

The Summit Program

Austin, TX

Info Session

August 16, 2019



The Grade

Mission

The Summit Program offers the practical, intellectual and moral foundation to be a man of character. The Summit is a monthly seminar that helps young men see their high school years from the viewpoint of their entire life. It encourages them to develop now the skills and attitudes they will need for future life challenges. Through a combination of classes, career presentations, and one-on-one mentoring, it teaches them to be men of character who are ready for responsibility in: marriage and fatherhood, professional work, responsible citizenship, friendship with family, colleagues, neighbors, and God.

Key Challenges Facing Young Men Today*

1. Lack of maturity
2. Ubiquity of pornography
3. Increased competition from extracurricular activities
4. Decreased capacity for concentration
5. Harmful ideologies related to faith and morals (culture and media)

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Team

- Coordination – Aaron Schuchart – 15+ years’ providing adult and youth formation
- Curriculum and Content
 - Montevista Study Center, San Antonio – professional and spiritual formation for men
 - Daniel Eaton, PhD – Teacher, Regents HS
 - Kevin Roberts, Executive Vice President, Texas Public Policy Foundation
 - Professional and Career Planning – Local Senior Executives
 - Christian orientation of spiritual activities entrusted to Opus Dei (Work of God)
- Mentorship – TBD, targeting year 2
- Sister programs in Houston, San Antonio, Dallas, Chicago, and more

Formation of Youth



Develop Virtues needed for 4 future life challenges:

1. Marriage & Fatherhood
2. Professional Work
3. Friendship with Family / Colleagues /
Neighbors / God
4. Responsible Citizenship

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Decisions Made in High School

- How seriously will I take my studies? Will I develop habits of work such as concentration, fortitude, self-control?
- Will I go through high school reacting to day-to-day assignments, or will I set long-term goals and work to achieve them?
- Will I find my happiness in pleasures or in serving others?
- Will I see girls as objects or as the future wife of another man and mother of his children?

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Decisions Made in High School

- Will my ethics be based on a fear of punishment or on a well-formed conscience?
- Will I choose friends after reflection (since the kind of friends I have determines in large part the kind of person I will be...)?
- Will the main goal of my summer be amusement or productive achievement (job, reading list, service work)?
- Will I develop the habit of reading?

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Components

- Monthly Classes
- Social Activity
- Mentoring (year 2)
- Communication with Parents



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Classes

- Bedrock ideas of how to live your life
- Importance of Character
- Presented in attractive, interactive, and convincing way



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Character and Virtue Sample Topics

- What is Moral Excellence?
- Prudence, Courage and Temperance
- The Intellectual Virtues
- Friendship and the Right Life
- Pleasure and the Right Life

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Academic and Career Planning Sample Topics

- Tips for Organizing my Work and Studies
- Professional Etiquette: Technology & Communications
- College Application - Now? Yes.
- Am I a Leader?
- Career Opportunities, Requirements, and Ethical Considerations in Medicine, Finance, Public Policy, Engineering, Law, and Biotechnology
 - Covered over two years

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Philosophy Sample Topics

- Proofs of the Resurrection
- Are science and religion compatible?
- Is there a natural law? How do we know?
- Family: the Foundation of Society
- Charity: the Mortar and Medicine of Society
- Freedom and Responsibility

- Is this realistic?
- Doesn't my son get this at school?
- Is it practical?

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Who is it for?

- Responsible young men desiring to grow in virtue
- Students who take school seriously (it is not a remedial program)
- *Good* families like yours where parents make the effort to raise happy, outstanding, generous family men and citizens capable of positively impacting the culture and society

Draft Curriculum

Date	Philosophy Topic	Virtue Discussion	Career Planning	Other
9/21	Faith and Reason	What is Freedom?	Career Planning Basics	
10/12	Historical Data for the Resurrection	What Makes You Happy?	Medical Profession	
11/16	The Resurrection as the Best Explanation of the Historical Data	What is Virtue?	TBD	
12/7	None	Service	None	Service Project (Nursing Home or Soup Kitchen)
1/18	Arguments against Miracles	To Be a Man	What is a Leader?	
2/8	A Causal Argument against Naturalism	Prudence	Careers in Finance	
3/14	None	Leadership	None	Texas History Museum
4/18	An argument against naturalism from dualism	Perseverance	Deep work = Meaningful Work	
5/9	An argument against naturalism from the origin of life	Courtesy and Refinement	What is Possible with Biotechnology?	

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