2026 NCASC Summer Leadership Workshop

June 2026

Dear Delegate or Advisor:

I hope you are ready for the **2026 North Carolina Student Council Leadership Workshop at Mars Hill University, July 13-17.** Our theme is: **NCASC – Once Upon a Leader.**

The purpose of this workshop is to learn, improve, and practice leadership skills.

This workshop will perhaps be different from any in which you have ever participated. As stated by a student member of our Workshop Planning Committee: "Mars Hill is an extraordinary learning experience." We do not schedule activities that you have done a thousand times and/or can do at home. Each activity and segment of the program has a purpose and an objective. There is a reason for everything you will do. **Please come to the workshop with a positive attitude and a willingness to participate in all activities and to be a fully-engaged team player.**

You are reminded of your responsibility to the school you represent. We will have fun, while we work. The week will introduce you to new people, new ideas, and new experiences. The workshop schedule will include activities that you can carry back home for implementation next year. We have always had the highest caliber of students attending this workshop and we expect another successful workshop this summer. It is a defining hallmark of Mars Hill that delegates are taught how to behave appropriately in various situations and to exude "class" in everything they do. Come with the knowledge that you will learn and practice time-tested, invaluable, essential leadership skills that will strengthen your foundation for surviving and leading in the technologically-based, ever-changing 21st century.

We have a minimum of rules and policies, however, we do expect adherence to workshop regulations that you and your parent/guardian have received, included below. The Workshop Committee reserves the right to take appropriate action should any delegate not comply with these regulations, with the possibility of that person being sent home and his/her parents and principal being notified. Your junior counselor will review our "common sense" regulations on Monday evening.

Please read this Advance Information Packet carefully. It contains important information you need to know before you arrive at Mars Hill University on Monday, July 13th between 2-3:30 pm.

I am looking forward to an incredible week on "the Hill!"

Warm regards,

Teri Rasa, Workshop Director 302-545-5483 teri_rasa@abss.k12.nc.us

For additional information, visit: www.ncasc.us
Click on the Summer Workshop tab.

The Guidelines

Staff members will review our "common sense" guidelines with you. However, a few things need to be understood from the beginning.

1. Delegates are required to attend all scheduled events in their entirety unless excused by an adult staff member. In the case of illness or injury, delegates must notify a staff member immediately.

2. Delegates must stay on campus for the duration of the workshop. Any exception must be approved by an adult staff member.

3. The use or possession by delegates of illegal substances is not permitted. Period. Includes, but not limited to: Drugs, alcohol, vapes, smoking.

4. Delegates must not go on the dorm floors of the opposite sex except during scheduled check-in and check-out times.

5. Delegates must always appropriately wear their name tag around the neck.

6. Delegates are asked to cooperate immediately with directions of staff members. Some things must simply be done a certain way, at a certain time by everybody. Some things are not open to debate or discussion. Being a follower when appropriate is a mark of a good leader.

7. As guests of Mars Hill University everyone is expected to observe campus policies and treat the facilities as if they were owned by you. Be aware that we are not the only group on campus… and that noise "carries in the hills."

8. As leaders, delegates must conduct themselves in a manner that will reflect positively on themselves, their families, and their schools.

9. Cell phones and other communication devices are to be turned off and kept out of sight or left in your room during scheduled activities, as directed.

10. Student safety is very important. If at any time an incident occurs that makes you feel threatened, harassed, or intimidated, you must tell an adviser or staff member.

Delegates who do not comply with these and other guidelines as outlined by staff members may be asked to leave the workshop at their own expense.

In past years our delegates have been extremely cooperative and mature in following these basic guidelines. Thank you in advance for helping us to have a good week.

2026 General Information

For student delegates and adult advisors

Read carefully - info on dorms and registration location

1. Medical release required for student delegates

No student will be allowed to remain and participate in the workshop program unless we have a completed medical form on file. You should have already completed this as part of registration, but will need to bring a paper copy of your form and insurance card upon arrival to the workshop.

2. Delegates with medical problems/ taking medication

Any student delegate taking medication should inform the appropriate dean of men/women upon arrival. Any delegate who sleep-walks should also notify the deans. Since some of our activities are physical in nature, any delegate who feels he/she should not participate in an activity should discuss their physical situation with their council sponsor or the appropriate dean.

3. Alcohol - Drugs - Vaping

The possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages or non-prescribed and/or illegal drugs is NOT PERMITTED at the workshop. We could destroy any future workshops if anyone is so immature that he/she would drink or use drugs during the week. We do not expect this to occur. However, we do want to be clear as to our policy because of the seriousness of this issue. **The Workshop Committee reserves the right to exclude any delegate from further participation in the workshop for violation of this policy. NCASC is obligated to notify campus security and local law enforcement for violations of civil or criminal statutes.**

4. Appropriate Dress

Adhere to your school dress code. If it is inappropriate for school, it is inappropriate for the workshop. We do feel that part of our purpose is to teach student leaders what is appropriate dress for various occasions. We trust that good taste and judgment will prevail. The weather is usually very warm. Cool, comfortable (but decent) clothing is appropriate. We highly suggest that students stick to shorts and T-shirts all week as they tend to be the most comfortable and versatile for the variety of activities students will participate in throughout the week.

Tank tops with large arm holes, tight-fitting, strapless, backless, midriff, or low-cut shirts are not appropriate nor allowed at Workshop. Chests, backs, and stomachs must be covered at all times.

Bermuda or mid-thigh length shorts are recommended. Shorts must be of appropriate length so that students can move in any direction and stay adequately covered.

Students may be asked to change if their clothing is revealing or inappropriate.

All delegates must wear shoes at all times. Simply put, clothing should not be too tight, too loose, too revealing, or distracting.

5. Respect, Attitude, Etiquette

Delegates are expected to have and show respect for others, to have and display a positive attitude, and to speak and act in a manner expected of leaders. Appropriate humor is acceptable. Sexual innuendos, vulgar language/behavior, bullying and harassment are hurtful and will not be tolerated.

Advisors are requested to address acceptable dress and behavior with their student delegates before arriving at Mars Hill.

6. Items that should NOT be brought to the workshop

Do not bring valuables!!! NCASC nor Mars Hill University will assume responsibility for lost or stolen items.

7. Bring your own - Pillow, towels, sheets & blanket, or a sleeping bag.

In order to keep the registration fee as low as possible, all delegates (adult and student) must provide their own sheets, towels, and washcloths. The beds are single bunk bed size. The dorms have not been used since May! You will be on a college campus --- not a 5-star hotel.

8. Emergency telephone numbers/ workshop address

In the event that you should need to be contacted (emergencies only, please) the telephone numbers at Mars Hill are:

8:30 am - 4:00 pm 828-689-1167 (This is Conferences & Events telephone number)
After 4:00 pm 828-206-1230 (This is the Mars Hill Campus Security number)
Night Emergencies Only 302-545-5483

The calling party should ask for Teri Rasa with the NCASC Workshop.
Messages will be taken and return calls made as soon as possible.

In the event that you should need to receive mail during the workshop, the address is:

YOUR NAME
NCASC Workshop ~ Conference and Events
100 Athletic Street
Mars Hill University
Mars Hill, North Carolina 28754

9. Students who must drive to the workshop

Students who must drive to the workshop must park their cars at the dorm and are not to use them during the workshop. Keys of all student-driven cars MUST be given to the appropriate dean until the completion of the workshop.

10. Attendance at sessions

All student delegates are to attend all scheduled activities and must remain for the entire workshop. If you become ill, you must tell a staff member immediately.

11. Cell phones & electronic devices

Cell phone use is limited at the workshop. There will be many times throughout the workshop when your cellphone **MUST** be left in your room. This is not open debate or discussion. There will be other times when cell phones **MUST** be turned **OFF**. There will be other times when cell phone use is permitted. Be prepared to cooperate so you will be able to fully appreciate the workshop experience. ***Workshop is a people-to-people experience! You must disconnect to connect.***

Registration

Monday July 13th from 2-3:30 pm

Please, do not arrive before 2 pm or later than 3:30 pm.

Upon your arrival at Mars Hill University, you should come to the **Broyhill Chapel.**

Room assignments, nametags, workbooks, and t-shirts will be distributed at that time.

We ask that you plan your travel in order to arrive at Mars Hill from 2 p.m. through 3:30 p.m. Registration covers your meals beginning with Monday evening dinner through Friday morning breakfast.

Directions to Mars Hill University

GPS Address - Mars Hill University 100 Athletic Street Mars Hill, NC 28754

After you arrive in Mars Hill:

- You will pass the Moore Auditorium (on the left)
- At the bottom of the hill, **Broyhill Chapel** will be on the left.
- You will see Council Flags along the circle in front of Broyhill Chapel.
- Junior Counselors will be there to direct you to the Registration area.

What to Bring

Check these items off when you pack so you don't forget them!

> **All students and advisors will be housed in air-conditioned dorms.**
>
> **Therefore, bring a sweater, jacket or blanket if you are cold-natured!**
>
> **Dorms are on the hill behind the dining hall or behind the auditorium.**

These items are NECESSARY:

- ☐ **Fitted & flat sheets** for a single bed/bunk bed
- ☐ **Pillow and blanket**, as the dorms are air-conditioned
- ☐ **Towels and washcloths** Bring as many as you think you will need.
- ☐ **Tennis shoes or closed-toed shoes** They will be needed for some activities in the gym.
- ☐ **Good, comfortable shoes** You will do a lot of walking… up and down hills.
- ☐ **Personal articles** (ie - soap, shower shoes, toothpaste/toothbrush, shaving supplies, etc)
- ☐ **Special attire**: Coat/ tie/ dress shirt for gentlemen; Sunday dress for ladies. For the banquet on Thursday evening
- ☐ **Back Pack** You'll get a notebook, lots of paper and materials. A back pack may come in handy.
- ☐ **Water Bottle** It will be very important to stay hydrated throughout the week

These items are OPTIONAL:

- ☐ **Raincoat or umbrella** There can be frequent, unexpected mountain showers.
- ☐ **Trash bags or grocery bags**
- ☐ **Spending money** You may want to check out the campus bookstore or vending machines.
- ☐ **Basic school supplies** (ie - index cards, markers, colored pencils, scissors, etc.)
- ☐ **Hand soap & hand towels** These are NOT provided in the dorms.
- ☐ **Musical instruments** They may be helpful to your group during our Thursday evening program
- ☐ **Laptop** It may be helpful at times in your council meeting.

2026 Special Information for Advisors

Renewal CEU Credit Available

The workshop has been approved for 2.5 renewal credits for teachers! You may need to obtain PRIOR APPROVAL from your school system. We will review the requirements and logistics during the first advisors session on Monday evening. Here is the information you may need for prior approval:

North Carolina Association of Student Councils Staff Development Provider #: 583
Activity Title: *Student Activity Advisor Training Workshop*
Reference #: 940625401
5 1/2 hours --- Instructional Time
22 1/2 hours --- Laboratory Time **Approved for 2.5 renewal units**

Appropriate Dress & Behavior

Please note items 4 and 5 on the General Information sheet and discuss them with your students before you arrive at the workshop. In the real world most people do not get or lose their jobs because they lack technical skills, but rather because they dress, talk, behave or act inappropriately. There currently exists a need for many student leaders to learn and model these vital "soft skills." Historically this workshop has attempted to help them to do that. We request that you assist us in our efforts.

Advisor Program

We invite you to participate fully in the entire Workshop program...and especially the sessions for advisors. We need your involvement. Students need to see that you are interested in learning and working together, too! We will have an advisors get-together and refreshments each evening in the advisors' dorm. ***Please join us!*** You will get out of the workshop what you put into it!

Workshop Post Office

During the workshop, delegates make "mail bags" to facilitate the exchange of appreciation, recognitions, thank-you notes. Knowing that this opportunity will exist, we thought you might want to bring something special for your delegates to put in their "mailbox" – note cards, stickers, etc. **Students will receive their mailbag at the end of the workshop (no daily retrieval of mail this year). Please don't place large, perishable, or food items in mail bags until Thursday afternoon.**

Advisor Supplies

Advisors who have participated before find that a small supply box of materials may be helpful (scissors, tape, rulers, magic markers, glue, etc.).

Council Scrapbooks

Please bring your council's scrapbook if you have one and share it with other advisors in the dorm. Everyone needs new ideas and you may just have the "new" twist to an old idea!

Again, thanks for providing this opportunity for your student leaders.

We hope the week at Mars Hill will help you in 2026-2027!

North Carolina Association of Student Councils

66th Annual Summer Leadership Workshop

Mars Hill University ~ Mars Hill, North Carolina

July 13 – 17, 2026

Workshop Schedule

Sunday	**July 12, 2026**
1:30 - 11:00	Staff Orientation/Meetings

Monday	**July 13, 2026**
7:30 - 12:00	Staff Breakfast/Meetings
12:00 - 1:00	Staff Lunch
2:00 - 3:30	Registration/Unpack
3:40 - 3:55	Amphitheater Welcome
4:00 - 4:45	Council Meeting 1
5:00 - 5:45	Dinner
6:00 - 7:15	Opening General Session
7:30 - 9:00	Council Meeting 2
9:15 - 9:45	General Session 2
10:00 - 10:15	Dorm Meetings
10:15 - 10:45	Roundtables
11:30	Lights Out

Tuesday	**July 14, 2026**
7:00	Staff Breakfast/Meetings
7:30 - 8:15	Breakfast
8:25 - 10:00	General Session 3
10:15 - 12:00	Council Meeting 3
12:00 - 1:00	Lunch
1:00 - 2:15	Council Meeting 4
2:25 - 3:10	SkillShop 1
3:20 - 4:05	SkillShop 2
4:15 - 5:00	Committee Meetings/ Quiet Time
5:00 - 6:00	Dinner/Free Time
6:15 - 7:45	Boundary Breaking
8:00 - 8:15	Delegate/ Adviser Meeting
8:15 - 10:15	Folk Dance
10:30 - 10:45	Roundtables
11:15	Lights Out

Wednesday	**July 15, 2026**
7:00	Staff Breakfast/Meetings
7:30 - 8:15	Breakfast
8:25 - 10:00	General Session 4
10:15 - 12:00	Council Meeting 5
12:00 - 1:00	Lunch
1:00 - 2:15	Council Meeting 6
2:25 - 3:10	Officer Training/SkillShop 3
3:20 - 4:05	Building a Legacy 1
4:05 - 5:00	Quiet Time
5:00 - 5:45	Dinner
6:00 - 8:15	Renaissance Faire/ITI-FTF
8:30 - 10:15	Olympics
10:30 - 10:45	Roundtables
11:15	Lights Out

Thursday	**July 16, 2026**
7:00	Staff Breakfast/Meetings
7:30 - 8:15	Breakfast
8:25 - 10:00	General Session 5
10:15 - 12:00	Council Meeting 7
12:00 - 1:00	Lunch
1:00 - 4:00	Council Meeting 8
4:15 - 4:45	Building a Legacy 2
4:45 - 5:45	Prepare for Banquet
6:00 - 6:15	Secret Leader Sharing
6:15 - 7:30	Banquet
8:00 - 9:30	Reflections for the Future
9:45 - 10:15	Candlelight Closing
10:30 - 11:00	Roundtables
11:30	Lights Out

Friday	**July 17, 2026**
7:00	Staff Breakfast/Meetings
7:00 - 7:45	Breakfast
7:45 - 8:45	Pack for Home/ Clean Rooms
9:00 - 10:15	Council Meeting 9
10:30 - 12:00	Closing General Session