

Being a GAYLA Coordinator – What’s It Mean?

Becoming a GAYLA Coordinator is a precious opportunity and a big commitment. Coordinators are responsible to the men of GAYLA and to Ferry Beach. They make our week delightful, meaningful and well organized. Our Coordinators set the tone, inspire us to explore, recruit and organize volunteers, and hold a vision for our week.

We give our Coordinators freedom to invent and reinvent GAYLA’s traditions, schedule and activities, while remaining true to the GAYLA spirit. Our conference grew out of the creativity of many men over many years, and has been structured in various ways. Creativity keeps us fresh, relevant and loving.

Coordinators do not do everything – all of us share the responsibility to support them, step up as volunteers, and help make GAYLA magical for every man who attends.

We hope these guidelines help you think about who might be successful as a Coordinator, and whether you are interested in running for election. GAYLA has a total of 3 Coordinators, each serving a 2-year term. Coordinators are elected at Town Meeting. Although there are no rules, it is generally suggested that candidates have attended 3 or more GAYLAs, so they have the chance to experience GAYLA for themselves, learn our culture, and form a community of relationships to draw on. Many groups of Coordinators find it is helpful to set monthly phone or video meetings, and to meet in person at the Reunion and one or two other times during the year.

Here are just some of the things Coordinators accomplish as a team.

- Shape the “feel” of the week; incorporate Emotional, Spiritual, Social, Physical and Sexual aspects; teach, model and support our loving community
- Communicate regularly with Ferry Beach; meet timelines for marketing info, schedule, requests for equipment, space, setup, supplies, etc.
- Recruit the Ferry Beach Minister of the Week; select and guide Frivs, Check-In-Circle leaders, Big Brothers, Newcomer Orientation leaders, track and workshop leaders, and organizers of ceremonies, evening activities, etc.
- Promote GAYLA; reach out to potential newcomers; keep GAYLA brothers updated
- Organize registration and welcoming activities
- Plan the week’s schedule, including tracks, ceremonies, evening activities, themes, etc.; coordinate with conferences that share the campus; run Town Meeting
- Ask for input – collect brilliant ideas; conduct post-GAYLA evaluation; keep GAYLA brothers updated and involved
- Ask for help – from Ferry Beach, the Council of Elders, the GAYLA Treasurer, former Coordinators, and the community of men who love GAYLA
- Have fun

If you are considering offering your name for election, seek out current and former Coordinators, Elders and others who can share their experience and reflections. Think about what it would mean to step into this role of leadership, what support you’d want to ask of others, and what is your vision for GAYLA.

When choosing who to vote for, think about the qualities you hope to see in our leadership, and how you can support those we elect.