

# *Sage* Experience

## **GHANA SUMMER LEADERSHIP PROGRAM**



## **TRANSFORM YOURSELF TRANSFORM YOUR WORLD**

---

Personal & community development through  
inspiring education and global experiences

# OUR STORY

## FROM THE DEAN OF LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

---



The world needs a new generation of leaders like you ready to tackle society's challenges, big and small. We founded Sage Experience to reimagine youth leadership development, responding to the abundance of ineffective leadership conferences and workshops. Through live practice leading a project that makes a difference, you will get to understand up close the issue you care about and the people you serve. Collaborating with peers globally, Sage young leaders not only develop solutions to these issues, you implement and evaluate your solution, guided by an expert Subject Mentor, a personal Skills Coach, and an experienced Project Advisor.

You will enhance your cross-cultural communication, creativity, and vision with Sage's cutting edge pedagogy, developed with expertise from Harvard, MIT, and Dartmouth. Every student we work with, we hold to the highest standards, nurturing the confidence and skills you need to define and achieve your life's mission.

When I was a former Assistant Director of Admissions for an Ivy League school, the students who stood out were those who creatively pursued a cause they cared about. Sage Experience is borne from this drive to make a difference, leveraging our staff's thirty-plus years collective experience launching young leaders to top colleges and careers globally.

I invite you to transform yourself as a leader as you organize a life-changing project in Ghana. Combining the best of Ivy League high school programs and the best of international volunteer programs, Sage's flagship program is our 3-week Ghana Summer Leadership Program where you'll discover what you're capable of achieving.

I look forward to witnessing your personal transformation and the impact you'll have!

# TRANSFORM YOURSELF

## TRANSFORM COMMUNITIES IN NEED

### Undergo personal growth...



#### Explore your own identity and the world around you

- Practice your personal leadership
- Showcase your creativity
- Collaborate with diverse peers
- Experience new places
- Develop new skills with a personal coach
- Explore challenge you care about

### ...around a project of personal interest...

#### Select a challenge area for your project to propel you to your college and career goals

- Business & Governance
- Arts & Education
- Engineering & Environment
- Health & Sports



### ...as you change the world.



#### Real-world project examples our students lead

- Build a sustainable energy solution
- Develop a curriculum to teach life skills
- Support an entrepreneur creating jobs for young people
- Organize vision screenings for students and provide glasses

# GHANA SUMMER LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

*Sage staff bring decades of experience leading safe & meaningful programs that change lives*



The Sage Ghana Summer Program is the perfect merger of leadership bootcamp, international service trip, and cross-cultural immersion. Explore Ghana alongside colleagues from across the country and the globe as you discover your leadership powers implementing a real-world project. You will take your experience with Sage with you through life, equipped with the skills and insights sought by universities and employers. You will see the world in new ways and enjoy a network of young leaders and mentors as you return to lead in your own community. From providing a safe environment in which you can practice your leadership to the living case studies you will experience as you visit inspiring historical, cultural, and geographic landmarks, Sage Experience will empower you to achieve lasting impact through relationships you build with your team and the communities we serve.

## SAMPLE ITINERARY

*Each session is 19 days including Monday arrival and Friday departure days*

**Day 1:** Arrival

**Activity:** Orientation & Setting Expectation

**Day 2:** Know yourself

**Skill:** Self Awareness

**Leadership Activity:** Visit to a slave fort

**Day 3:** Understand Others

**Skill:** Listening

**Leadership Activity:** Community Interviews

**Day 4:** Share your cause

**Skill:** Visioning & public speaking

**Leadership Activity:** Social Impact Pitch

**Day 5:** Come together with a purpose

**Skill:** Stakeholder Engagement & Communications

**Leadership Activity:** Team Planning Session

**Day 6:** Turn ideas into action

**Skill:** Planning & Project Management

**Leadership Activity:** Team Planning Session

**Day 7:** Manage People & Materials

**Skill:** Budgeting & Managing Resources

**Leadership Activity:** Start project implementation

**Day 8:** Work together effectively

**Skill:** Making diversity meaningful through inclusion

**Leadership Activity:** Project implementation

**Day 9:** Decide the right moves

**Skill:** Decision-making & Delegating

**Leadership Activity:** Group reflections

**Day 10:** Understand Success

**Skill:** Impact Measurement

**Leadership Activity:** Client Survey or Interview

**Day 11-16:** Practice through experience

**Leadership Activity:** Put your leadership to the test

**Day 17:** See the big picture

**Skill:** Thinking Sustainably

**Leadership Activity:** Long-term proposal development

**Day 18:** Share success

**Skill:** Marketing your achievements for college success

**Leadership Activity:** Craft your resume and prepare for interviews and essay-writing

**Day 19:** Bringing closure & Departures

# GHANA SUMMER LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

## DESIGNED FOR SAFETY

### *Safety is in our DNA*

- Our staff have run programs in Ghana since 2006, hosting high school and university students from across 4 continents
- Ghana is highly-regarded and safe (Presidents and global dignitaries often visit Ghana first among African nations given its stability and hospitality)
- Upon arrival, we host an in-depth orientation so you are prepared to confidently navigate the environment around you in healthy, safe, and effective ways
- We also understand that each of our students brings to our community a distinct background, so we are ready to accommodate virtually any dietary restrictions, religious observances, or other considerations to ensure an inclusive experience
- We work tirelessly to make our program a safe and positive experience for young leaders of all backgrounds



*Students stay the first few nights at a comfortable hotel around the capital before coming to the Sage Centre, our residential education facility in the Volta Region of Ghana, overlooking the Wli waterfall*

## IDEAL STUDENT

Through the interview and recommendation, we look for personal maturity and readiness to handle a real-world project in rural Ghana

## PROGRAM DATES 2026

### **Session 1**

Monday, June 22  
to  
Friday, July 10

### **Session 2**

Monday, July 27  
to  
Friday, August 14

Visit [www.SageExperience.org](http://www.SageExperience.org) for latest details on dates and tuition

## DEADLINES

### **Priority Deadline**

February 15

### **Final Deadline**

June 1

Rolling admissions but limited spots. Apply early to get your preferred project area



APPLY ONLINE: [SageExperience.org](http://SageExperience.org)

# GHANA SUMMER LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

## STUDENT SUCCESS STORIES

### Expanding Literacy with Mobile Mini Libraries

**Challenge Area:** Education & Arts

**Details:** Developed and deployed mini library program across classrooms in rural Ghana to improve access to reading materials

**Skills:** Visioning negotiations planning communication budgeting

**Student Achievements:** Students earned admission to top universities and continued supporting Sage programming



### Harnessing Wind Power for Rural Energy Resiliency

**Challenge Area:** Engineering & Environment

**Details:** Students engineered a windmill from locally available parts to charge phones off the grid

**Skills:** Electrical & mechanical engineering project management metalwork tools public speaking sustainable energy

**Student Achievements:** Admission to top schools in US and Europe, with windmill design requested by local chiefs

### Strengthening Feminine Health & Hygiene

**Challenge Area:** Health & Sports

**Details:** Organized and led workshops for local schools and communities using menstrual health and hygiene curriculum and lessons

**Skills:** Curriculum design public speaking community health

**Student Achievements:** After summer program, students continued to lead new projects to benefit girls' and womens' health



### Boosting Rural Economies through Tourism

**Challenge Area:** Entrepreneurship & Governance

**Details:** Students reimagined the tourist experience for a local tourist site, improving guest processes and social media marketing

**Skills:** Market research user experience design thinking structured interviewing marketing graphic design

**Student Achievements:** Admission to top schools in Africa and Canada, with continuing engagement with Sage

# SAGE EXPERIENCE

## STUDENT SUCCESS STORIES

### Hygiene Product Market Research & Community Education

#### Challenge Area

Entrepreneurship & Governance

#### Project Experience

Students from Ghana and China collaborated to support a Ghanaian entrepreneur with market research, community public health education, brand & packaging research, and preparation of financial plans & investor materials

#### Student Growth

- Cross-cultural interviewing
- Survey research
- Community event organizing
- Data analysis
- Business strategy

#### Student Achievements

Over one-hundred community members participated in educational programs. Sage students developed skills to grow own business and earn acceptance to global universities



### Fashion Design Competition & Scholarship



#### Challenge Area

Education & Arts

#### Project Experience

Co-leaders in the US and Ghana collaborated to understand the challenges young women face and developed a scholarship competition to promote valuable fashion, design, and business skills and support promising young fashion designers in rural Ghana

#### Student Growth

- Cross-cultural collaboration
- Program and curriculum design
- Project management
- Budgeting
- Community outreach

#### Student Achievements

Over thirty young designers and educators developed new skills with Sage co-leaders continuing education at top programs



*"Sage completely altered my perspective of the world... Proactive and curious people will enjoy never-ending opportunities for learning and exploration with Sage Experience" — Serena, Summer '19*

*"My son loved the staff and fellow participants. What an amazing life-changing experience! He loved the opportunity to work with local [peers]. I highly recommend the Sage Ghana Summer Program" — Shirley, Parent of '23*

## CONTACT US

*Let's talk about how you can join a Sage team and change the world*

✉ [Apply@SageExperience.org](mailto:Apply@SageExperience.org)

📍 Sage Centre  
1 Sage Drive  
Wli, Volta Region, Ghana

## APPLY ONLINE

🌐 [www.SageExperience.org](http://www.SageExperience.org)

*Fellowships for part or full tuition & travel costs available for outstanding students*

## APPLICATION PROCESS

*Submit short application:*

1. Basic personal information
2. A brief written reflection on leadership (150-350 words)

*What makes someone a good leader and why is understanding diversity important to being an effective leader?*

*What are your strengths as a leader and what skills do you hope to develop?*

3. Name and email for recommender

*No letter required. Simply have teacher, counselor, or peer who knows you well submit online form*

4. Application fee
5. Interview