

Hello!

Thank you for your interest in community life and discipleship on The Hill! This ministry began a little over 40 years ago when Bob Warren, the founder, was asked by six college students to lead a Bible study. Throughout the years, the ministry has evolved and expanded. Today, many high school and college students, as well as adults of all ages have visited The Hill to explore the heart of God, the grace offered through Jesus, and the freedom that belongs to those who have entered into a relationship with Him. While the property is used for many different events and guest groups, our heartbeat is still personal discipleship.

People have been residing on this property for discipleship since the beginning! What that currently looks like is a year long commitment for 18-25 year olds. We'd like to partner with folks who want to seek the Lord and uplift them as they discover the next step in their journey with Jesus and what it means to know Christ as our life. (Rom 5:10)

Christ's love compels us to help believers encounter and explore the depths of Jesus by providing an environment where people can "press on to maturity" (Heb 6:1). Understanding God's grace and our identity in Christ welcomes us into the joy, freedom, and rest God intended for us. We aim to dig into what it means to know Him through "normal" daily life with all the young folks who live here.

We live in a "free to fail" economy with our good God! We want every believer to operate in that same grace and freedom. During time on The Hill, we pray people feel free to try new things, explore ideas, and build relationships without the paralyzing fear of repercussions.

Discipleship happens through various avenues. Studying and meditating upon the word, prayer, worship, and interaction with believers help us renew our minds and think correctly. Scripture tells us it's life-transforming (Romans 12:2)!

Here's the skeleton of how we approach discipleship as a group with Residents on the Hill:

HOUSING

We have room for four girls and six guys to reside in two separate, furnished houses. Residents provide their own groceries and personal items, including bedding, towels, and cleaning supplies. All residents have a hand in stewarding their place of residence and are expected to share the responsibilities of cleaning and keeping living quarters neat.

BIBLE STUDY

We firmly believe the Bible is the written expression of God's heart and valuable for growth and maturity (2 Timothy 3:16-17). On Sunday nights, we will come together to study and discuss His word. Areas of study will vary based on the group we have at the time. There will typically be questions and commentary to be considered throughout the week.

MENTORSHIP

Living here includes meeting with a mentor at least once a week. The desired outcome of this time is to establish a relationship built on mutual trust, sharing, and enrichment for both the mentor and mentee. Iron sharpens iron!

SERVICE/PROJECT HOURS

For a minimum of five hours each week, each resident serves in various ministry tasks to maintain the property.

While work hours serve to cover rent and utility costs, they are also a vital part of discipleship. We have seen God use time spent working alongside each other in the trenches, taking on responsibilities, problem solving, etc. to meet needs that sitting down for a Bible study cannot. The tasks can vary significantly based on ministry needs, individual giftings, weather, etc. Some possibilities are cleaning the buildings, mowing, weedeating, leaf blowing, cutting and splitting firewood, carpentry projects, editing Bible studies, running sound/media for retreats, organizing closets or trail building and things along those lines.

Residents are encouraged to take on tasks that are new and unfamiliar to them. The staff will provide necessary coaching and training on tools, equipment, and tasks. Some of the hours are on your own and some will be

with staff and/or other residents. In addition to assigned work tasks, residents have the opportunity (and are strongly encouraged to) work with the staff to develop and take the lead on their own projects around the property.

RETREATS AND RESIDENT ADVENTURES

We host several retreats and camps each year. Residents are required to attend the following retreats: Romans Retreat, Fall Retreat, Rooted and Grounded (a retreat focused on ages 18-25), and the Men's Retreat for the male residents. We also ask that each resident volunteer to help in some capacity at one retreat each semester (see the 2025-2026 Required Resident Responsibilities on the last page).

Throughout the year, we will have two required resident adventures: one October 9-11 and one May 21-24. The purpose of these trips is to deepen relationships and give the Lord opportunities to build things in the residents (and staff) as we step into new environments and challenges together. Final details have yet to be determined. They will involve some combination of serving other people as a team, road tripping, spending time enjoying each other's company, camping and other outdoor activities.

LIFE OFF THE HILL

Residents must be in school or employed while residing at The Hill. While some choose to do both, it can make for a hectic schedule. What we have observed is that around 32 hours is the maximum number of hours for a weekly job that allows a resident to take care of their commitments. We recommend closer to 25 hours in order to receive the full benefit of time spent in the program. For college students, typically we would recommend working 10 or fewer hours per week, but that varies depending on the student and course load. We would love to talk over those details with you!

We also desire for each resident to be involved in a local congregation for corporate worship. Your mentor will help you navigate the transition and unique variables each resident has to juggle.

CANDIDATES FOR DISCIPLESHIP

The ideal candidate is one who has hunger for the person of Christ and is inclined toward discipleship in identifiable ways.

The same mandate given by Paul to his spiritual son Timothy resonates with us:

The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. (2Tim. 2:2)

What we look for in a potential resident is:

- A passion to know the heart of God
- A faithful man or woman
- Someone who genuinely desires to be an active part of the ministry and participate in what God has called us to do.

We realize a person having all of those traits fully developed wouldn't need much discipleship. However, we are looking for the seeds of those traits that can be cultivated into a fruitful life in Christ.

The Hill is not a place of escape or convenience for the residents we consider. On the contrary, we are called to be a place of intentional discipleship with highly engaged participants.

APPLICATION AND INTERVIEW PROCESS

The submission of this application is not a guarantee you will be accepted as a resident for discipleship at The Hill. Prayer, an interview or two, available space and other factors come into play, but you're starting at the right place.

Upon receiving your application, we will set up an interview with you. Applications and interviews must be completed by Friday, April 12th. Participants will be selected and emails will be sent out to all applicants by Wednesday, April 17th.

Please take some time to ask Jesus about living here. If you sense He is leading you this direction, fill out the application and send it our way.

Scan and Email to: Events@lifeonthehill.org

Mail to: P.O. Box 13, Hardin, KY 42048

Or, drop by our office to submit it in person if you like!

Once received, we will contact you within two weeks. If you have any further questions or comments, please contact us at the info below:

Jenelle Porterfield at Events@lifeonthehill.org or 615.295.9185.

Andrew Porterfield at Andrew@lifeonthehill.org or 615.881.2028

We look forward to hearing from you!

In Christ,

Andrew Porterfield, Jenelle Porterfield, Brent Armstrong, Kim Warren

2025-2026 REQUIRED RESIDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Recurring Weekly

The weekly time commitment is between 10-15 hours, as allocated below.

- Sunday Nights House Groups and Bible Study 4:30-7:30
- 5 project hours taking care of property and buildings
- Approx. 1 hour meeting with a mentor
- Approx. 1 hour cleaning / tidying household
- Approx. 1-2 hours of Bible Study prep (dependent on the study)

Yearly Events

Aug 15-17, 2025: Move-in Weekend

-16th and 17th evenings: Orientation Meetings and first group meeting of Semester

Aug 22 - 24, 2025: Romans Retreat

Oct 9 - 11, 2025: Fall Break Resident Adventure *(Fee required)

Oct 24 - 26, 2025: Fall Retreat

Jan 10 - 12, 2026: Rooted and Grounded Retreat

April 24 - 26, 2026: Men's Retreat (Required fo' Guys House only lol)

May 21 - 24, 2026: Spring Resident Camping Adventure *(Fee required)

* Fees will be less than \$100 for each trip and include food, lodging, and transportation.