Happy October, Huskies!

From all of us at the Office of Student Orientation and Family Programs, we hope that your fall semester is off to a great start. Even though summer may seem far away, we have been busy planning for summer orientation and the recruitment of our new Orientation Leader staff. As Northeastern students, you have multiple exciting opportunities during the summer months. One of those opportunities is to be an Orientation Leader!

In this issue of the Fall Newsletter, you will hear from five of our Orientation Leaders. They reflected on what compelled them to apply to be an Orientation Leader and reflected on the skills, life lessons, and friendships made during the summer.

I hope you discover that our staff is comprised of all personality styles, academic interests, and ages. The diversity of our staff creates a team that is reminiscent of a family. Despite there being multiple reasons to apply to be an Orientation Leader, a constant theme that they all share is the connectedness they felt with their team and memories that last a lifetime.

As you continue to craft your own Northeastern journey, I hope you consider becoming an Orientation Leader. At the end the Orientation Leader testimonials, you will find upcoming items for future Fall Newsletters and opportunities for you to learn more about the Orientation Leader position requirements.

Have a great rest of the month and enjoy campus in the fall!

Nick Polanchik
Assistant Director of Orientation
I wanted to apply to be an OL since my first year and finally had a free summer before graduation. As an OL, I hoped to improve my public speaking skills and realized the best way to do that is speaking in front of medium- to large-sized crowds. As a rising fifth year at the time, I had so many college experiences that I felt could help our incoming first year and transfer students. I could answer real-life questions about co-op, dialogues, upperclass housing options, and more. I wanted to be the resource for new students that I wished someone had been to me.

The OL position was more than I could have hoped. I was a bit nervous about being older than fellow OLs, but I ended up absolutely loving the people I worked with, especially the senior staff. I never knew what it meant to truly love a job until this opportunity, and I am so happy I did it. It was the first time when, even if I was exhausted after a full day of working, I was still happy about the impact I made on my orientees, all the jokes and laughs shared with OLs, and what I had taken away from each orientation session. I wouldn't change anything about my experience, and I continue to recommend this position to everyone, no matter what year you are in!
This past summer, I was going to take summer classes, do an internship, or apply to become an OL. One of the aspects that drew me to becoming an OL was that I could stay on campus. I love Boston, and even more so, I love Boston in the summer. I applied to be an OL because I had held a similar position when I was in high school. **If I’m being completely honest, I was mainly looking to make some new friends and have a great summer.** However, I walked away with so many valuable skills that will be helpful throughout my life. I became more of a leader and team player, and I learned how to be a more effective, inclusive, and helpful communicator.

Being an OL exceeded all of my expectations. **I made new friends and became a better version of myself.** Before being an OL, I was shy around new people or when making small talk. But, one of the biggest things the OL summer did for me was make me more confident in who I am. **I loved the OL experience, because I was able to lead effectively with my personality** and gained new skills to be more outgoing. I would highly recommend this experience to anyone. It is a large time commitment, but if you can make it work, it will change your life.

"I walked away with so many valuable skills that will be helpful throughout my life"

I knew that I wanted to be an Orientation Leader from the second I saw the OLs do the cheer at my orientation. Some students, when they see the cheer, think it's funny or they think, “I would never be an OL because I could never do this.” But it was that exact moment that made me want to do it. **I was looking to become more comfortable in front of a group.** A lot of people would describe me as outgoing, but I would say I've always had difficulties feeling comfortable in large groups of people. **Orientation really made me more comfortable with public speaking.**

Before applying to be an OL, I was thinking about doing a Dialogue of Civilizations over the summer. Looking back, orientation was the best thing I could've done this past summer. **I met the best friends I could've asked for, I had the most fun I could've had, and I had so many life-changing experiences.** If I could recommend a leadership opportunity to the highest degree, I would recommend being an OL.

@NUorientation /NUorientation @NUorientation northeastern.edu/orientation
Applying to be an OL led to one of the best summers of my life. The biggest factor that compelled me to apply was to make an impact on students and families coming to Northeastern for the first time. Starting college is a scary transition for anyone, and for me, the transition wasn’t the easiest. Being an OL meant I could be there for new students and help lessen their fears – the same fears I used to have. Whether it be about classes, testing, friends, or just coming to accept yourself.

As an OL, I improved my public speaking drastically, became more extroverted, and focused on building the personal qualities I wanted to have. Everyone who becomes an OL has different backgrounds, interests, ways of thinking, and more. You get to learn a lot about each other and one another's lives. OLs are there for each other at any hour of the day. I came to understand that our OL team was selected for this position for a reason.

"Being an OL meant that I could be there for new students and help lessen their fears"

Upcoming OL Info Sessions
During Family & Friends Weekend, there will be two info sessions to learn more about the OL position. These info sessions are open to both students, family, and friends. There will be a create-your-own hot chocolate station!

Friday, October 25th
3:00pm | Frost Lounge

Saturday, October 26th
3:00pm | Curry 333

Future Fall Newsletter Topics
- How the Orientation Leader position helped me during the co-op interview process
- A day in the life of an Orientation Leader
- Information regarding mandatory January information sessions

Questions?
Email n.polanchik@northeastern.edu or stop by 101 Ell Hall.