

LEAF Retreat Leader – Role Description

Retreat Dates: September 11-13, 2026 | Retreat Director: Jeff Peak

Retreat Description:

“How can you protect what you don’t love? How can you love what you don’t know?” These two questions provide grounding for the Loyola Eco-Spirituality, Adventure – Fall (LEAF) Retreat each September. On the LEAF Retreat, Ramblers an opportunity to start the fall semester off by connecting with the Divine, others, and nature on a three-day retreat. Over the course of our time at LUREC, there will be a variety of student talks, small group reflection, community building, time in nature, and a 6.5-mile hike. LEAF Retreat participants come from a variety of faith and spiritual backgrounds and are open to exploring the ways that their lives intersect with creation.

Retreat Leader Expectations:

- **Formation and Preparation**
 - **Common Leader Formation:** August 18, 2026. During this training, leaders from across all Campus Ministry programs will gather together on campus for community building, leadership development, and fun. Note: This event takes place the week before classes start and requires coming back from summer vacation early. We will confirm these dates with you during your interview.
 - **Retreat Team Kickoff:** Sunday, August 23rd, 12:30-4:00 PM in Campus Ministry. This kick off will start with lunch and help to prepare all retreat teams for the upcoming school year.
 - **Weekly Formation Meetings:** Because the LEAF Retreat is happening so early in the semester, some formation and preparation work will be required in the spring semester as well as over the summer. The Retreat Director will coordinate with leaders to arrange a time that works with everyone’s schedule. In the fall semester, meetings will generally happen on Monday or Tuesday evenings between 4:00 and 9 PM.
- **Recruitment:** Retreat leaders are the primary recruiters for every retreat. Our expectation is that each leader will be able to recruit approximately 5-7 participants each for the LEAF Retreat. Registration will open in the spring semester and continue throughout the summer until spaces are filled. Additionally, all leaders are expected to help (as available) with general retreat recruitment throughout the fall semester.
- **Talk Preparation:** Each LEAF Retreat leader is invited to give one of the 7-9 minute themed retreat talks during the retreat weekend. To prepare for the talk, the leader will brainstorm and write a draft of their talk in the first half of the summer. Once a draft is written, they will have a read through with the Retreat Director. Once the fall semester starts, leaders will present a draft of their talk to the whole team at a formation meeting, will fine-tune the talk with the Retreat Director, and practice on their own before the retreat.
 - Should someone not feel called to give a talk, but they still want to lead the retreat, our expectation is that they are willing to facilitate some component or activity on the retreat.

Desired Leader Qualifications:

- Be at least a second-year student at Loyola, and in good academic and disciplinary standing
- Be able to fully commit to the retreat planning, implementation, and debrief process
- Have previous experience participating in small reflection groups with peers
 - Experience leading or facilitating small group reflections preferred
- Ability to work with participants from diverse backgrounds and religious traditions
 - Experience building community in large and small groups preferred
- Appreciation for Eco Spirituality and Jesuit values
- Previous participation on LEAF retreat preferred.

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- *Note: Because of the newness of the LEAF Retreat, Campus Ministry will consider applications from leaders from across campus who are engaged with eco-spirituality and adventure that otherwise meet qualifications yet were not able to attend a previous LEAF retreat.*

LEAF Retreat	September 11-13, 2026	
Date	Event Name	Time
Week of April 13	LEAF Leader Meeting 1	TBD
Week of April 20	LEAF Leader Meeting 2	TBD
Over Summer	Talk Prep with Retreat Director	TBD
August 18	Common Leader Formation	All Day
August 23	All Retreat Leader Gathering	12:30 - 4:00 PM
Week of Aug. 24	LEAF Leader Meeting 3	TBD
Week of Aug. 31	LEAF Leader Meeting 4	TBD
Week of Sept. 7	LEAF Leader Meeting 5	TBD
Week of Sept. 14	LEAF Retreat Celebration	TBD

Note: As mentioned above in the description, and illustrated in the schedule, because of how early LEAF is during the fall semester, we will need to start formation for this retreat during the spring 2026 semester. We will ask prospective leaders about their spring availability during interview process. All formation meetings will be between 60 and 75 minutes.