

Search 50: Retreat Leader Role Expectations

Retreat Dates: January 22-24, 2027 | Retreat Director: Jeff Peak

Retreat Description:

Search is a retreat about love. While Ramblers are searching for many things – identity, purpose, community, direction – at the heart of all these longings is love. Search is a three-day retreat with leader talks, small group reflection, community building, and prayer experiences. While the Search Retreat is similar to the Kairos, TEC, or Encounter retreats run at various high schools, LUC Campus Ministry has intentionally designed Search to meet the needs of Loyola students. This retreat happens the first week back after Winter Break.

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. Includes lunch.
 - **Weekly Formation Meetings:** Starting the week of Sept. 28 and continuing through the retreat, Search leaders will meet for approximately 1.5 hours on Monday or Tuesday evenings (at an agreed upon time between 4:00 and 9 PM) in formation and preparation. Part of each meeting will be spent building community and doing life/faith sharing as a group. The other part of the meetings will be spent working through retreat logistics. The schedule of the meeting dates is attached.
- **Recruitment:** Retreat leaders are the primary recruiters for every retreat. Our expectation is that each leader will be able to individually recruit approximately 5-7 participants for the Search Retreat. Additionally, each leader is expected to help (as available) with general retreat recruitment throughout the fall semester.
- **Talk Preparation:** Each Search leader is invited to give one of the 10-12 minute themed retreat talks during the retreat weekend. To prepare for the talk, the leader will meet occasionally with a talk mentor for check ins during the development stage; 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.
- **Personal Prayer/Reflection:** During the formation meetings, we will be exploring the various themes of the retreat individually, and collectively as a group. In our experience, conversations are enriched when leaders take time for prayer and reflection outside of meetings to contemplate and sit with the material we're going to be covering during a particular week.

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 Ignatian Spirituality and Jesuit values
- Experience attending a Search-style retreat at Loyola or in high school.
 - *Note: While our ideal for Search leadership is previous participation on Search retreat, we are open to leaders who are juniors or seniors that participated on or led a Search style retreat in high school.*

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The tentative meeting schedule for Search leader formation is listed below. We will aim to set the meeting dates and times with everyone before the semester begins to provide ample time to plan for balancing all involvements.

Search Retreat	January 16-18, 2026	Time
August 18	Common Leader Formation	All Day
23-Aug-26	All Retreat Leader Gathering	12:30 to 4:00 pm
Week of Sept 28	Team Bonding Activity	TBD
Week of Oct. 5	Fall Break - No Meeting	
Week of Oct. 12	Meeting 1	TBD
Week of Oct. 19	Meeting 2	TBD
Week of Oct. 26	Meeting 3	TBD
Week of Nov. 2	Meeting 4	TBD
Week of Nov. 9	Meeting 5	TBD
Week of Nov. 16	Meeting 6	TBD
Week of Nov. 23	Thanksgiving Week - No Meeting	
Week of Nov. 30	Meeting 7	TBD
Week of Dec. 7	Finals Week - No Meeting	
Week of Jan. 18	Final Run Through	TBD
Week of Jan. 25	Post-Retreat Celebration	TBD

Note: The more open your schedule is on Monday/Tuesday evenings, the easier it will be to find a convenient meeting time for our team. Coordinating the schedules of five to six student leaders with their varying class and extracurricular commitments can certainly pose challenges. Your acceptance as a leader will be contingent upon being able to meet at the meeting time that is ultimately scheduled.