Purpose, Mission, Goals

Not-for-profit Road Scholar inspires adults to learn, discover and travel. Our learning adventures engage expert instructors, provide extraordinary access, and stimulate discourse and friendship among people for whom learning is the journey of a lifetime. Road Scholar values diversity as a dynamic and integral part of a thriving educational community. We strive to embody the rich diversity of our society and welcome all adults to experience the adventure of lifelong learning with us.

Key programs. Activities, and services provided

Historic Savannah

Centuries of Savannah surround you at our historic site. Our program courses capitalize on the wealth of history, culture, and southern flavors lying just outside the door of your hotel - a veritable "feast for the senses!" Be prepared for moderate walking as you experience program venues and restaurants throughout Savannah's Landmark Historic District. Please click on the link at the bottom of this page for specific program details and dates and to register for upcoming programs on the main Road Scholar/Elderhostel website.

Standing fifteen stories tall and centrally located in the heart of the Historic District, the Hilton Savannah DeSoto is a full-service hotel that is beautifully decorated and very conveniently located just a few blocks off I-16. Serving as our Historic Savannah program's "home base of operations", the DeSoto Hilton is an unmatched setting filled with 21st century comforts and the light and warmth of southern hospitality. Rooms are furnished with either a king-size or two double-size beds. Some amenities include an outdoor pool, exercise room, full-service restaurant, bar, and lounge, and an ATM (automated teller machine), just to name a few. Please visit the DeSoto Hilton's website for more details, directions and photos. In addition, www.mapquest.com is an excellent resource for driving directions.

Midtown Savannah

Our Midtown program offers the convenience of being centrally located in the city while providing easy access to the historic district (eight miles away) by either public transportation or your own private vehicle. There are a wide variety of restaurants and shopping centers in the immediate vicinity of your comfortable, renovated motel. Please click on the link below for specific program details and dates and to register for upcoming programs on the main Elderhostel website.

The Oglethorpe Inn & Suites offers spacious suites with separate living and sleeping areas. Amenities include coffeemaker, microwave and mini-fridge. The motel also offers high-speed Internet access, an outdoor pool, exercise room, complimentary local calls, daily local newspaper and free parking.
Goals and related outcomes this year

Maintain a rating score of 4.70 or higher in each component of the following Program Evaluation criteria:
- **Overall Program Educational Quality**
- **Program in General**
- **Value for the Money**

This goal is applicable to every program site this department oversees; for the current fiscal year, Armstrong Road Scholar oversaw three distinctive programs:
- Historic Savannah, which is based centrally in the Historic District.
- Midtown Savannah, which is based at Oglethorpe Inn & Suites on Hodgson Memorial Dr. The Ossabaw Island program is based in Midtown Savannah.
- Christmas in Savannah, which is a themed program, is also based in the Historic District and offered in December.

Assessment tools used

Armstrong Road Scholar utilizes a standardized, web-based evaluation system that is offered to all participants of programs. These respondents have a detailed selection of criteria that they rate based on their personal experiences and opinions. The rating process consists of both a “Question/Answer” portion and a “Personal Comments” section to elaborate and/or explain their selection on the former segment if they wish. The evaluation system allows participants to rate a particular program site on a specific week; this enables our office the opportunity to very narrowly concentrate our efforts to applicable areas.

Armstrong Road Scholar utilizes the numerical evaluation portion to quantify as accurately as possible whether our Program Administration Outcome Goals are being met or not; we subsequently rely on the “Personal Comments” section to better understand the numerical ratings. This section also allows us to foster those elements of our programs that garner very positive results as well as to focus carefully on and adjust the aspects that need to be improved or modified in any way. The numerical rating system is configured to translate selections to a number grade that range from:

- “Very Satisfied” (5)
- “Somewhat Satisfied” (4)
- “Neither” (3)
- “Somewhat Dissatisfied” (2)
- “Very Dissatisfied” (1)

Elderhostel Main computes the results, averages them for each program week, displays them online in a detailed, spreadsheet report format (of which this office has continuous access), and finally, cumulatively averages the results for a 12-month period. Additionally, all accompanying written comments and suggestions are also posted verbatim; these are accessible through an icon on the report that opens a separate window. All evaluations are anonymous so respondents may rate programs and comment freely and honestly.
Results of key assessments

From July 2014 through May 2015, Armstrong Road Scholar hosted a total of 16 program weeks with 548 participants in attendance at two separate sites.

- **Historic Savannah site**: 520 total attendants over 15 program weeks.
  Total responses: 314

- **Midtown/Ossabaw Savannah site**: 28 total attendants over 1 program week.
  Total responses: 20

Total results for 2014-15:

- **Historic Savannah (Site #11376)**:
  - Overall Program Educational Quality: 4.89
  - Program in General: 4.87
  - Value for the Money: 4.86

- **Midtown/Ossabaw Savannah (Site #21747)**:
  - Overall Program Educational Quality: 4.84
  - Program in General: 4.79
  - Value for the Money: 4.78

- **Christmas Program – Downtown Savannah – 1 program week (Site #20734)**:
  This program did not run for December 2014
  - Overall Program Educational Quality:
  - Program in General
  - Value for the Money

New developments that may affect the program

The unexpected hotel fee of $5.00 per night for lodging (Georgia HB 170)

The restructuring of the Midtown site to become the base for the Ossabaw Island program

Unit support for the current year

Road Scholar has two full time employees. The Director is Diana Anderson. The Assistant Director is Charla Childers.

The current budget is as follows:

- Personnel: $130,223
- Travel: $100,000
- Operating: $242,000
- TOTAL: $472,223