The Mount Leadership Society Scholars Program is named in honor of the late Ruth Weimer Mount. Ruth joined Ohio State as the Assistant Dean of Women in 1953. Later after holding other numerous positions she was named the first Dean of Students in 1968. During her career, Ruth also served as President of National Mortar Board Inc., the Association of College Honor Societies, and the National Association of Women Deans, Administrators and Counselors.

After stepping down as Dean, Ruth continued her work in various volunteer roles for Ohio State and the community, including involvement with the OSU Hospitals Service and Executive Boards, the Alumni Association, the University’s Women’s Clubs, Planned Parenthood, Columbus Symphony Orchestra, and Franklin County Children’s Services. Of Ruth’s life and legacy, one friend said, “Ruth Weimer Mount was the consummate volunteer. All that she did was directed at improving the quality of life for others, particularly young people.” Another stated, “Ruth Mount was a unique mentor. Her guidance, grace, and leadership will serve as an example for the rest of my life.”

After Ruth’s death in 1997, the university wanted to honor her extraordinary commitment to leadership and service. While many options were considered, the university decided it would be most fitting to create a living, learning community of students to carry on her legacy of leadership and service. The Mount Leadership Society is an appropriate and fitting tribute to a woman who dedicated herself to The Ohio State University, public service, and student development throughout her extraordinary life and career.

The Mount Leadership Society was piloted with 52 students in the first class of 1999. Students were selected based on their interest in leadership and service. They were paired with a university mentor, engaged in service projects, and enhanced their leadership skills.