SOFO INFO:
PEOPLE, PLACES, & RESOURCES

Student Organization Finance Office
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What is SOFO?

- The Student Organization Finance Office (SOFO) provides financial training and banking services to student organizations recognized by Northwestern University.

- Location:
  - Norris University Center, First Floor

- Hours:
  - Monday – Friday, 9am-4pm
  - Summer and Academic Breaks:
    - Monday – Friday, 9am-1pm

- Contact:
  - 847.491.2328
  - sofo@northwestern.edu

- Website:
  - sofo.northwestern.edu
What does SOFO do?

- Our services include:
  - Establishing an account to maintain an organization’s funds in trust
  - Facilitating transactions requested by an organization’s administrative group to and from the account
  - Providing a transactional interface to work with NU Financials, the University’s accounting system
  - Reporting account activity
Who works at SOFO?

- **Student Staff**
  - Financial Assistants
  - Student Supervisors

- **Professional Staff**
  - SOFO Manager
  - Cash Operations Manager
SOFO Student Staff

- **Financial Assistants**
  - Provide customer service to organization officers at the SOFO window
  - Review and accept financial transactions
  - Offer guidance for successful transactions and recordkeeping
  - With the help of supervisors, help see transactions to completion by making checks

- **Student Supervisors**
  - Train organization officers to interact with SOFO
  - Provide additional oversight for transactions
  - Offer guidance for transactions that require advanced knowledge and experience
  - Maintain records of student organizations and their officers
SOFO Professional Staff

- SOFO Supervisor
  - Oversees daily SOFO operations
  - Processes non-check-based transactions

SOFO Supervisor
Federica Firetto
federica.firetto@northwestern.edu
847.467.1088
SOFO Professional Staff

- Cash Operations Manager
  - Signatory for Policy Exception Forms (Norris Financial Administrator)
  - Processes Procurement Card and Preferred Vendor transactions
  - Sets up travel arrangements for student organizations through Egencia

Cash Operations Manager

Frank Zambrano
f-zambrano@northwestern.edu
847.491.8653
Who works directly with SOFO?

Officers

- Each organization must have two officers signed in to their SOFO account
  - Treasurer
  - President

- These officers are referred to by SOFO as the **president** and **treasurer**, but these titles do not necessarily need to correspond to the officers’ exact title within their group

- Officers must be SOFO authorized in order to begin transacting with SOFO. For more information on the authorization process, visit the SOFO website:
  - [http://www.northwestern.edu/norris/services/sofo/officer-training/index.html](http://www.northwestern.edu/norris/services/sofo/officer-training/index.html)
SOFO Officers

Officer Responsibility Overview

- **Treasurer**
  - Primary SOFO Contact with group financial transactions
  - Authorize transactions
  - Primary reviewer and signature of transactions
  - Submit all transactions to SOFO in person
  - Make sure that all financial transactions are followed through
  - Maintain group’s ledger book and voucher book
  - Reconcile group’s account every quarter
  - Educate group members on SOFO transaction requirements and policies

- **President**
  - Authorize transactions
  - Secondary reviewer and signature of transactions
  - Secondary SOFO Contact with group financial transactions in treasurer absence
    - In the absence of the treasurer, the President acts as backup
To become authorized, please follow these procedures in order:

1. View the Presentations on the SOFO website:
   - [http://www.northwestern.edu/norris/services/sofo/officer-training/index.html](http://www.northwestern.edu/norris/services/sofo/officer-training/index.html)
2. Print and fill out the SOFO Quiz. All questions can be answered by reviewing the presentations or our SOFO Policies and Procedures handbook.
3. Select three training dates, in order of preference, and write the dates on your completed quiz. The training dates are posted on the SOFO website. **Note:** You only need to attend one session.
4. Bring your quiz to SOFO and have it graded by an attendant.
5. You will be given your live presentation date after your quiz is graded. Training dates are filled on a first come, first serve basis. *The training is interactive and will require officers to continue to review SOFO policies and procedures before the training.*
Who works directly with SOFO?

- Advisors
  - Each organization must have an advisor signed in to their SOFO account
  - Advisors must sign off on all transactions submitted by the group to confirm that the group’s activity is consistent with its mission and meeting university standards
  - For Information on obtaining an advisor, contact your advocate authority or the Office of Student Organizations and Activities:
    - [https://www.northwestern.edu/studentorgs/about/about-soa/index.html](https://www.northwestern.edu/studentorgs/about/about-soa/index.html)
What are some SOFO resources?

- **Online**
  - **SOFO Website:**
    - [http://www.northwestern.edu/norris/services/sofo/index.html](http://www.northwestern.edu/norris/services/sofo/index.html)
  - **Training Presentations/Handbook:**
    - [http://www.northwestern.edu/norris/services/sofo/officer-training/index.html](http://www.northwestern.edu/norris/services/sofo/officer-training/index.html)
  - **Online Resources:**
    - [http://www.northwestern.edu/norris/services/sofo/officer-resources/index.html](http://www.northwestern.edu/norris/services/sofo/officer-resources/index.html)
What are some SOFO resources?

- Contact a SOFO Representative
  - By email: sofo@northwestern.edu
  - By phone: 847.491.2328
  - In person at the SOFO office
  - SOFO mostly interacts with signed-in officers of registered student organizations, but we are available to talk to anyone with questions about our office and procedures
SOFO Campus Partners

Offices across campus that interact with student organizations and SOFO
Cashier’s Office

- **Location:**
  - Norris University Center, First Floor
  - Adjacent to SOFO

- **Hours:**
  - Monday – Friday, 9am-4pm
  - Summer and Academic Breaks:
    - Monday – Friday, 9am-1pm

- **Contact:**
  - 847.491.8655
  - norris-cashier@northwestern.edu

- **Website:**
  - [http://www.northwestern.edu/norris/services/cashiers-office/index.html](http://www.northwestern.edu/norris/services/cashiers-office/index.html)

- The Cashier’s Office operates differently from SOFO in that it is open to all Norris patrons, whereas only student group officers may interact with SOFO.
Cashier’s Office Professional Staff

- **Cash Services Manager**
  - Distributes petty cash
  - Enters account deposits
  - Prepares starting funds
  - Manages debit cards
  - Public Notary (by appointment)
  - Manages the Norris Box Office
    - Sets up events
    - Sells tickets

Cash Services Manager
Ana Laura De Hoyos
ana.hoyos@northwestern.edu
847.467.0099
For student organizations with SOFO accounts, the Cashier’s Office offers the following services:
- Deposit acceptance and verification
- Fund preparation and reconciliation for student-sponsored events
- Cash-handling information and training
- Coin counting
- Debit cards
- Petty Cash pay-out

The Cashier’s Office also offers the following services to all Norris patrons:
- Coin counting/making change
- Notarization (by appointment)
- Stamp sales (only in books of 20)
The Cashier’s Office issues **starting funds** to groups with SOFO accounts to enable the processing of cash transactions on site at an event being sponsored by the student group.

- **Student groups are required** to use Norris Cashier’s Office starting funds for every event where monetary transactions are expected between the groups and their patrons.
- Starting funds are not to be used for purchases, expenses or refunds.

**Starting Fund Request Form:**

- [http://www.northwestern.edu/norris/services/cashiers-office/index.html](http://www.northwestern.edu/norris/services/cashiers-office/index.html)
- With appropriate planning, there is no cost to request a starting fund. Charges do apply, however, if requests are submitted less than five business days before the fund is needed or if other requirements are not met by the student organization after receiving the fund.
Debit cards serve as an additional tool that student treasurers may employ to entrust designated organizational members with the ability to make approved purchases, within University/SOFO policies and guidelines, on behalf of the student organization.

Debit Card Forms:
- [http://www.northwestern.edu/norris/services/cashiers-office/cashier-forms/index.html](http://www.northwestern.edu/norris/services/cashiers-office/cashier-forms/index.html)
- For more information, contact the Cashier’s Office
Norris Box Office

- **Location:**
  - Norris University Center, First Floor
  - Next to SOFO, at the Center Desk

- **Hours:**
  - Monday – Friday, 8am-11:30pm (or half an hour before the building closes)

- **Contact:**
  - 847.491.2305
  - norrisboxoffice@northwestern.edu

- **Website**
  - http://www.northwestern.edu/norris/services/box-office/index.html
The Box Office sells tickets for student organization events. Recognized Northwestern University student organizations with SOFO accounts may request to print and/or sell tickets at the Norris Box Office (NBO) by submitting a completed request form to one of the Box Office student supervisors or the Box Office Manager.*

Ticket Request Forms:
- [http://www.northwestern.edu/norris/services/box-office/index.html](http://www.northwestern.edu/norris/services/box-office/index.html)

*Note that, while the Box Office is open all day, these forms may only be submitted while a supervisor is in the office, and supervisor hours may vary. Contact the Box Office in advance to ensure that a supervisor will be available to accept the form.
Campus Life

- **Location:**
  - Norris University Center, Third Floor (SOURCE)
    - The SOURCE is a multi-purpose space where students and registered student organizations can meet to collaborate, innovate, learn, and lead.

- **Hours:**
  - The SOURCE is open whenever Norris is open
  - Professional staff are in the SOURCE Monday – Friday, 9am-5pm

- **Contact:**
  - campuslife@northwestern.edu
  - 847.491.2350
  - [http://www.northwestern.edu/campuslife/index.html](http://www.northwestern.edu/campuslife/index.html)
The office of Campus Life incorporates three departments, all housed in the SOURCE:

- Student Organizations and Activities
  - [http://www.northwestern.edu/studentorgs/](http://www.northwestern.edu/studentorgs/)
- Leadership and Community Engagement
  - [http://www.northwestern.edu/lead-engage/](http://www.northwestern.edu/lead-engage/)
- Fraternity and Sorority Life
  - [http://www.northwestern.edu/fsl/index.html](http://www.northwestern.edu/fsl/index.html)

More Campus Life Resources:

- [http://www.northwestern.edu/campuslife/resources/faqs/index.html](http://www.northwestern.edu/campuslife/resources/faqs/index.html)
Campus Life: Wildcat Connection

- Wildcat Connection is managed through the office of Student Organizations and Activities (not SOFO)
  - For questions regarding your organization’s Wildcat Connection account, contact SOA: http://www.northwestern.edu/studentorgs/
  - SOA requires that student organizations renew their registration for Wildcat Connection on a yearly basis; this is unrelated to the procedures required by SOFO (such as account reconciliation)

- To view your SOFO account balance in Wildcat Connection, you may use the Finance tab on your organization page
  - If you believe there is an inaccuracy in your Finance tab, please contact SOFO
Campus Life: Contracts

- All student groups who wish to process contracts must visit the office of Student Organizations and Activities before submitting the contract to SOFO.
  - SOA will review your contract and have it signed by a university official (this signature is required in order to submit a contract to SOFO).
  - For more information on this process, visit their website:
    - [http://www.northwestern.edu/studentorgs/manage-your-org/event-planning/contracts/](http://www.northwestern.edu/studentorgs/manage-your-org/event-planning/contracts/)
Campus Life Pro Staff (Contracts)

- Contact Campus Life for assistance with contracts and the contract submission process.
- Remember that Campus Life may need **up to 2 weeks** to process a contract, so plan ahead!
- Contact:
  - SOURCE (Norris, Third Floor)
  - 847.491.2350
Event Management reserves spaces for student organizations in Norris University Center and across campus.

Location:
- Norris University Center, Third Floor (Admin Office)

Hours:
- Monday – Friday, 9am-5pm

Contact:
- norris-events@northwestern.edu
- 847.491.2330
- [http://www.northwestern.edu/norris/events/event-management/index.html](http://www.northwestern.edu/norris/events/event-management/index.html)
Event Management offers:

- Reservations in the Norris Center: Meeting rooms, McCormick Auditorium, Louis Room
- Reservations at Shanley Pavilion, Cahn Auditorium, Guild Lounge, and Ryan Auditorium
- Catering reservations throughout campus
- Outdoor event reservations
- One-on-one event planning and coordination

How to Reserve Space:

- In person at the Event Management Office (Norris University Center, Third Floor, Admin Office)
- Online
  - [http://www.northwestern.edu/norris/events/event-management/index.html](http://www.northwestern.edu/norris/events/event-management/index.html)
Motor Pool

- Northwestern University students and student groups must use University Motor Pool vehicles if the trip is for a registered student organization.

- Resources:
  - Motor Pool Website:
    - [http://www.northwestern.edu/fm/services/motor-pool/index.html](http://www.northwestern.edu/fm/services/motor-pool/index.html)
    - Includes Vehicle Types, Rates, & Reservations
  - Campus Life Travel Policies:
    - [http://www.northwestern.edu/studentorgs/manage-your-org/travel/index.html](http://www.northwestern.edu/studentorgs/manage-your-org/travel/index.html)

- All drivers must take the defensive driving course and be awarded certification.

- Make a reservation before coming to SOFO, then submit the Motor Pool form to the SOFO office in order to complete the reservation.
  - For more information on this process, see the SOFO Transaction Overview Presentation (Bonus Transactions).
You should now be familiar with the following:

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