**INTRODUCTION**

**Fellowship of Christian Athletes Internship**

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**Mission:** To lead every coach and athlete into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ and His Church.

**Vision:** To see the world transformed by Jesus Christ through the influence of coaches and athletes.

**Internship Purpose:** To equip young men and women to live and lead for Christ through sports. This is done primarily through life-on-life discipleship with an FCA staff member, and hands-on experience in sports ministry through a variety of different ministry

environments.

**Program:** One of the wonderful parts about the FCA internship is that it will vary with each intern. For example, an intern who is aspiring to enter into full-time ministry will have a different internship than a college student who simply needs to complete an internship for class credit. It is primarily an equipping internship, to prepare the intern to make disciples in sports through a biblical worldview and strategy.

**PART 1 - STRUCTURE**

**Three Focuses**

**Serving:** One of the primary aspects of the internship program is to learn to be a servant. The internship provides lots of opportunities to serve. This could be anything from serving at a weeklong camp, to writing encouragement cards to local coaches. The aim here is to learn to follow Christ's example that “even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many” (Matthew 20:28). We are seeking to teach interns to joyfully and faithfully follow our Lord by rendering our lives as servants, through sports ministry. This will also provide hands-on experience in sports ministry. See “Types of Serving” section for more examples of potential serving opportunities that might take place during your internship.

**Sharpening:** As Paul warns Timothy, a young leader in the early church, to “Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching” (1 Timothy 4:16), so it is our aim with our FCA interns. A significant focus of the internship will be dedicated to sharpening both your character (“yourself)”, and your understanding of God’s Word (“the teaching”). This will come primarily through life-on-life discipleship with an FCA staff member and has consistently been said to be one of the most impactful parts of the internship program. Our goal is to help you grow in Christ. We do this by encouraging, challenging, and equipping you with God’s Word. It will primarily come through weekly meetings of praying together, studying Scripture, reading through good Christian books, and talking about life’s challenges. All with an aim to help you grow in the Lord and equip you to make disciples through sports!

**Sending:** The main focus here is to give you opportunities to lead. It is our hope that once you leave the internship program, you will be equipped to lead for Christ through your role as an athlete, coach, or whatever involvement you have in the world of sports! This will be done by the FCA staff giving you increasing responsibility and leadership opportunities throughout the internship.

**Types of Serving**

**Camps:** One of FCA’s main ministry avenues during the summer is camps. These are used as gospel sharing platforms, and equipping opportunities for local athletes. Interns can play an essential role in the execution of these camps. Involvement may include setup, organization, preparation, filling volunteer spots (such as registration table, serving food, etc.), devotional sharing, coaching, or leading a small group.

**Gospel Sharing:** Opportunities often arise for “partnership camps” with local Christian schools. During these camps, we may get the opportunity to not only step in and coach, but also to share devotionals throughout the camp. When we get these opportunities, interns are equipped by FCA staff to share the gospel faithfully, biblically, and simply. We train our interns to share the gospel through the format: God, Man, Christ, Response. This simple structure will also be taught with scripture and illustrations provided by FCA staff.

**Bible Studies:** FCA will often have “huddles” or Bible studies with local coaches and athletes. If this is the case, FCA interns may help the FCA staff prepare the content for the study or join in on participating in the huddle.

**Special Tasks:** Depending on the intern, serving tasks may be asked to be completed for FCA staff. For example, a college athlete intern who is majoring in marketing, may help with social media content or flyers. Other examples could include helping prepare for a fundraiser, emailing local coaches, or reaching out to local businesses to sponsor an event.

**PART 2 - SUPPORT RAISING**

All interns who desire to be paid for the internship can receive a stipend by raising financial support. Oftentimes, this is a pretty significant part of the internship and is done with the help of an FCA staff member. How much the intern is paid, and how intensive the support raising will be, all depends on the individual needs of the intern. The “Internship Types” below will provide a framework of what this may look like.

The most common parallel for people to compare FCA internship support raising to is a short term mission trip. Oftentimes, individuals will raise money to go on a “mission trip” to a foreign country to serve and share the good news of Jesus Christ. The FCA internship works in the same manner, except those whom we share the gospel with and serve are coaches and athletes.

All the funds raised by the interns will be given as a stipend (with the exception of 12% of the funding taken out as an “administrative fee” that allows us to be able to use the systems to receive the funds and pay interns). Typically, the support raising is initiated through a letter sent out to family and friends. An example letter can be found below.

**Internship Types for Fundraising**

**Volunteer:** Some interns will choose to be a “volunteer intern”, which means that they do not wish to be paid or to raise funds for the internship. This does not decrease or diminish the amount of opportunities available for the intern. Rather, it simply means that they do not wish to be paid. Typically, this is done by interns who wish to gain sports ministry experience, but already have a summer job that they wish to continue to work in conjunction with the FCA internship.

**Part-time:** A part time intern will aim for a goal of $1,200 raised. Mostly, this type of internship is for those who wish to work anywhere from 5-15 hours per week. Any money that is raised beyond or below the goal is still given as a stipend to the intern.

**Full-time:** These interns will aim to raise $2,400 for the entirety of the summer, which is the maximum amount allowed to be raised. It is paid out as a monthly stipend of $800 throughout the three months of the summer. It is anticipated that this intern will work anywhere from 15-35 hours a week.

**Support Letter Example**

May 1, 2024

Mr. and Mrs. John Doe

123 Doctor Dr.

Your Town, IL 61108

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Doe,

I have the opportunity to serve as an intern with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes at Eastern Illinois University. This internship will provide me with the opportunity to experience serving in different aspects of sports ministry as well as grow personally through a mentoring program with an FCA staff member.

The internship will include opportunities to serve with FCA throughout the Eastern Illinois region, share the gospel with coaches and athletes of various age ranges, and work alongside a number of FCA staff and interns. I will be based out of the Eastern Illinois office in Charleston, IL. I am very excited about having the opportunity to empower coaches and athletes to use the influence from their sport for Christ.

Since funds are not budgeted for internships with Eastern Illinois FCA, each intern will be responsible to raise his or her salary. Raising support will allow me to be able to spend a significant amount of my summer working as a sports ministry intern. The financial goal for my internship is $2,400. Would you consider joining me as a partner in this Kingdom Project? The target date for gifts to be received is July 1st. If you choose to financially partner with me in this opportunity, there are two ways for you to contribute. A check to FCA can be forwarded to me and I in turn will forward the gift to the Eastern Illinois FCA Area Director. A second way to contribute is by making a contribution on the Eastern Illinois FCA giving page (https://my.fca.org/TreyStille), with the distinction “intern name 2024” in the comments section. Upon receipt, your gift will then be designated for my support.

Thank you for prayerfully considering partnering with me in the ministry to coaches and athletes this summer. I look forward to updating everyone on the impact of my internship with FCA.

Sincerely,

Signature

Full Name