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Five Memphis Students Selected for Life-Changing Leadership Experience in California

S.O. What! Ambassadors to Attend Prestigious C.O.R.E. Leadership Camp at Santa Clara University Where Founder Summer Owens Will Serve as Keynote Speaker

Memphis, TN — July 14, 2025 — Five remarkable students from the *S.O. What! Ambassador Program* are preparing for the experience of a lifetime: traveling across the country to attend the C.O.R.E. Leadership Camp at Santa Clara University in California July 18-12st. For most, this marks their first time flying and for all, it's their first time attending a leadership camp of this scale—an extraordinary opportunity to grow as leaders and changemakers.

Adding to the excitement, Summer Owens, Founder and President of the *S.O. What! Foundation*, will deliver the keynote address to an audience of hundreds of high school students from across California, sharing her powerful journey of resilience and success after becoming a mother at 15. Now a nationally recognized speaker, author, consultant, and coach, Summer will inspire both Memphis and California youth to embrace their stories and lead with purpose.

"This trip represents everything the S.O. What! message stands for," says Owens. "It's about seeing beyond your current situation, stepping into new spaces, and realizing that your story has power. For these five ambassadors, this is more than a flight—it's a launch into leadership."

The C.O.R.E. Camp, hosted at Santa Clara University, is a premier leadership experience that immerses students in personal development, social impact, and confidence-building. As part of the *Exposure* pillar of the S.O. What! Ambassador Program, this opportunity aligns with the Foundation's mission to provide first-time, life-changing experiences that open minds and shape futures.

Each of the five students was carefully selected through a competitive process based on their resilience, leadership potential, and dedication to community change. Through workshops, peer collaboration, and real-world leadership challenges, they will return with a renewed sense of purpose and the tools to transform their homes, schools, and communities.

“We are excited to expose these students to an elite college campus, a dynamic national leadership camp, and peers from all over the country,” says Owens. “And the best part? They’ll come back not only inspired but equipped to make a difference in their community here in Memphis.”

To support future exposure opportunities or learn more about how the *S.O. What! Foundation* is investing in the next generation of resilient leaders, visit www.sowhatfoundation.org.

About the S.O. What! Foundation

The *S.O. What! Foundation* empowers youth to overcome obstacles, eliminate excuses, and take action to improve their lives and communities. Through its signature *S.O. What! Ambassador Program*, students gain leadership skills, mentorship, personal development, and transformational exposure opportunities that turn struggles into success and setbacks into comebacks.
