

St. Dunstan's ACADEMY

The Joshua Program: Vocational Discernment for High School Graduates

The Joshua Program is a nine-month period of adventure, work, and vocational discernment for young men (ages 17-20) who have graduated high school. The goal of this character development program is to form tough, faithful, hard-working, and thoughtful young men. Whether they attend college, enter the skilled trades, join the military, start a farm, or choose another path, **all men are called to serve their families faithfully, their communities productively, and the Church devotedly.** The Joshua Program will equip graduates to embrace these vocations.

Joshua Program students will also commit to a rule of digital poverty — no phones, computers, music players, video games, or other digital-media devices are permitted on campus. Instead of consuming entertainment, the boys will make music together.

No one part of our program is unique to St. Dunstan's: many places offer inspiring adventures, apprenticeships in the trades, farming education, or Christian spiritual instruction. *The combination is what is unique — our well-rounded program is unlike any other we have found.*

Trades education

Program participants will learn carpentry and construction basics: how to frame a building, add a building envelope and roof, complete basic interior finishes, and address basic household wiring and plumbing issues. In addition to gaining competence with tools and confidence working on a crew, our young men will gain the skills needed to build and maintain their own houses.

Small-scale agriculture

As St. Dunstan's Academy starts its farm, Joshua Program students will care for animals, cultivate pasture and construct farm buildings, and learn to grow and raise food for themselves and their families and communities.

Introduction to entrepreneurship

Partners from the local community — farmers, small business owners, craftsmen, contractors — will present to our students about their backgrounds, the work they do, and the businesses they started, sharing their wisdom about alternative ways to make a living and offering concrete advice about following in their footsteps.

Spiritual formation

At St. Dunstan's Academy, our mission is to help every young man grow "unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ" (Ephesians 4:13). Our whole program is oriented towards growth in holiness, but we will particularly emphasize the study of Scripture. Together we will read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest the Bible — after first hearing the Scriptures proclaimed in Morning and Evening Prayer and in sermons and homilies.

We will welcome Joshua Program students with the exhortation to be strong and courageous — and then present them with challenges requiring strength and courage. At the end of their time, they will be sent out with the charge to choose this day whom they will serve, knowing that the Lord their God will be with them wherever they go.

"Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest." Joshua 1:9

"Choose you this day whom ye will serve... but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." Joshua 24:15

Curriculum and Adventure Sequence

In addition to at-the-elbow learning about trades and agriculture, students will read select texts each week exploring what it means to be a man. Manhood is multi-faceted; each young man will have his own unique gifts. While keeping the incredible variety of man's experiences, potential, and achievements in mind, readings and discussions will investigate a set of core masculine identities: adventurer, thinker, worker, brother, protector, provider, singer, gentleman, competitor, and martyr. Readings will build towards weekend adventures — hiking, fly-fishing, visiting battlefields, building, camping, etc.

We will read poetry, short stories, excerpts, and the occasional book by authors like G. K. Chesterton, C. S. Lewis, Wendell Berry, Robert Frost, St. Augustine, Martin Thornton, and Matthew Crawford. Students will also choose one biography to read from a list of figures including George Washington, Tecumseh, Abraham Lincoln, Kit Carson, Theodore Roosevelt, and Winston Churchill. Each week will also feature study and discussion of Scriptures particularly relevant to understanding ourselves as image bearers, as members of the Body of Christ, and as men.

There are no grades or marks in the Joshua Program. A well-rounded man reads because he is hungry for knowledge and eager to expand his soul, and the variety of texts we read together are meant to inspire that kind of poetic engagement. But ours is not primarily an academic program. It is intentionally more hands-on than high school or college. We aim to produce wise men in the tradition of Bezalel, the great architect of the first Jewish Temple, who is the first man called wise in

the scriptures (Exodus 31:1-5) — and in the tradition of Solomon, whose “wisdom and understanding beyond measure” consisted in “proverbs” and “songs” and in speaking “of beasts, and of birds, and of reptiles, and of fish” (1 Kings 4:29-34).

Cost, Calendar, and Typical Weekly Schedule

The cost of the program is \$20,000, which covers tuition, room, board, and materials.

The Joshua Program is 36 weeks: Michaelmas (Monday, September 29) through Trinity II (Friday, June 19)

Breaks: Thanksgiving (Friday, November 21 until Monday, December 1); Christmas (Friday, December 19 until Monday, January 5); and Easter (Good Friday, April 3 through Easter I (return Monday, April 13)

| | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|----------|--|---|--|--------------------------------|--|------------------------------|
| 6:00 AM | C H O R E S, morning workout | | | | | |
| 7:15 AM | Breakfast | Breakfast | Holy Communion with homily | Breakfast | Breakfast | Breakfast |
| 8:15 AM | Morning Prayer | MP | | MP | MP | Adventure |
| 9:00 AM | Common Arts <i>(Farm Development and Building Arts)</i> | Common Arts | Breakfast | Common Arts | Common Arts <i>or</i> Entrepreneurs <i>(Presentations and interviews)</i> | |
| 10:00 AM | | | Common Arts | | | |
| 11:00 AM | | | | | | |
| 12:00 PM | | | | | | |
| 1:00 PM | Lunch | Lunch | Lunch | Lunch | Lunch | |
| 2:00 PM | Leisure on Campus | Afternoon summit <i>(reading and discussion)</i> | Common Arts | Afternoon summit | Friday Solitude <i>(personal interests, prayer, reading)</i> | |
| 3:00 PM | | | | | | |
| 4:00 PM | E V E N I N G P R A Y E R | | | | | |
| 4:30 PM | Evening Chores | Evening Chores | Evening Chores | Evening Chores | Evening Chores | |
| 6:00 PM | D I N N E R | | Agape dinner and classes at All Saints Charlottesville | D I N N E R | | |
| 7:00 PM | Leisure, music, conviviality | | | Free time, music, conviviality | Occasional men's group meetings with All Saints or Holy Cross Crozet | Leisure, music, conviviality |
| 8:00 PM | | | | | | |

Sundays are devoted to church, rest, and free time.

