



BON SECOURS VOLUNTEER MINISTRY

Application

2020-2021 Service Year

Name _____
Last First Middle

I. Your Discernment

While you are at the beginning of the application process, we ask you to start this journey by actually looking ahead to the end of the application process. In order to fully invest yourself in the application process, please begin to consider the statement of commitment that accompanies an invitation into the community. Each member of Bon Secours Volunteer Ministry signs this statement when they agree to commit to the program for a year of service. An example of this statement follows for your careful consideration. Please initial below to indicate that you have read the following sample.

*Bon Secours Volunteer Ministry
Statement of Commitment*

This is to affirm that, having received a letter of acceptance into Bon Secours Volunteer Ministry for the 2020-2021 year of service, I intend to fully participate in all aspects of the program for the period beginning late August/early September and ending July 31st, 2021.

From the people I will serve and my future co-workers to my fellow community members and the staff of Bon Secours Volunteer Ministry, I understand that my decision to commit to the program impacts the lives of many people. For this reason and others, I understand that I was carefully selected to participate in Bon Secours Volunteer Ministry.

With this in mind, I have carefully considered my decision to fully participate in Bon Secours Volunteer Ministry and have determined that:

- Living in an intentional Christian community differs from living with roommates. I am prepared to open myself to community life and to work at building relationships through service both with and to my community members. _____ (initial here)*
- My financial obligations as well as my family's financial obligations will not prevent me from living off, and only off, of the modest monthly BSVM stipend from late August/early September 2020 - July 31, 2021. _____ (initial here)*

• *I understand that Bon Secours Volunteer Ministry does not receive funding from AmeriCorps, including the AmeriCorps Education Award, and I confirm that I will still be able to fully participate in the program. _____ (initial here)*

• *I understand that, to correspond with its mission, the Bon Secours Volunteer Ministry residence is located within the neighborhood in which it serves. In this neighborhood most residents face economic injustice and, therefore, live in poverty. I have thoughtfully considered how my move to inner city Baltimore, MD or Richmond, VA will be a transition for me. I will prepare myself to be flexible to this transition and open to the many opportunities to learn from my new neighbors. _____ (initial here)*

• *Through safety training at the beginning of the year, Bon Secours Volunteer Ministry will assist me with this transition. I agree to become and remain informed about my personal safety as well as the safety of my community and I agree to take personal responsibility for my safety as well as the safety of the community. _____ (initial here)*

• *I will open myself to learning and growing through each pillar of the program in order to experience compassion, healing, and liberation, the charism of the Sisters of Bon Secours, and to be transformed through service with others. _____ (initial here)*

• *As Bon Secours Volunteer Ministry is in a process of expansion, I understand that the location of my year of service may be in Baltimore, Maryland or Richmond, Virginia. I am open to the opportunity to serve in either location. _____ (initial here)*

By signing below, I am indicating that I have carefully discerned this commitment and, with a full heart, I am able to commit my whole self to participating in the community of Bon Secours Volunteer Ministry.

I have read the sample Statement of Commitment and I am beginning to carefully consider what it would involve for me to commit to a year as a Bon Secours Volunteer. I am encouraged by the sincerity and the degree of commitment each member makes to Bon Secours Volunteer Ministry. _____ **(initial here)**

II. Your Résumé

Please submit a copy of your resume (no more than two pages) which includes the following:

- *Contact Information (please include both permanent and school mailing address)*
- *Education. Include schools, fields of study, and graduation date.*
- *Professional Certifications. (if applicable).*
- *Work experience. Include brief description of positions and dates of employment.*
- *Service experience. Include brief description with frequency and dates of service.*

III. Your Essay

In this application essay we are interested in learning about you. We want to read about who you are and who you are becoming.

While your response should take the form of a brief autobiography, please be sure to respond directly to each of the following five questions. Although we ask you to specifically respond to each question, please respond to the questions in the order most fitting to your composition.

1. Please describe some of the major people and experiences in your life that have shaped both who you are today and who you are becoming.
2. What have these individuals and experiences taught you about your own strengths and your own weaknesses?
3. Describe a time that you felt uncomfortable being outside of your comfort zone. What did you learn through that experience?
4. Please describe your past experiences of service. What did you learn through your service with others?
5. How do you see yourself participating in the Sisters of Bon Secours' commitment to justice in radical solidarity with the poor, the suffering, and those most in need? When have you received compassion and love from others?
6. When you think about who you are becoming, what are your hopes for a year with Bon Secours Volunteer Ministry?

Checklist for a Complete Application

- I have submitted my Contact Form online.
- My résumé is enclosed.
- My autobiographical essay is enclosed.
- My three recommendation forms (employer, mentor, and a peer with whom you have lived for at least a year) are enclosed.
- I have requested that my transcript be mailed to the BSVM office.

We thank you for your interest in and application to Bon Secours Volunteer Ministry (BSVM). Please tell us about the other post-college opportunities that you are pursuing in addition to BSVM. Below, please list other volunteer programs, graduate schools, or employment opportunities that you are considering. What is the status of each application? If pursuing graduate school, please indicate if you have plans to defer your enrollment.

Please mail your full application to:

Bon Secours Volunteer Ministry
Attn: Paula Hastings
1525 Marriottsville Road
Marriottsville, MD 21104

Applications will be reviewed on the 15th of each month between January and April. Please see below for the deadline schedule. Applications will be reviewed in the order that they are received; early applicants have the broadest range of ministry site placement options available to them.

January 15 – Round 1 – Early Submission
February 15 – Round 2
March 15 – Round 3
April 15 – Late Submissions Deadline

We accept applications that are postmarked by these dates.