

# ***The John and Nellie Wooden Institute for Men of Principle***

## ***Frequently Asked Questions***

### **1) What is *The Wooden Institute*?**

*The Wooden Institute* is Beta Theta Pi's hallmark leadership program. It is a transforming experience that is offered over five days in Oxford, Ohio. 85 undergraduates, from across North America, attend each session and learn the skills necessary to become effective and capable chapter leaders.

### **2) Why should I go?**

Attending *The Wooden Institute* will broaden your horizons and challenge you to think "outside the box." Visiting the Administrative Office will amaze and inspire you. Everything you learned in the *Son of the Stars* comes to life. There is no better location than the Fraternity's founding place to recommit yourself to the principles and obligations of Beta Theta Pi.

### **3) Who is it meant for?**

Anyone who wants to make a difference in his Beta chapter/colony or interfraternal community. It is not a requirement to be a chapter officer to attend. If you consider yourself an "up-and-coming leader" then this experience is meant for you. All chapters are encouraged to send men to the experience!

### **4) What can I expect to get out of it? What do we do?**

You can expect brotherhood with other Betas that connects you to our North-American domain. You will also experience team building experiences, values discussions, develop your leadership skills, participate in the Beta Jeopardy lore competition, and do community service. Most importantly, you will gain a better understanding of what our founding fathers envisioned.

*The Wooden Institute* is intense. The programming begins early in the morning and goes late into the evening. It **is not** a "conference" style experience where you can "pick and choose" what you would like to go to. The curriculum pieces build off each other to deliver a progressive learning experience.

**5) Where do we sleep?**

Everyone will be staying in Hamilton Hall – a residence hall on the campus of Miami University. Linens, blankets, towels and pillows *will* be provided, but you will need to bring your own toiletries. Because you are staying in a residence hall, you may choose to bring additional items such as a sweatshirt, shower sandals, etc. Your sleeping rooms are air-conditioned.

**6) Is it all work and no play?**

Socializing naturally occurs throughout *The Wooden Institute*. Free time is scheduled in the agenda. Brotherhood events are a priority. We realize that fun is an essential part of the experience.

**7) Who attends?**

- A) 85 undergraduates from chapters/colonies across Beta’s broad domain.
- B) 8 Beta Alumni serve as facilitators.
- C) 8 Friends of Beta (men and women) serve as facilitators.

**8) What is an F.O.B?**

F.O.B stands for “Friend of Beta.” These fraternity/sorority professionals and other volunteers lend their time and talent at *The Wooden Institute*. F.O.B’s foster collaboration through interfraternalism, and selflessly volunteer their time to benefit our organization. We are indebted to their service.

**9) Who is responsible for us when we are on site?**

Two lead facilitators guide the *large group* discussions. The two-person team consists of a Beta and an F.O.B. Brothers are divided into 8 small group “chapters” that consist of 12 men. Each small group is guided through discussions led by two facilitators – a Beta alumni volunteer and an F.O.B.

**10) How much is it? What does that include?**

The cost is \$575, but you are only responsible for a \$95 non-refundable registration fee. The Beta Theta Pi Foundation will provide you with a sponsor who will cover your \$575 registration fee. This price pays for meals, lodging and the 5-day experience while in Oxford, OH.

**11) What should I pack?**

Bring casual clothes. Shorts, jeans and *respectable* T-shirts are the normal attire. Bring athletic gear. Other notable items: a camera, travel alarm clock, extra T-shirts to swap, extra spending money for personal items or Beta souvenirs, rain jacket in case it rains on the ropes course.

**12) What is the weather like in Oxford?**

Temperatures can range from the 70’s to the 90’s. The Ohio humidity usually arrives in June.

### 13) How do I get there and when do I need to arrive?

	Flying	Driving
<b>Participants</b>	<p>Plan to arrive at the Cincinnati Airport (CVG) or Dayton (DAY) by <b>10:15 a.m. on the Saturday of your session</b>. This will give you enough time to check-in and unpack before <i>The Wooden Institute</i> begins. If your travel distance requires you to arrive the Friday evening before, your flight must arrive before 8:00 p.m. that evening. You can book your flight for a departure time any time after 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday.</p> <p>So we are aware of your arrival, please submit your flight information online no later than 30 days prior to your session. The link to submit your travel information is:  <a href="http://betathetapi.2012woodentravel.sgizmo.com/s3/">http://betathetapi.2012woodentravel.sgizmo.com/s3/</a></p>	<p>See below for directions. You should plan on arriving in Oxford by 1:00 p.m. on the Saturday of your session. On your first day you will have time to check-in and unpack before you the experience begins. Lodging will be provided at Hamilton Hall on Friday evening for early arrivals. Plan on departing no earlier than 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday.</p>
<b>Facilitators</b>	<p>Plan to arrive no later than 10:15 AM Eastern Time on the <b>Friday</b> of your session. Should you need to arrive Thursday evening due to flight availability, you must arrive by 8:00 PM. Lodging will be provided at Hamilton Hall on Thursday evening for early arrivals. You can book your flight for a departure time any time after 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday.</p>	<p>You should plan on arriving in Oxford by noon on the Friday of your session. Lodging will be provided at Hamilton Hall on Thursday evening for early arrivals. Plan on departing no earlier than 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday.</p>
<b>Interns</b>	<p>Plan to arrive no later than 3:00 PM Eastern Time on the <b>Thursday</b> of your session.</p>	<p>If you are <b>driving</b>, plan to arrive in Oxford by 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time on the <b>Thursday before</b> your session. Plan on departing no earlier than 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday.</p>
<b>IMPORTANT</b>	<p><i>The Wooden Institute</i> policy is that you are present <b>the entire time</b>. Arriving late (after noon on day 1) or leaving early (before 1:00 p.m. on day 5) is unacceptable. You will be asked not to come if you are scheduled to arrive late or leave early, and you will be billed the registration fee.</p>	

### 14) I am traveling from the west coast. Can I come a day early?

Rooming is available and will be provided for those needing a room on Friday night. (Please share this information when submitting your travel information!) Students can check into the residence hall early. Someone will be at the registration desk 24 hours.

### 15) How do I get from the airport to Oxford (participants only)?

Dayton (DAY)	Cincinnati (CVG)
<p>At DAY, you will meet outside of the last baggage claim. A red and white Miami University shuttle will be circling baggage claim at the times listed on the next page. The shuttle driver cannot stop and wait so please find the other Betas in the baggage claim area and be waiting outside. Travel time between the Dayton airport (the only airport you can fly into) and the campus is about one hour. If you arrive early, you may have to wait at the airport.</p> <p><b>Please note that shuttles will be running from the airport to Oxford at the following times <i>only</i>, so please be sure to schedule your flights so you don't miss your ride:</b></p> <p>Friday: depart from DAY at 9:00pm EST Saturday: depart from DAY at 11:00am EST</p>	<p>At CVG, you must be outside on the curb of main DELTA baggage claim (the first level of Terminal 3). A red and white Miami University shuttle will be circling baggage claim at the times listed on the next page. The shuttle driver cannot stop and wait so please find the other Betas in the baggage claim area and be waiting outside. Travel time between the Cincinnati airport (the only airport you can fly into) and the campus is about one hour. If you arrive early, you may have to wait at the airport.</p> <p><b>Please note that shuttles will be running from the airport to Oxford at the following times <i>only</i>, so please be sure to schedule your flights so you don't miss your ride:</b></p> <p>Friday: depart from CVG at 9:00pm EST Saturday: depart from CVG at 11:00am EST</p>

### 16) What is the policy on cancellation or getting charged?

The policies for regarding cancellation and/or getting charged were outlined in the Consent statement that each participant agreed to at the time of registration:

I understand that I will be personally billed the Beta Theta Pi Foundation subsidized amount of \$575 if I do not attend the event as planned—this includes arriving late, leaving early, missing any session, or canceling for any reason after May 1, 2012. The \$95.00 registration fee collected online during the final step of this registration process is non-refundable/non-transferable, even if I cancel before the cancellation deadline or have someone take my place. I understand that *The Wooden Institute* is a substance free event, and I agree not to bring, consume or be in the presence of, alcohol or illegal drugs. I understand that violating this agreement will result in being sent home at my own expense and being charged the full registration fee. This policy is in effect upon arrival at the airport (for those flying) or Oxford (for those driving). Finally, I understand that I am representing Beta Theta Pi at *The Wooden Institute*. My conduct will be in such a manner that it brings honor to me, my chapter and to Betas everywhere. I understand that failure to do so will result in being sent home at my expense and that I will be responsible for the full registration fee of \$575.

## 17) Who should I contact if I have questions?

Megan Vadnais, director of leadership & education:

Office: 800-800-BETA x268

Cell: 813-838-8604

Email: [megan.vadnais@betathetapi.org](mailto:megan.vadnais@betathetapi.org)

Jimmy Balough, leadership & education intern (March 13, 2012 -June 1, 2012):

Office: 800-800-BETA

Email: [jimmy.balough@betathetapi.org](mailto:jimmy.balough@betathetapi.org)

Nick Gummo, *Wooden Institute* lead intern (beginning June 4, 2012):

Office: 800-800-BETA

Cell: (301) 514-7979

Email: [nick.gummo@betathetapi.org](mailto:nick.gummo@betathetapi.org)

# ***The Wooden Institute Driving Directions***

Hamilton Hall  
401 South Oak Street  
Oxford, Ohio 45056

## **To Hamilton Hall From the South on I-275 (Cincinnati Loop)**

Exit at Highway 27 (Colerain Avenue) and proceed north. Continue about 30 minutes on Hwy 27, through Millville (where you turn left at the stop light) and follow Hwy 27 to Oxford. As you come up the hill into Oxford, you will turn left at the first stop light onto Chestnut Street. You will turn right on Maple Avenue which will be the first street you come to. If you follow Oak for about .3 of a mile, Hamilton Hall will be on your right side. If you get to the stop sign at Spring Street, you have gone too far. You can park on the street. You should grab your bag and check in inside Hamilton Hall.

## **To Hamilton Hall From the West on Hwy 27**

If you are driving from the north or west and entering Oxford on Hwy. 27 (please note that Hwy. 27 becomes High Street when in Oxford), follow it through uptown Oxford and turn right (South) onto Campus Avenue. Follow Campus Avenue until you get to the first stop sign and turn left (East) onto Spring Street. Follow Spring Street about .1 mile and turn right (south) onto Oak Street (if you get to the stop light, you went too far). Hamilton Hall will be on your left hand side. You can park on the street. You should grab your bag and check in inside Hamilton Hall. *NOTE: There is construction on Hwy 27 in Liberty, Indiana. Please allow for additional time to account for the detour.*

## **To Hamilton Hall From the East on Hwy 73**

Follow Hwy 73 into Oxford until the road "T's" at a stoplight. Turn left at the light onto Patterson Avenue/Hwy 27 and then immediately turn right at the next stop light onto Spring Street. Your second left will be Oak Street. Turn left (South) onto Oak Street. Hamilton Hall will be on your right hand side. You can park on the street. You should grab your bag and check in inside Hamilton Hall.

## **Lost? Contact our lead intern:**

Nick Gummo, (301) 514-7979