

2008 Summer Institute Frequently Asked Questions

NCCWPS Mission

The North Carolina Center for Women in Public Service prepares women to seek and serve in elected and appointed office.

2008 Summer Institute

The Summer Institute is an interactive, hands-on, high-energy, residential workshop spread over two summer weekends, geared toward women who'd like to learn more of what to expect from running for public office or seeking an appointed position. The Institute features knowledgeable professors, presenters from major political parties, media experts, elected and appointed officials, leadership trainers and successful graduates of the Summer Institute. The Institute is non-partisan and keeps its goal simple: to see more women on ballots and in public service in North Carolina.

Eligibility

The Summer Institute is designed to identify, bring together and develop a group of committed women leaders of North Carolina who would like to learn more of what to expect from running for public office or seeking an appointed position. To be eligible, an candidate must:

- Be a resident of North Carolina
- Be willing and able to commit time to attend two summer weekend sessions (each four days, Thursday through Sunday), and further time for assignments between weekends
- Be willing to participate in the program with a nonpartisan, nonjudgmental state of mind

Diversity of the group

NCCWPS encourages women of all geographic, ethnic, political, socio-economic and educational backgrounds and interests living in North Carolina to participate in this nonpartisan institute.

Size of the Group and Commitment

The Summer Institute is comprised of 15-20 women from across the state. In addition to attendance during the two weekends of curriculum, time is required for reading, reflection, writing, public speaking preparation and practice and other Institute activities. We recommend that you also seek the support you may need from family, friends, co-workers and others who may be affected by your making this commitment. While carrying a substantial time commitment, the program places much emphasis on intention and focus on one's priorities. The full participation of each SI Participant—in seminars and in the work beyond—is crucial to the success of the full group. Please reflect upon your ability to commit to the work as part of your application process.

Educational Content

As a Summer Institute participant, you will:

- Interact with women who have served in appointed and/or elected public positions
- Identify the constituents, organizations and groups that may support your goals
- Develop a campaign and learn how to recruit the help you'll need
- Practice presenting ideas with persuasion and confidence
- Explore the duties and powers of local boards and commissions, including how to shape agendas and run meetings
- Find out how to shape agendas, run meetings, and handle setbacks
- Track the local use of power and spot opportunities for getting things done.

The curriculum, led by Peace faculty, NCCWPS staff and guest speakers, features lectures and group discussions on servant leadership, communication techniques, mentoring, media relations and message development and presentation.

Sample Summer Institute Curriculum

- Women in Politics – History, Present & Future
- How Personality Influences Choices & Life Goals
- Your Political Beliefs & Choosing a Party
- Understanding the Electoral Landscape
- Budgets
- Communicating Your Message
- Creating an Effective Campaign
- Campaign Fundraising
- Ethics in Politics
- Media Relations
- Campaign Strategy

2008 Summer Institute Dates and Location

The Summer Institute is held at Peace College Campus in downtown Raleigh, North Carolina. Participants arrive on Thursday evenings and stay through Sunday lunch on June 26-29 and July 17-20, 2008. All meals, housing and materials are included in the cost of the program.

Attendance is mandatory for the full period of each weekend. If you are unable to attend any portion of the Summer Institute, please do not apply for the program.

Application & Tuition Assistance Process

Upon complete submission, the individual applications are reviewed by the NCCWPS Program Committee, which is made up of NCCWPS Board Members, Summer Institute Alumnae and selected community members. The application deadline is April 30, 2008.

The finalists identified from this process are interviewed by phone by a member of the Program Committee. The group of 15-20 Summer Institute participants is chosen from this group of finalists.

Selection of the finalists and Summer Institute participants is based on established criteria and a rigorous selection process. Participants are chosen based on both the merit of their applications and interviews as well as consideration for the diversity of the ultimate Summer Institute groups in terms of demographics, background, geographic considerations, and future public service goals.

NCCWPS is committed to providing assistance to deserving candidates however possible by providing financial assistance and flexibility in payment methods. Tuition Assistance Request forms are reviewed by a nonpartisan Tuition Assistance Committee made up of individuals outside of the NCCWPS organization and board of directors. The criteria for determining tuition assistance have been thoughtfully established by the NCCWPS Board of Directors.

Candidates will receive notification of acceptance and tuition assistance by May 12th, 2008.

***For more information on the Summer Institute, please contact
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