

suusi 2026, radford va, july 19-25



Apply to be on SUUSI Staff

SUUSI is entirely volunteer-led. Nobody gets paid, from the Director on down. But people who work on staff and lead workshops do get a discount on their SUUSI cost. Those who work 40 hours or more at SUUSI or through the year on SUUSI tasks can earn credit toward their SUUSI registration, housing and meals fees.

We are working to make some changes to make SUUSI staffing more transparent and accessible. While Core Staff and many Key Staff roles get filled at for the next year at SUUSI itself, we want to make sure that people who've never served on staff before get more opportunities to share their gifts and get "hired."

This year we're going to try having an open application period from November through January 15. No one will be hired during this time, so that when staff start looking at applications in the new year, there will be less of an early-bird-gets-the-worm situation, putting everyone who's applied on equal footing.

We're also expanding staff

Key dates

SUUSI 2026: July 19-25, 2026

Workshop Proposals Open: NOW

Staff Applications Opened: Nov 1

Workshops Close: December 21, 2025

Catalog & Registration: April 2026



Bring a friend to SUUSI! Increasing the size of our community makes SUUSI more sustainable and could

apprenticeships. These are positions that don't contribute to covering SUUSI costs but get you working directly with experienced staff with the intent of moving up in the future. Nature staff has traditionally used these to let people prove their skills, and with our current budget crunch, we are trying to keep SUUSI vibrant while spreading staff credit more thinly.

Volunteer positions are a great way to contribute to SUUSI, too. You can sign up for these as part of the registration process. If you apply to be on staff, it always looks good if you've helped in volunteer roles before, but it's also possible to get on staff your first year of SUUSI if you have good credentials and references.

We are attempting to be timely responding to applications after January 15. If you don't get hired for your first choice, please feel free to email core staff members and ask if there are areas that still need to be filled.

For those who need financial assistance to attend SUUSI and are unable to get on staff, SUUSIships are available through the SUUSI Foundation.

Propose a Workshop

There's still time to make a piece of SUUSI your own! Click below to start the process. SUUSI is so much better with lots of ideas and lots of choices.

[Propose a Workshop or Sport/Game in SOLIS](#)

[Email the Workshop Coordinator for help](#)

make SUUSI more affordable.



BEYOND SUUSI: Virtual Workshop Series

There are 51 weeks a year we don't get to be at SUUSI. But we'd like to keep in touch better through that time. So we're going to experiment with hosting Zoom workshops and get-togethers through the year for SUUSIgoers to participate in.

Erin Lieb is running a Book Club. Michael Tino has agreed to do a workshop on Prison ministry in March, Cindy Landrum will do a Zentangle workshop in the new year, and Outreach/DEIA are sponsoring SUUSI Spirit Circles to get to know each other and solicit feedback.

If you'd like to be involved, either to meet up with others, or to host an online workshop of your own, please [contact us ASAP.](#)

HeaRT Is Available All Year Round

Did you experience unresolved conflict at a prior SUUSI that is keeping you from having your best SUUSI experience? Have you had problems in between SUUSIs dealing with SUUSI staff or participants?

Email HeaRT@suusi.org and start the process to get back into right relationship.

Communications News

We are in the process of a big redesign of the SUUSI website. We want our online home to be welcoming to new folks and to contain all the information we need in an easy-to-find format. If you'd like to help test the new site, contact rik.schell@suusi.org.

Our intent is to make big improvements in the way the online catalog displays this coming spring, and to make registration easier for everyone. But as with any change, there will be glitches along the way. Please email communications@suusi.org if you see problems that need fixing, or if you have something that needs to go in the NUUS.

Please share your SUUSI photos with us by uploading to our Google drive!

OUTREACH CORNER

Want to make short videos showing what SUUSI is all about? Want to pitch in on one of our social media platforms? Interested in pitching SUUSI to your congregation, affinity group, or just your bunch of friends? We are updating our outreach material, and will have it ready before long for those who want to be SUUSI Ambassadors and media mavens. If you haven't already, contact outreach@suusi.org and we'll make sure to get back to you as soon as we finalize our media kit!

SUUSI Ambassadors help spread the word about SUUSI at your local congregations. Let us help you plan an event!

Or email us your photos here

Become a SUUSI Sustainer TODAY!

SUUSI Sustainers set up a recurring donation to The SUUSI Foundation through PayPal by following the QR code to our donation page.

Approximately \$1,000 a year funds one SUUSIship

The Endowment Fund
This fund exists to provide for SUUSI in perpetuity. It offers a vehicle for those who wish to ensure the existence and enhancement of SUUSI for future generations.

SUUSIships
Scholarships awarded to attendees by The SUUSI Foundation. These funds are available thanks to the generous donations of the SUUSI community.

You can support the endowment through donations such as bequests, charitable trusts, life insurance policies, planned giving, cash, and other similar gifts.

The SUUSI Foundation strives to ensure the long-range health of the Southeast Unitarian Universalist Summer Institute, also known as SUUSI. The SUUSI Foundation is charged with managing and growing The SUUSI Endowment Fund and funding SUUSI's scholarship program called SUUSIships.

Donate Today!

The SUUSI Foundation



At the 2025 Fall SUUSI Board meeting, the SUUSI Board felt called to meet the current political moment by adopting the SUUSI Statement Against Rising Authoritarianism. We



hope that the conversations and work that went into the development of the statement over the weekend of the SUUSI Board meeting will inspire other UU organizations and churches to engage in a similar process. This fight is going to take all of us. The Statement reads as follows:

SUUSI Statement Against Rising Authoritarianism

We, the SUUSI Board, are committed to the core values of justice, equity, transformation, pluralism, interdependence, and generosity, all centered around love. Our Unitarian Universalist faith affirms the inherent worth and dignity of every individual.

These values are currently under attack by rising authoritarianism across the United States, driven by government officials. Authoritarian regimes threaten our fundamental values as Unitarian Universalists by undermining free expression, suppressing dissent, and discriminating against vulnerable peoples.

We stand on the shoulders of courageous freedom fighters. SUUSI was founded in 1950 to promote connection, training, and renewal for Unitarian and Universalist civil rights activists in the South. We honor that history and know that it is time to recommit to it now.

The Board charges the 2026 Core Staff to create programming that helps attendees understand and meet the needs of the current moment.

The Board charges the SUUSI community to honor human rights, to support marginalized communities, and to foster a culture of compassion and inclusion, as our UU values call us to do.

In the midst of chaos and fear, we dedicate ourselves to love, justice, and shared responsibility. In community, we will live our faith and make SUUSI a source of hope and strength in these difficult times.

BOARD & CORE MEETING 2026

It was wonderful to meet in person in Raleigh this month and get a lot accomplished towards SUUSI 2026!

The contract with Radford is signed and they are happy to have us back.

Look for another NUUS later in the month with some of the great ideas we're working on, including the new ways to get people hooked up with housing groups.

As always, find out the latest news from SUUSI at <https://suusi.org>