____ Cell Phone: (_____) _____

Intended Major(s): _____ Intended Minor(s): _____

Anticipated Graduation: Spring Fall Summer Year: _____

I am currently enrolled/plan to enroll in Fall 2026 at Washburn University? Yes No

Have you ever been convicted of a crime other than a traffic violation? Yes No

Some service sites have prohibitions on certain types of convictions, but this will not be used to determine your eligibility to be a Bonner.

If you answered yes to the previous question, please describe: _____

Educational Information

High School: _____
Name _____ City, State _____

Have you earned college-level credit? Yes No Credit Hours earned: _____

College Education: List all schools attended. Attach typed additional pages if necessary.

School name	Dates of attendance (month/year)	Hours completed
City	State	Degree received
		Date of Degree

Please check any of the following identifiers that may belong to you:

First Generation College Student

At Washburn University, a student is a first-generation college student if neither parent(s)/legal guardian(s) completed a bachelor's degree, regardless of siblings and other relatives. If that fits you, please mark this box. Learn more about first-generation resources at Washburn [here](#).

Transfer Student

If you have previously attended a college or university other than Washburn after graduating high school, please mark this option.

Military Service/Veteran

International Student

Honors Student

If you have been admitted to the [Honors program](#) at Washburn, please mark this option.

Federal & State Work-Study

Federal work-study is a student financial aid program for eligible undergraduate students with unmet financial need. With federal work-study, students can get a job (typically on-campus) and earn money through working. Paychecks can be used for educational, living, and/or other expenses. Funds are not directly applied to tuition, fees, or remaining balances.

You may be eligible if:

- You are enrolling half-time or full-time in a college or university
- You have a high school diploma or equivalent, but do not yet have a bachelor's degree
- Are a citizen and/or intend to become a permanent resident of the United States
- Are not actively in default of a loan to be used for higher education
- If male, you have registered for the Selective Service
- You have not been convicted of a crime relating to the possession of illegal drugs within the last one to two years; nor the sale of illegal drugs more than twice without completing a rehabilitation program
- You anticipate not being able to pay for college directly out of pocket
- You fill out the FAFSA by November 15 (*you must complete this step, or you will not be eligible)

I know I am eligible for Federal Work-Study; it is on my 2026-2027 financial aid award letter.

[This can be checked on my.washburn.edu under financial services for returning students or contact financial aid at 785-670-1079]

I may be eligible for Federal Work-Study, but I'm not sure.

I will not qualify for Federal Work-Study.

The Kansas Career Work Study program is available to Kansas residents, enrolled at least half-time at the six state universities and Washburn University. Eligible students work on a part-time basis on behalf of an employer, which complements and enhances the educational preparation of the student's career. Employers are any private business, not-for-profit organization, or public agency with a place of business in Kansas.

I am a Kansas resident and may be eligible for State Work-Study.

I am not a Kansas resident and will not qualify for State Work-Study.

Kansas Address (*if different from above*):

Number and street

City

Zip code

Certification

I certify that all statements made in this application are true, correct, and complete to the best of my knowledge and were made in good faith. I understand that misinformation or omissions of information could result in my disqualification or termination as a Bonner Leader. I also understand that my selection for participation in some community agencies/programs may require a physical examination, drug and alcohol testing, and/or a background check.

If you agree to the above, please sign here: _____

Date: _____

Supplemental Information

We ask that all materials you submit are your own. Please refrain from using Artificial Intelligence (AI) for anything other than brainstorming.

1. Motivational Statement – Create a why statement explaining your motivation to join this program. Describe what inspired you to apply, what you hope to gain, and how the program aligns with your current and future career/professional/personal goals. Explain how you plan to contribute to and grow within the program.

You may choose **one** of the following formats:

Written Essay

- Length: **250–300 words**

Video Essay

- Length: **3–5 minutes**
- Your video should clearly show your face and include your verbal response to the prompt.
- Upload your video to a platform that allows link sharing (e.g., YouTube, Vimeo, Google Drive).
- Provide the **shareable link** when you submit your application.
- Ensure the link is accessible without requiring special permissions.

2. Resume – your resume should highlight the following areas:

* Community Engagement & Service * Work Experience * Skills, Certifications & Trainings

Remember to include organizational activities, leadership positions, events you participated in etc. If you don't write it down, we won't know about it.

Need help with your resume? Check out the resume resources on the Washburn University Career Engagement website here: <https://www.washburn.edu/student-life/career-engagement/preparation/index.html>

Information on How to Submit

Please submit the following materials to the **Aleshire Center for Leadership & Community Engagement**, by email to aleshirecenter@washburn.edu (pdf format preferred) or mail to the address below.

- 1. Application**
- 2. Motivational statement**
- 3. Personal Resume highlighting your leadership and community engagement accomplishments**

Email:

aleshirecenter@washburn.edu

Mailing Address:

Washburn University Aleshire Center for Leadership & Community Engagement
1700 College Ave, Plass Learning Resources Center, Room 217
Topeka, KS 66621

Washburn University [prohibits discrimination](#) on the basis of race, color, religion, age, national origin, ancestry, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, veteran status, or marital or parental status. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: **Dr. Michelle White-Godinet**, Equal Opportunity Director/Title IX Coordinator, eodirector@washburn.edu, 785.670.1509, Washburn University, 1700 SW College Ave, Topeka, KS 66621.