

McNulty Leadership

Venture

Fellows

Recruiting Information Session

February 19, 2025



Agenda



1. Wharton Leadership Ventures Overview

- a. How does WLV fit into the McNulty Leadership Program?
- b. What are Wharton Leadership Ventures?
- c. Venture Calendar & Partners

2. What is the Venture Fellow Program?

- a. Venture Fellow Purpose
- b. What do Venture Fellows do?
- c. What are the responsibilities of VFs?
- d. How does the VF role differ from Participants and Guides?

3. Becoming a Venture Fellow

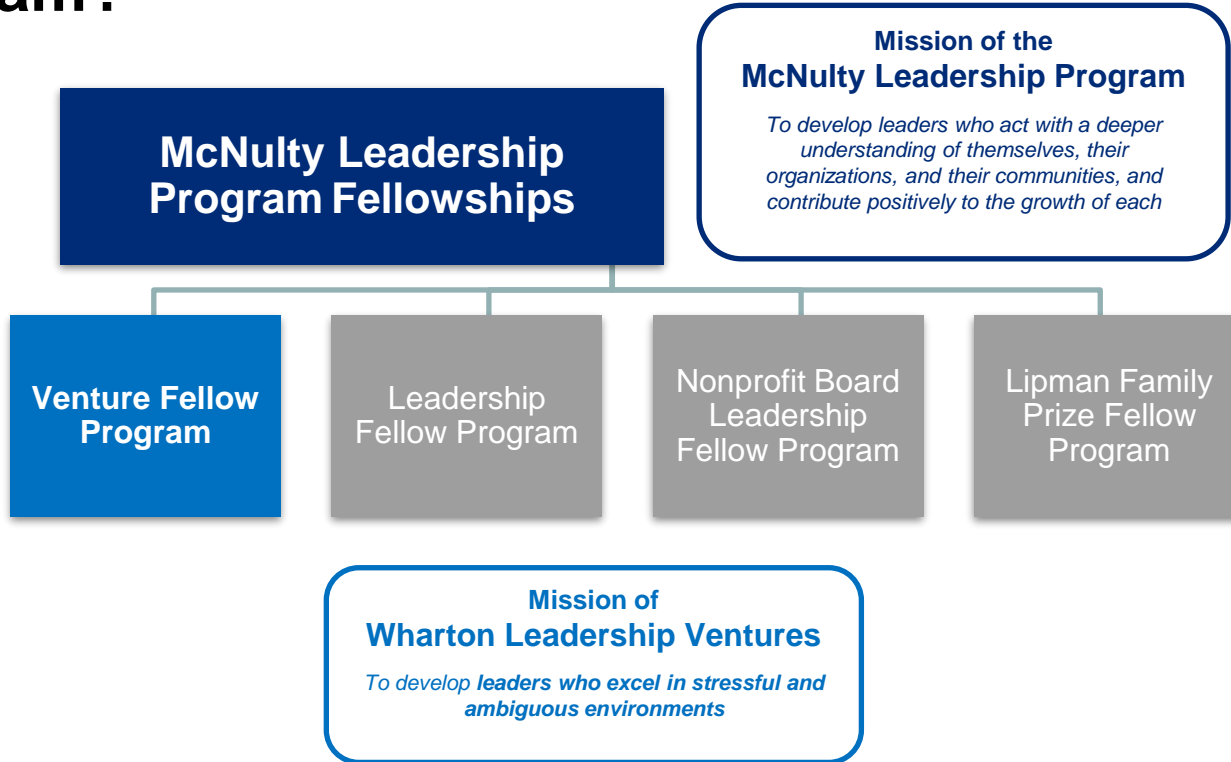
- a. Why should you become a VF?
- b. Why did VF25s become VFs?
- c. What is the culture that defines us?
- d. What does it take to become a VF?
- e. How to apply for the VF program?

4. Q&A



Wharton Leadership Ventures Overview

How does WLV fit into the McNulty Leadership Program?



What are Leadership Ventures?



Experiential Leadership Development

- Leadership Ventures are **goal-oriented** immersive experiences designed to facilitate **self-discovery, leadership development, and character building**.
- Participants experiment with different **leadership approaches**, receive real-time **feedback**, and step outside of their comfort zones to **overcome physical and mental challenges** in **team-based, high-pressure** environments.

Examples

- **Expeditions:** Plan, motivate, and execute a summit attempt or navigation through wilderness via trekking or sailing (7-9 days)
- **Intensives:** Undergo military or firefighting simulations (1-2 days)

NOT: An outdoors hike/excursion or vacation

- The Venture itinerary reflects the intentional structure and material needed to make this an irreplicable experiential leadership development opportunity.

Venture Offerings & Partners (2024-2025)*



Fall Expeditions

- Atacama Desert
- Chamonix
- Corsica

Winter Expeditions

- Andes Mountaineering
- Antarctica Trekking
- Aotearoa Southern Traverse
- Tall Ship Sailing

Spring Expeditions

- Avellano Valley
- Small Crew Sailing
- Vodudahue Cloud Forest

Intensives (Fall & Spring)

- FDNY Firefighter Simulation
- Quantico Military Simulation

**2025-2026 Venture offerings list is tentative.*



What is the Venture Fellow Program?

The Venture Fellow Purpose



Adventure, Growth, and Servant Leadership

*The purpose of the Venture Fellows is to **seek and facilitate growth in ourselves and Venture participants.** We aim to do this through responsible adventuring in the outdoors and leadership development activities in experiential settings.*

We lead by example to find ways to serve and improve the communities around us.



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What do VFs do?



Before the Venture

- Manage participants sign-up and waitlist
- Coordinate pre-trip info sessions and gear checks
- Conduct 2:1 goal discussions with participants
- Collaborate with partners to develop a venture plan
- Ensure participants are as venture-ready as possible

During the Venture

- Collaborate with local partners ('guides') to develop and execute the Venture Plan
- Serve as leadership partners and facilitate curriculum delivery for participants
- Provide guidance to participants on how to facilitate effective After Action Reviews, feedback, and reflection
- Act as information focal point in crisis conditions

After the Venture

- Debrief with VF community and transfer knowledge
- Compile documents about venture to be passed down for next year
- Support the VF Selection Committee in recruitment of the next Venture Fellow class

NOT just run the ventures, but also serve as an ambassador to the VF program and commit to keep improving the program



How does VF role differ from participants & partners?



Venture Fellows

- **Support 1-2 rope teams** throughout the venture
- Functions as a **Servant Leader - VFs operate in the background**
- Resource for participants & Leaders of the Day
- Provide overarching guidance during After Action Reviews

Participants

- Part of a 5-7 person rope team to complete various challenges
- Provide feedback to facilitate leadership development of peers
- Functions in both a directive leadership capacity as LOD and as supporting teammate

Partners (Guides)

- Transfer knowledge of trekking, navigation and camping, etc
- Ensure safety and wellness of all participants
- Design and implement the itinerary of venture with VFs
- Engage in AAR(s), providing feedbacks not only on outdoor techniques, but also leadership development

What are the responsibilities of VFs?



VFs are Wharton students focused on the highest standards of self and peer development. Their tasks include:

- **Manage the logistics** to make the Ventures happen (each VF is generally tagged to one Venture)
- During the Venture **coach participants to support their learning process** and help achieve their goals
- **Lead by example within the Wharton community** to demonstrate the VF ethos
- **Promote the WLV program** and be a strong brand ambassador
- Utilize our skill sets and find impactful ways to improve the WLV program and **leave it better than how we found it for future classes**

Mandatory time commitments

- *VF August Training:* 8 days from **Aug 16-23, 2025**
- *VF Winter Training:* 3 days in mid-Nov 2025 (specific dates TBD)
- *Selection Process:* January to April 2026
- *Committees:* Ongoing (peak load varies based on committee)
- *Weekly average:*
 - Vary heavily based on cyclical nature of program; typically heavier in Q2 and Q3
 - Expect to spend 5 hrs/week **minimum**
 - These go towards activities including Venture facilitation, training, committees, initiatives



Becoming a Venture Fellow

Why should you become a VF?



An irreplicable experience to develop yourself and your peers through intense outdoor activities while expanding leadership skills, adventure knowledge, and forming bonds that will last a lifetime

- Build on the Venture learnings exponentially through the **peer-guidance role**; relive Ventures through each of your participants and **learn deeply from each individual's journey**
- **Learn directly from seasoned adventure leaders (partners/guides)** who have real-world experience deploying key leadership skills in high stakes environments
- Practice being an effective leader through mentorship, facilitation, and leading from behind
- **Find your family at Wharton** - strong emphasis on service, community, and the VF ethos to support an incredible and wholesome culture
- **Leave a legacy by** making Ventures happen & serving in the leadership development and stretch experience of your peers

What makes VF a unique opportunity?

- VFs receive **training in leadership development facilitation and outdoors activities** in up to ~4 sessions including *multi-day leadership simulations in Aug and Nov and the FDNY and Quantico intensives (subject to capacity)*
- **VF programming extends throughout the whole year** to facilitate consistent development and culture building (trainings, leading Ventures, joining Ventures)
- Truly a well-rounded experience balancing physical and mental challenges and adventures
- Expand your wilderness skills and confidence with a fantastic group of adventure buddies

Meet the VF25s!



Birthdays Age range 25-33

Countries Represented USA, China, Singapore, Switzerland, Venezuela

States Represented 3x CA, 2x GA, IA, 4x IL, 2x MA, MD, 2x NJ, 4x NY, RI, 2x TX, UT, 3x VA, 2x WA

Undergraduate Institutions 4x UPenn, 3x Cornell, 3x Georgia Tech, 2x BYU, 2x Johns Hopkins, 2x Princeton, 2x United States Military Academy, 2x Yale, etc.

Favorite Philly Spots 6x River Trail, 3x RH Square, 5x italian restaurants, 3x coffee shops, 1x "my bed"

Dream Job at Age of 5 3x astronauts, 2x zookeepers, 2x pilots, 2x NBA players, 1x school bus driver, 1x ice cream salesman



Why did VF25s become VFs?

Christian DiGiacomo

cdigiac@wharton.upenn.edu



Why did you apply to be a VF

I learn through experiences, particularly those that push me physically and mentally, and want to support those who learn the same way

What makes a good VF in your opinion

Knowing when it's ok to get lost in the pursuit of learning & having the integrity to follow the learning process the venture structure sets out for you

What has been the most rewarding experience so far

The "secret mission" at the end of our August training; seeing our group come together when pushed to our physical and mental limits was a powerful lesson in teamwork & leadership

Nancy Jiang

nzjiang@wharton.upenn.edu



Why did you apply to be a VF

I wanted to join a like-minded community that strives for self-improvement, practices servant leadership, and loves the outdoors.

What makes a good VF in your opinion

Humility, dedication to the program, and a willingness to push through challenges and uncertainty – while having fun along the way.

What has been the most rewarding experience so far

Bonding with my rope team during August Training through sleepless nights and woodland critters and making friends for life across the program

Why did VF25s become VFs?

Sydney Babiak

sbabiak@wharton.upenn.edu



Why did you apply to be a VF

I wanted to grow in my own leadership journey and help others do the same through challenging adventures.

What makes a good VF in your opinion

Emotional intelligence, humility, integrity and follow-through – not just in the venture, but in all aspects of the VF program (including the fun!)

What has been the most rewarding experience so far

Finding some of my best friends at Wharton in the VF community that I would not have met otherwise!

Zac Lim

zaclim@wharton.upenn.edu



Why did you apply to be a VF

I've always been a believer in growth through experiential, stressful, and ambiguous environments – what better way to be an ambassador of it!

What makes a good VF in your opinion

Asks “what can I give”, and not “what can I get” – to venture participants, to my VF community, to the program

What has been the most rewarding experience so far

Being a part of my venture team (my co-VFs and our venture partners) to make the venture happen, and to see participants taking away so much from it!

What is the culture that defines us?



We are not VFs because of some static quality within us.

***We become VFs through the actions we chose to take** when we step into the VF role and during WLVs*

As ambassadors of this program we define and support our culture through behaviour that demonstrates the following values:



What does it take to become a VF?



| | | |
|----|--------------------------------------|---|
| 01 | Leadership Character | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Demonstrate flexible leadership skills that allow you to navigate various contexts• Be willing to push your comfort zone to develop your leadership toolkit |
| 02 | Effective Communication | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maintain clear and well-organized channels of communication• Utilize appropriate methods to ensure the recipient can receive desired messaging• Know your audience and communicate in appropriate manners |
| 03 | Diplomacy & Team Dynamics Management | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Manage conflicts productively and fairly• Prioritize the needs of the team above all and actively seek to care for those around you• Showcase positive team behaviours including vulnerability and reliance |
| 04 | Adaptability & Resilience | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Be willing to take action confidently in ambiguous situations• Handle failure with positive mindset and extract learnings• Observe and understand evolving situations to adapt and find a way forward |
| 05 | Emotional Intelligence | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Understand the emotional states of others and respond accordingly• Lead with empathy |
| 06 | Commitment & Contribution | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Have the willingness and ability to make the Venture Fellow a top priority• Go beyond immediate VF duties to find ways to improve the program |
| 07 | Readiness for Role | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Understand the nuances of the VF role, the skills needed and the challenges involved• Willingness to perform in uncomfortable and outdoors environments<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Prior experience with Ventures and the outdoors NOT required |

How to apply to the VF program



Timeline

- Application (R1)
Thursday, Feb 20 - Thursday, Mar 20*
Application Link [here](#)
- Interviews (R2)
Sunday, Mar 30 - Wednesday, Apr 2
- Offers Extended
Monday, April 7

**Application is due AFTER the spring ventures.*

***All Coffee Chats and Office Hours are for informational & educational purposes only.*

How to Connect with VFs**

- Sign up [here](#) for a **Coffee Chat** to meet with 1-2 current VFs either in person / virtually in a small group setting
 - **Mon 2/24** and **Tue 2/25**
 - **Mon 3/3** and **Tue 3/4**
- Drop in for **Office Hours** at MBA Cafe with any last minute questions about the application process!
 - **Tue 3/18** 12-1:30pm
 - **Wed 3/19** 12-3pm

How to apply to the VF program



Apply here: <http://applyweb.com/upenwhar/index.ftl>

It's the same link you used to apply to VF and that other MLP programs use. Once participants confirm their personal information they can select the program they are applying for and answer those specific questions.

Common Questions:

1. This isn't the right portal – this is where I applied to Wharton. Select Venture Fellows in step 2 after they confirm their personal information.
2. If applicants have applied to other MLP programs they'll get the screen in Attachment 2 and often aren't sure where to go next. Click applying again to fill out the form.

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Online Application Menu

- Getting Started**
Create a new account or log in using your email address.
 - Create Your Account
 - Account Directions & Information
- Apply Online**
Get started or continue work on your application today.
 - Online Application

Wharton's Leadership Program of the University of Pennsylvania

⚠ You have already submitted *University of Pennsylvania - Application for Wharton's Leadership Program* for Spring 2023, Fall 2022, Test Term 2, Spring 2022, 2022-2023 Cohort, Test Term 2, 2022-2023 Cohort, Test Term 2, 2022-2023 Cohort, 2022-2023 Cohort, 2022-2023 Cohort, Fall 2021, Test Term 2, 2021-22 Cohort, Test Term 2, Test Term 2, Spring 2021, 2021-22 Cohort, Test Term 2, Fall 2020, Spring 2020, Test Term 2, 2020-21 Cohort, 2019-20 Academic Year, Fall 2019, Test Term 2, Test Term 2, and 2019-20 Academic Year.

Need to Check Status?

If you wish to check on the status of or take action on an existing form (such as changing recommenders), please do so below.

Applying Again?

If you wish to fill out the same form (e.g. for a different term and/or program)...

[...click here to fill out the form.](#)

Might Have an Error?

If you feel you have received this message in error, please contact help@applyweb.com.



Q&A



- Check out the Wharton VF website [here!](#)
- [Sign up](#) for Coffee Chats + Office Hours with current VFs!
- Please see [here](#) for evolving Q&A doc (2nd tab of sheet)
- Contact any of the below VFs for further questions:
 - Nancy Jiang nzjiang@wharton.upenn.edu
 - Aaron Ledsky aledsky@wharton.upenn.edu
 - Christian DiGiacomo cdigiac@wharton.upenn.edu
 - Haoshu Xu xuhaoshu@wharton.upenn.edu
 - Katie McCarren kmccarr@wharton.upenn.edu
 - Sydney Babiak sbabiak@wharton.upenn.edu
 - Manali Mahajan manalim@wharton.upenn.edu



 **McNULTY LEADERSHIP PROGRAM** 2024-25
WG25 VENTURE FELLOWS

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|---|--|--|--|---|--|---|--|
| ANDES | | | | AOTEAROA | | | |
|  ZAC LIM |  KELSEY MURRAY |  MICHAEL KARAMARDIAN |  LIZ OSTERTAG |  JAVO BIERWIRTH |  WILL SEDGWICK |  NICK MARFONGELLI | |
| ANTARCTICA | | | | AVELLANO VALLEY | | | |
|  JOE WELCH |  CAMERON BUTLER |  KATIE MCCARREN |  MISHA PUTNAM |  ANDRES STRULOVIC |  GABI SIEGAL |  CHIP CHAMBERS |  JAKE PENCE |
| CORSICA | | ATACAMA | | QUANTICO | FDNY | | |
|  NAMOONGA KWENDAKWEMA |  CHRIS CORBETT |  WENDY HUANG |  DANIEL RIBAND |  SYDNEY BABIAK |  JUSTIN VILLANUEVA |  AARON LEDSKY | |
| VODUDAHUE | | | | CHAMONIX | | | |
|  EMILY ZHEN |  GUY MCKHANN |  CHRISTIAN DIGIACOMO |  JESSE LIU |  SAMHITA KARNATI |  NANCY JIANG |  HASIT DEWAN |  WILL VAN FOSSEN |
| SMALL CREW | | | |  | TALL SHIPS | | |
|  SZÚ KOTHARI |  ABIGAIL ROBERTS |  HAOSHU XU |  FRANK GAO |  COREY WALLACE |  MANALI MAHAJAN | | |

Thank you!

