Off-Campus Newsletter, October 2026
Sophomore Edition!

Hello, Sophomore Wildcats!

At the Off-Campus Life office (OCL), we aim to be your guide for confidently moving and living off-campus in Evanston and Chicago. Most sophomores go through that process over the course of the year, and so this month, like every month, our newsletter brings you programs, resources, and tips so that you can move and live – and thrive – off-campus.

Off-Campus with Camille



This year, OCL's Office Assistant, Camille, is a sophomore searching for her own off-campus housing. As she goes through her process, she'll share her story with you in these pages. Here is part 2 in this series:

As I start thinking about my off-campus housing search, my first step is figuring out what I actually need in a home, versus what I'd like to have. Everyone needs a safe, affordable place where they can comfortably eat, shower, and sleep, but beyond those basics, it's about figuring out which features matter most to you. When I picture my ideal off-campus home, I first think of a nice, comfortable space where I can host game nights, movie nights, or just have friends over to study or hang out. That picture is more of a feeling or experience I want out of a place, not an amenity I can check off when searching a housing site, but having a large living room or enough space for tables and chairs would help bring that vision to life.

Another priority for me is being close to campus, or at least near an Intercampus Shuttle stop, since that would make getting to class, work, and other commitments easier. Plus, as a Texas girl, I'd rather avoid spending too much time walking through the snow and ice during Evanston winters! After thinking through what matters most to me, I found that while in-unit laundry was initially high on my list, it wasn't as important to me as some of my other priorities. I'd still prefer it, but I'd be fine with using a shared laundry room in the building, as long as there's an elevator if it's on another floor.

Everyone's priorities are going to look different, but I think taking the time to figure them out is an important first step. I recommend thinking through your everyday routine and considering how often a feature (or its absence) will affect you and how much it would matter. From there, try making a list of your nonnegotiables, strong preferences, and nice-to-haves to help you decide where you're willing to compromise. You can use that list when comparing listings, planning your budget, or discussing priorities with potential

roommates. For more questions to consider as you narrow down your housing priorities, check out Off-Campus Life's *How to Move Off Campus* guide, which covers location, budgeting, apartment features, and more.

Off-Campus Life Office Events and Opportunities!

OCL hosts many social and educational events each year. Here's what coming up, all of which is meant specifically for you as a sophomore. Want to see what else is in store? See OCL's Events page!

Home Away From Home: Dinner and Dialogue



Curious about how to move off campus, and do so successfully and easily? On October 29 at 6 PM, join OCL in the Foster-Walker Basement Lounge. You'll have a chance to ask all your questions, get all your answers, *and* eat Wingstop for dinner! The gathering will feature both a short presentation, and a longer Q&A period so that we focus on your needs. See you there!

Fall Housing Fairs

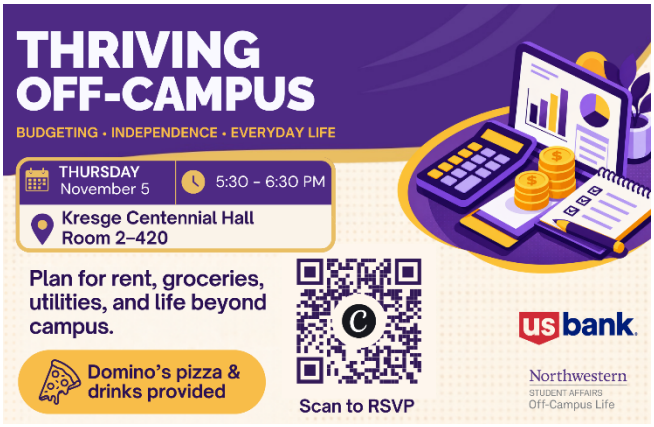
Many students worry about talking to housing providers. OCL's Fall Housing Fairs are an opportunity to meet with many local housing providers, and get some practice while learning about what's available in Chicago and Evanston!



On Thursday, November 5 from 11:30 AM-1:30 PM, stop by the Norris Student Center's Louis Room to meet with property management companies, as well as a whole bunch of campus and community resources. If you've never talked to a landlord before, this is your chance to do it in a fun, low

pressure environment – with prizes, swag, and food! Can't make the live version? One week later, on Wednesday, November 11 from Noon-1 PM, OCL will host a virtual version! Same housing providers, but this time from your computer or phone! Advance sign up for the virtual Housing Fair is required, and you can do so using the QR code in the graphic, or here.

Thriving Off-Campus – with US Bank



It might not be the most thrilling conversation, but it *is* a necessary one! Many students have a good handle on what their budget will allow for rent – but what about all the other costs? Food, transportation, your Spotify and Hulu (and likely *many* other) accounts, and utilities are costs you may not have considered. And what about saving for the future? Even if you don't have a lot of income right now, there is no time like the present to start making good financial habits.

Join OCL and special guest US Bank after the Housing Fair on November 5, from 5:30-6:30 PM in Kresge 2-420. We'll have free pizza to fuel our conversation about all things budgeting! Please sign up in advance so we know how much pizza to have ready.

Campus and Community Events

Northwestern, Evanston and Chicago play host to a huge number of events throughout the year. Here are some that can help you get to know Evanston – there's no time like NOW *to get to know your community!*

Norris Halloween Bash



Looking for spooky fun? Look no further! Norris' Halloween Bash will take place on October 29, and will feature a pumpkin carving contest, a hypnotist, a trivia night in Luna's pub, and more! Free candy will be available in each program area as well.

Other Halloween-Themed Events



Evanston has a number of Halloween-themed events. On October 24, head down to the Main Street and Dempster Street corridors for the Main-Dempster Mile's Spooky Saturday for a block party that includes a pet costume contest.

Let's Build a Playground



Use your talents to bring something new to Evanston – a playground! On October 27, 28, and 29, Evanston is working to build a new playground at Clyde-Brummel Park. October 29 is the official build day, while October 27 and 28 will be days for preparing the site. The work will be physical, but the reward will be forever: a place for Evanston's kids to play, find friends, and use their imaginations. Sign up here to help build the new playground!

Off-Campus Housing Website

As you search for a place to live, OCL has a resource just for you. OCL works with Off-Campus Partners, powered by Apartments.com, to host a housing listing website. Students can use it to search for a new apartment, list or find a sublet, and seek out a roommate. It is the only listing service that Off Campus Life recommends to landlords or rental companies who would like to rent to the Northwestern Community, as well as Northwestern Students, Faculty or Staff looking to rent.

All services on the off-campus housing listing website are ***FREE*** to students! Need a hand figuring out how best to use the site? Go here for video and PDF tutorials!

Want to Discuss Your Off-Campus Life Experience?

Whether you have a leasing, sub-leasing, landlord, roommate, or community question, we are happy to connect.

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