



Office of Orientation
2026 Application Packet

Student Orientation Staff | SOUL Camp Mentor Staff
All Dates, Times & In-Person/Virtual Delivery Subject to Change



Student Orientation Staff (SOS)

What is the Student Orientation Staff?

SOS is a premiere student leadership organization at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. Members of SOS work together to help orient new students to campus, represent the university at important functions both locally and nationally, and develop their own leadership capacities. Members of SOS often become leaders across campus, including in SGA, academic organizations, fraternities and sororities, and honors programs.

How will the Student Orientation Staff benefit me as a student at UL Lafayette?

Making connections throughout the university is critical for your success as a student. As a member of SOS, you will have the opportunity to make and enhance connections with faculty, staff, and a variety of students from the UL community. In addition, you benefit from learning detailed information about university services and programs. Finally, you will be participating in a powerful leadership learning experience. If selected, your time on staff will ask you to develop and strengthen your understanding of leadership, and you will be seen and treated as one of the pre-eminent student leaders on our campus.

How will the Student Orientation Staff experience benefit me after graduation?

The SOS experience will be intentionally designed to enhance your leadership skills and abilities. Members of SOS will develop skills in group problem solving, conflict resolution, interpersonal communication, and team building. The Student Orientation Staff experience also provides you with the unique opportunity to mentor new students. Throughout the year you will have opportunities to use your skills in hands-on situations, thus providing experiences upon which future employers look favorably.

SOUL Camp Mentor Staff

What is SOUL Camp?

SOUL Camp had its first summer at UL Lafayette in 2010. For the first time ever, the Office of Orientation offered an extended orientation program to new students that wished to learn more about the spirit and tradition of the university. That first year was a tremendous success. Now the tradition lives on.

Service, Outreach, Unity, and Leadership are the four pillars from which SOUL Camp was built. Building camp based on these values gives students the opportunity to successfully transition into college. SOUL Camp will provide incoming students with the knowledge and skillset to effectively navigate their way through their time at UL Lafayette. It is believed that students who attend SOUL Camp will establish a sense of self in the University, build bonds with upperclassmen, faculty, and staff, and be able to give back to the community and the University.

What is a Student Mentor?

The Student Mentor position is essential to the success of SOUL Camp. The position will be challenging and rewarding; dynamic and satisfying. Student Mentors will work closely with the Lead Staff Mentors, Komeback Krewe, and Professional Staff. Student Mentors will also be the direct guides for the students attending SOUL Camp.

Student Mentors will have the primary responsibility of interacting with the campers to ensure they have a successful SOUL Camp experience. Student Mentors will facilitate and lead discussions and activities for the campers. They will also act as the liaison between the campers and the Lead Staff and Komeback Krewe.

How will being a Student Mentor benefit me?

The Student Mentor position is different from any other student leadership opportunity on campus. Student Mentors will help continue the tradition of SOUL Camp. Student Mentors will acquire a great knowledge and understanding of the University and all it has to offer to its students. Student Mentors will also experience an extensive development of leadership skills and self-evaluation through a series of SOUL Trains. Lastly, Student Mentors will create meaningful interpersonal relationships with both peers on staff, as well as incoming students.

SOS and SOUL Camp Mentor Staff Selection Timeline

<u>Date</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Time & Location</u>
January 14, 2026	Online Application Opens	Link is located on the last page of this packet.
January 15, 2026	Information Table	11:00 AM – 3:00 PM, Union hallway near Chick Fil A
January 15, 2026	Interest Session #1	4:00 PM - Student Union Forum, room 209A
January 20, 2026	Information Table	10:00 AM – 2:00 PM, Union hallway near Chick Fil A
January 20, 2026	Interest Session #2	3:00 PM - Student Union Forum, room 209A
January 28, 2026	Interest Session #3	3:00 PM - Student Union Forum, room 209A
January 28, 2026	Application Due	11:59 PM- Apply online (link located on the last page of this packet) Applications are time stamped upon submission. Applications submitted after 11:59 PM on January 28 WILL NOT be accepted. No exceptions!
January 30, 2026	Mandatory Group Interview	1:00 PM – 4:30 PM, Bayou Bijou, Student Union, room 100E
January 31, 2026	Individual Interview Notification	All applicants will receive an email notifying them of whether or not they have advanced to an Individual Interview.
February 2-12, 2026	Individual Interview	Online via Zoom
February 21, 2026	SOS & SOUL Camp Staff Announcement	Notification via email (late in the day)
Application Deadline: January 28, 2026 by 11:59 PM Questions? Call 337-482-1391 or orientation@louisiana.edu		

SOS and SOUL Camp Mentor Staff Qualifications

- Must be a current UL student in good standing (not on any type of academic or disciplinary probation).
- Must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.25 at time of application.
- If selected, must maintain a 2.25 cumulative GPA throughout your term on staff.
- Must be enrolled full-time (12 credit hours) at UL for the Spring 2026 semester.
- Must be in the Lafayette area, or able to return, for Summer 2026.
- Must display professionalism and school spirit.
- Must promote general involvement and not show bias or favoritism towards any specific student organization.
- Must show a positive attitude and strong work ethic.
- Must be open to learning and challenging yourself to grow in your leadership capacities

SOS Responsibilities

- Respectfully work with Professional Staff, the Leadership Team and fellow Orientation Leaders.
- Mentor new students through 1- and 2-day Orientation Experiences.
- Facilitate small group discussions while remaining both friendly and professional.
- Facilitate discussions on campus life, academic expectations, and UL with new students & parents.
- Always represent UL positively and professionally before, during, and after orientation.
- Assist in logistical coordination of Orientation operations during the summer months.
- Assist with UL sponsored events when asked.
- Serve on one of four Student Orientation Staff Committees.
- Attend all spring and summer training events.
- Successfully complete Student Orientation Staff Training.
- **If you choose to take a summer course, you may take NO MORE than ONE course, at one time, through any institution, that interferes with orientation for Summer 2026.**

SOS Time Commitments

The Student Orientation Staff requires a large amount of time and dedication – enhancing the overall member experience through staff bonding and service to the university. See following pages for a listing of dates and time commitments for the year.

- Spring Retreat & Summer Training Retreat.
- Student Orientation Staff Training.
- Welcome Program Practice & SOS Picture Day.
- Participation in The Big Event – whether with SOS or another student organization.
- Additional summer training, and/or welcome program practice as needed.
- All Summer & Fall 2-day Freshman Orientation Sessions.
- Two Summer & Fall 1-day Transfer & Adult Orientation Sessions.
- All staff members will be asked to complete one folder making day, one orientation preparation work day and stay overnight on campus for one orientation session during Summer 2026.
- Cajun Craze events: Class Locator Tours and Freshman Convocation (volunteers will be requested).

SOUL Camp Mentor Responsibilities

- Work with Komeback Krewe, Lead Staff, and Professional Staff to implement the goals of camp.
- Ease transition to university life by connecting new students with each other, current students, and faculty & staff.
- Promote the importance of voluntary community engagement and service.
- Articulate University pride, history, and traditions to incoming students.
- Develop effective leadership comprehension and skills.
- Facilitate small group discussions while remaining both friendly and professional.
- Work with other Student Mentors respectfully.
- Always represent UL Lafayette positively before, during, and after SOUL Camp.
- Be able to confidently answer questions of students.
- Serve as a mentor/guide to all incoming students at all times.

SOUL Camp Mentor Time Commitments

(See following pages for a list of date & time commitments)

- Spring & Summer Retreats.
- Fundraising Events (Spring & Summer 2026).
- All training sessions - SOUL Trains.
- Orientation Org Expo and Overnight Activities.
- Alumni Reunion.
- Camp Preparation & Krewe Preparation.
- SOUL Camps A & B.
- Cajun Craze events: Class Locator Tours and Freshman Convocation (volunteers will be requested).

****Promotion of other Organizations****

During orientation and camp programs, members of both staffs remain neutral regarding membership in any student organization, including fraternities and sororities. They keep conversations with new students, professional and ethical and framed in general terms without mentioning specific organizations.

****AmeriCorps Conflict****

Due to time conflicts with the Office of Orientation and AmeriCorps training schedules, AmeriCorps students **WILL NOT** be able to be a member of either the SOUL Camp Mentor or Student Orientation Staff for the Spring and Summer 2026 semesters.

****Resident Assistant Conflict****

Due to Resident Assistant training and SOUL Camp falling on the same dates, students **WILL NOT** be able to be both a SOUL Camp Mentor and a Resident Assistant for the Fall 2026 semester.

Due to the time commitments of summer orientations, students **WILL NOT** be able to be both a Student Orientation Staff member and a Resident Assistant for the Summer 2026 semester, but **ARE ABLE** to be on SOS and be an RA for the Fall 2026 semester. Fall 2026 Resident Assistant training does not interfere with any SOS responsibilities as RAs are excused from participating in Late Fall Orientation in August.

	Spring 2026	Summer 2026	Fall 2026
Can I be an RA and on SOUL Camp Staff?	Yes	Yes	No
Can I be an RA and on Student Orientation Staff?	Yes	No	Yes

2026 Student Orientation Staff

Time Commitments – Spring & Summer

Staff Retreats: Members of the 2026 Student Orientation Staff will be required to attend the full duration of Spring Retreat (**Saturday-Sunday, March 7-8, 2026**) AND Summer Training Retreat after spring classes end (**Monday-Friday, May 18-22, 2026**). **NO EXCEPTIONS**. Students who know they cannot attend the full duration of both retreats should not apply for staff.

Staff Training Schedule: Student Orientation Staff members are required to attend all training sessions (see dates below). This is where you learn all the information necessary to help you become an outstanding Orientation Leader. Specific absence policies will be outlined in the training manual.

Orientation Sessions: Student Orientation Staff members are required to facilitate ALL Freshman Orientation Sessions and TWO Transfer & Adult/Late Orientation Sessions (see dates below). Assignment of the Transfer & Adult/Late Orientation sessions will occur in April. Requests for missing an Orientation Session will be handled by the Director of Orientation. Volunteers will be requested to work at the Late Fall Orientation in August.

2026 Student Orientation Staff Training Schedule		
DATE	ACTIVITY	TIME & LOCATION
March 7-8, 2026	SOS Spring Retreat	ALL DAY – Student Union
March 20, 2026	SOS Training	1:00 PM – 4:00 PM, Union
March 27, 2026	SOS Training	1:00 PM – 4:00 PM, Union
March 28, 2026	The Big Event	7:30 AM – 12:30 PM, TBA
April 17, 2026	SOS Training	2:00 PM – 4:00 PM, Union
April 18, 2026	Welcome Program Practice	1:00 PM – 5:00 PM, TBA
April 24, 2026	SOS Training	1:00 PM – 4:00 PM, Union
May 1, 2026	SOS Picture Day	1:00 PM – 3:00 PM, Union
May 18-22, 2026	SOS Summer Training Retreat	8:00 AM – 5:00 PM each day, Union
Typically in April/May	SOS & SOUL Camp Mixer	TBA
If necessary	Final Training Day	TBA
If necessary	Additional Dance Practices	TBA

2026 Orientation Session Requirements		
DATE	ACTIVITY	TIME
SOS members will facilitate all 8 of the Two-Day Sessions:		
May 26-27, 2026	Freshman Early Orientation & Summer Session	Full Days
June 3-4, 2026	Freshman Fall Session 1	Full Days
June 15-16, 2026	Freshman Fall Session 2	Full Days
June 17-18, 2026	Freshman Fall Session 3	Full Days
June 24-25, 2026	Freshman Fall Session 4	Full Days
July 13-14, 2026	Freshman Fall Session 5	Full Days
July 15-16, 2026	Freshman Fall Session 6	Full Days
July 27-28, 2026	Freshman Fall Session 7	Full Days
July 29, 2026	End-of-the-Year Celebration	12:30-4:00 PM

SOS members will facilitate 2 of the 4 One-Day Sessions:		
May 28, 2026	Transfer & Adult Summer & Fall Session 1	7:00 AM – 6:00 PM
June 2, 2026	Late Summer Session	7:00 AM – 6:00 PM
June 23, 2026	Transfer & Adult Fall Session 2	7:00 AM – 6:00 PM
July 22, 2026	Transfer & Adult Fall Session 3	7:00 AM – 6:00 PM
Volunteers will be requested for Late Fall Session:		
August 18, 2026	Late Fall Session	7:00 AM – 6:00 PM

Although rare, all dates and times are subject to change.

All in-person events are subject to change to virtual.

2026 SOUL Camp Mentor Staff Time Commitments – Spring & Summer

All dates listed below are mandatory and mentors are expected to fully participate in. The only exceptions will be when you have a scheduled class that interferes with one of the events listed below. Work, vacations, social obligations should be flexible enough to accommodate the dates listed below.

Spring Retreat: Members of the SOUL Camp Mentor Staff will be required to attend the full duration of Spring Retreat (**Saturday, March 7 – Sunday, March 8, 2026**). **NO EXCEPTIONS**. Students who know they cannot attend, should not apply for staff.

Orientations: Student Mentors will be expected to attend and assist at 1 of the orientation sessions throughout the summer. This is where we will be able to meet new students, get to know them, explain what SOUL Camp is, garner interest, and recruit them to attend. Logistics of next year's orientations are still in the works, so exact times and expectations will be announced later – either at Winter Retreat or at SOUL Train 1.

Spring			
DATE	ACTIVITY	TIME	LOCATION
March 7-8	SOUL Camp Spring Retreat	ALL DAY – each day	Student Union
March 23-26	Fundraising Week	Various times & in between your classes	TBD
March 27	Business Donation Day & SOUL Camp Meet Up	TBD	TBD
March 28	The Big Event	7:00AM – 1:00PM	TBD
April 17-18	SOUL Train 1	17: 2PM – 8PM 18: 8AM – 8PM	Student Union
April 19	Tournament Fundraiser	7AM – 8PM	TBD
TBD [#]	Alumni Reunion	All Day	TBD
TBD [#] - typically in April/May	SOUL Camp & SOS Mixer	TBD	TBD

= Dates that are TBD will be communicated as soon as they are available. If you have an existing conflict when these dates are announced, you will need to communicate that to Lead Staff and Professional Staff at the time of the announcement so that arrangements can be made.

Time commitments continued on the next page.

Summer			
DATE	ACTIVITY	TIME	LOCATION
May 26-27	Orientation*	TBD	Student Union
May 29-30	SOUL Train 2	May 29: 8AM – 8PM May 30: 8AM – 8PM	Student Union
June 3-4	Orientation*	TBD	Student Union
June 13	Car Wash Fundraiser	All Day	TBD
June 15-16	Orientation*	TBD	Student Union
June 17-18	Orientation*	TBD	Student Union
June 24-25	Orientation*	TBD	Student Union
July 11-12	SOUL Train 3	July 11: 8AM – 8PM July 12: 8AM – 8PM	Student Union
July 13-14	Orientation*	TBD	Student Union
July 15-16	Orientation*	TBD	Student Union
August 3-4	Summer Retreat	All Day	Student Union
August 5-8	SOUL Camp A	All Day	Student Union
August 10-13	SOUL Camp B	All Day	Student Union

*Mentors will be required to assist with camper recruitment at 1 of the orientation sessions listed above.

Although rare, all dates and times are subject to change.

All in-person events are subject to change to virtual.

2026 Student Orientation Staff & SOUL Camp Mentor Staff Application Process

Applicants are encouraged to represent themselves well in the written application as well as in their interviews.

Application Deadline: Wednesday, January 28 by 11:59 PM

1. Fill out an online application at: <https://forms.office.com/r/11CQsF5b5S>

Written Response

A critical part of the Application Process will be your written responses to several questions. These questions give you an opportunity to think about some of the totality of the SOS and SOUL Camp experience and your responses should be carefully constructed and thought out. Your responses should be at least one paragraph, but no more than two paragraphs in length and should demonstrate your ability to think critically about the positions. Since both SOS and SOUL Camp Mentor Staff are highly competitive, we suggest you pay attention to detail (spelling, grammar, etc.). **We also suggest you type out your responses in a Word document prior to beginning the online application and then paste them into the application. Your responses should also be your own unique ideas – using AI is not acceptable.**

1. What does being a Ragin' Cajun mean to you?
 2. How would you describe your leadership style? Share a time it made a difference in a group.
 3. What knowledge, skills, or abilities would you bring that could positively impact our programs?
 4. What impact do you hope to make on incoming students?
 5. If you gave a TED Talk, what would your topic be and why?
2. **At the end of your online application, you will have the option to preference which staff you wish to be on, or you can indicate that you're open to being on either staff.**
 3. **At the end of your online application, you will confirm that you can attend the mandatory group interview* on Friday, January 30 from 1:00 PM – 4:30 PM.**

**On January 29, a confirmation email will be sent to all applicants with more details about the group interview process including attire, parking, and where to check-in.*