

# Outdoor Education House Fall 2019 Charter

## Purpose

The purpose of the Outdoor Education House is to serve as a center for outdoor education at Dickinson. With the College's forward movement toward more organized outdoor education (i.e., Orientation Trips), the Outdoor Education House will serve to consolidate the various branches of outdoor recreation and education at Dickinson into one place with the desire to create, improve upon and execute new outdoor education initiatives. We will also serve as an open space for any students interested in outdoor recreation with the hope of fostering good outdoor skills and an appreciation for the natural world.

## Values and Expectations

Our resident behavior standards will be based upon building a strong community. To that end, we place a strong emphasis on respect. Residents will be expected to be kind and considerate to each other, respect other resident's personal property and space and keep open communication with the rest of the house. Communal space cleanliness will be very important and spaces like the common room, kitchen and bathrooms will need to stay clean. Residents of the Outdoor Education House are expected, as students of Dickinson College, to follow the Community Standards. As part of living in the Outdoor Education House, residents will participate in both planning and execution of House events. Residents will also be expected to be active in either the Outing Club or some other form of outdoor recreation. As part of our community, residents will be asked to remain aware and conscientious of their energy usage. We have a monthly House Meeting.

## Values

Members of the Outing House have values steeped in the outdoors. We care strongly about our planet's natural spaces and hope to spread that awareness to others through the medium of the Outdoor Education House. We also believe in sustainable living and expect all members and guests of the house to keep sustainable practices in mind.

## Positions

House Managers: The House Managers main role is to be the link between Residents of the House, the House's HAM, and the Residential Life Office. They are also responsible for running the monthly meetings and working to create healthy relationships between Residents. House Managers are required to attend HM and reporting training before their tenure. House managers are also responsible for making sure the residents' voices are heard. They are to maintain open and honest communication about house policies and standards, and welcome input at all times, not just at house meetings.

Outing Club Liaison(s): The OC Liaison's job is to be the link between the Outing Club and the Outdoor Education House. This may include event cooperation, trip planning and general information sharing. The House considers any Outing Club executive board member residing in the house to be an OC Liaison by default.

## **Events/Outreach**

The Outdoor Education House strives to connect the Dickinson community with the outdoors. To this extent we offer a number of events open to members of the House and the Dickinson community.

Outhouse Outback BBQ: At least once a semester the House will have an open house/ BBQ open to all members of the community. The goal of this is to spread awareness of the House and get students involved with Outdoor Education/Recreation.

Documentary Nights: When it gets colder we will be hosting movie nights in which we watch outdoor related films or documentaries in coordination with the Outing Club.

Tie-Dye: We will host occasional tie-dye events in conjunction with the Outing Club as both a fundraiser for the club and as a time for house members to bond and spend time together.

House Dinners: Because we want to build a community within the house, we cook dinner together and talk or watch TV while eating.

Service Events: Residents of the House, along with the Dickinson community will spend time during the semester working to promote Outdoor Education and Sustainability with events such as assisting the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club (PATC) with trail stewardship or Leave-No-Trace (LNT) education.

## **Occupancy**

### Check In:

For check in, students receive their keys from Campus Life at the designated tables and move in only when given permission to do so. This Fall, Campus Life accounted for each resident checking in to the Outdoor Education House, and the House Manager accounted for the students to make sure they moved in smoothly and successfully. Kitchen inventory should be taken.

### Check-Out:

Residents will receive information regarding check-out procedures, keys will be turned into the Office of Campus Life or the house manager depending on the time of check-out. Room and kitchen inventories will be completed at the time of the last occupant's check-out, and a resident who will remain on campus through graduation will be appointed to assist with check-out for senior residents.

### Occupancy

All Residents of the Outdoor Education House must follow the rules outlined in the "Values and Expectations" section on the House Charter. There will be a self-evaluation of participation in the Outdoor Education House to dismiss any member if he/she is not engaged in the house community.

### Charter:

The Charter will be evaluated at the end of the year to assess its effectiveness. Current and Future House Managers shall meet to discuss amendments to the Charter.

## **Resident Selection**

The Members of the House will put out an application ONLY if one or more members of the House plan to move out. Current House Managers will select the new members of the House. Vacancies are the responsibility of the House Managers. The House Management will choose new members to fill vacancies from previous application pool, requests of current Residents or potential Residents, or by further applications.