

Sign Language House

Program Directors:

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Undecided

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Early Childhood Special Education

Overview

We hope that members of the Sign Language House develop a grasp of the basics of American Sign Language as well as an understanding for Deaf Culture. We aim to teach members as well as learn from them by giving them the chance to run meetings if they want to as well as doing some of their own research to gain insight on the Deaf community. We will encourage members of the Sign Language House to become involved in some way with the Deaf community. We will be planning meetings, silent dinners and brunches, and other silent activities in order to teach the UVM community about Sign Language and Deaf culture. If accepted this program will help it's members learn to accept people with differences and communicate with people who are hard of hearing. It is so important to recognize people's strengths and not dwell on their weaknesses.

Learning Objective 1

Members will learn the basics of Sign Language.

Action Steps

1. This objective will be a yearlong learning experience.
2. Members will be encouraged to register for American Sign Language.
3. Members will be required to bring a theme related sign (we will determine the themes at the meeting before) to each meeting to teach the program. Meetings will be once every week and last half an hour.
4. Silent activities will be held for members to practice the language.

Learning Objective 2

Members will understand Deaf culture.

Action Steps

1. Objective will be a yearlong learning experience.

2. Members will need to do their own exploration and reading about Deaf culture
3. We will want members to report out to the program about what they learned.
4. Members will be required to attend at least one activity and/or speech during Deaf Awareness Week. Participation in ASL skit night is optional, but encouraged.
 - a. It is important to take advantage of these activities that UVM organizes.

Learning Objective 3

Members will learn alternative ways that Deaf and hard of hearing people learn, and new technologies that help them in their homes as well as in public.

Action Steps

1. This will be a yearlong learning experience
2. Members will be required to conduct their own research and report out about what they have learned.
3. Members will be encouraged to ask our Deaf advisor questions about her house and how she gets around in the public.

Community Service

We have connections to the Campus Children Center as well as some elementary schools in Downtown Burlington, and we are going to go teach the children American Sign Language. ASL can be an important communication skill for children, especially if they have behavioral issues because of a breakdown of communication.

Program Advisor

Keri Ogrizovitch has agreed to continue her role as our program advisor. She is a Deaf professor who teaches ASL classes at UVM. She is very involved in the

Burlington Deaf community and has many good ideas for the program. We would like to involve her as much as possible at meetings and have other program activities like silent dinners. There are many activities that the Deaf community in Burlington puts on, which would be great for the Sign Language house to be a part of. Keri knows what they are and she will be able to tell the program what and when they are so we can be involved in the community.

Program Suites

We are requesting two suites both with six people, so our program consists of twelve people. We would like to stay in the same place in D-middle with one suite on the first floor and one on the second floor.

Plans for Interactions with Other L/L Programs

We are going to plan activities with other L/L programs to do things that go with their programs and teach their members ASL. It would be great to work with the Photography House and have them take pictures of our hands signing. We would also like to work with the Hogwarts House for Muggles and continue to try and get subtitles for A Very Potter Musical. There is the opportunity of interacting with the Global Village and learning about how their sign language and Deaf culture is different from in the United States. Lastly, we would like to cooperate with the Film program to create a Deaf Awareness film.

Program Member Recruitment

We are going to make up a flier and ask the ASL teachers to give it out or hand one around their ASL classes so see if anyone who is already in ASL is interested in living in the Sign Language House. We would also like to advertise to classes with Communication Science (CMSI) students as they are also often interested in ASL. It is important that we recruit members who will be committed and involved in the program.

