

Hello, Sophomore Wildcats! Welcome to Northwestern's 2026-27 Academic Year!

*At Northwestern, a majority of students move off-campus in their junior year, but their search for housing starts in the Fall of their sophomore year – that's you! That process comes with lots of excitement, and also anxiety, questions, and worries. At the Off-Campus Life office (OCL), we aim to be your guide for confidently moving and living off-campus in Evanston and Chicago. This month, like every month, our newsletter will bring you programs, resources, and tips so that you can move and live – and thrive – off-campus.*

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Meet Your Guide

*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. She can introduce herself more fully.*

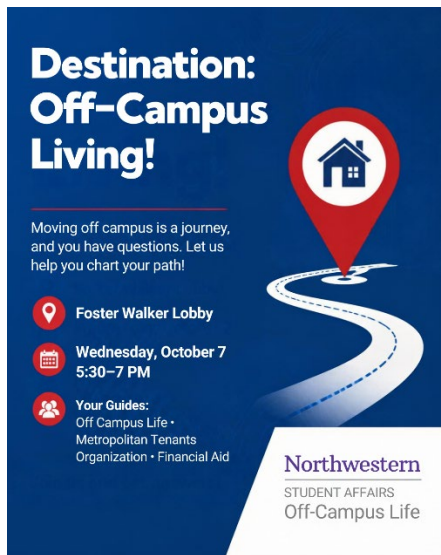


Hello, Class of 2029! My name is Camille Wright, and I am from Plano, TX. I am majoring in Journalism and Black Studies, and this is my second year in the role of Office Assistant for Off-Campus Life. After spending my first year learning about living off campus at Northwestern and the resources that OCL and our partners have to offer, I am now putting that knowledge to use as I begin my own search for off-campus housing. Throughout this series, I will share my experiences, thoughts, and tips as I navigate through things like budgeting, finding roommates, touring apartments, and inspecting leases. I will also highlight the resources that I use along the way. I hope this series will make the process feel a little less overwhelming for you all and allows you to be prepared as you take your own next steps!

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!](#)*

## Destination: Off-Campus Living!



Finding off-campus housing sometimes feels like going on a journey without a map: the destination is clear, but the path is not! On Wednesday, October 7 from 5:30-7 PM, representatives from the Off-Campus Life office, Northwestern Financial Aid, and the Metropolitan Tenants Organization will be available in the Foster-Walker lobby to answer questions and provide tips on the housing search, how to pay for it, and how to protect your rights as a renter. Even if you only have a quick moment on your way in or out of dinner, we can help you get on the right path to off-campus living!

## Renting: Declassified!

Looking to live off campus next year? Join Off Campus Life in the Norris Wildcat Room on Thursday, October 15 from 11 AM-1 PM! Secret agents (7 key campus and community partners) will share intel about searching for housing Chicago and Evanston, knowing what to look out for in a lease, understanding your tenant rights, keeping your finances in shape, learning how to manage conflict with landlords and roommates, and more. This is a drop in event, so you can come and go as needed. And yes, there will be plenty of great snacks!



## Home Away From Home: Dinner and Dialogue

There are two *more* chances to learn what you need to know to feel great about moving off-campus!

- October 21, 5:30 PM, Hinman Hall Lounge
- October 29, 6 PM, Foster-Walker Lounge

At both gatherings, you'll have a chance to ask all your questions, get all your answers, *and* eat Wingstop for dinner! Watch for more details, soon to come.

## Fall Housing Fair

You've seen the resources, now get ready to meet the Housing Providers! On Thursday, November 5 from 11:30 AM-1:30 PM, stop by the Norris Student Center's Louis Room to meet with about 15 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 treats! 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! 😊



## Campus and Community Events

*Northwestern, Evanston and Chicago play host to a huge number of events throughout the year. Here are two that can help you get to know Evanston, whether you live on-, or off-campus!*

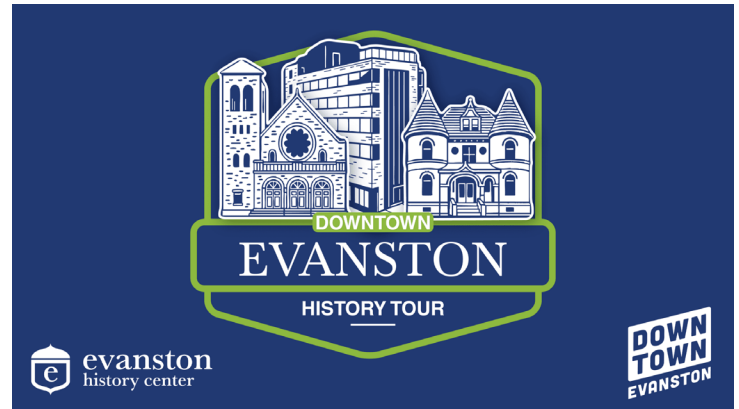


Each year, the Downtown Evanston Business District invites Northwestern students to [sample all the tasty treats from Downtown Evanston's best restaurants – for FREE!](#)

To participate, bring yourself, your appetite, and your Wildcard to Fountain Square (at the intersection of Davis Street and Sherman Avenue on Sunday, October 4, from 3–5 PM. Pick up a wristband and a map to discover all 18 restaurants. Participate in the Instagram contest to register to win of three (3) Evanston gift cards!

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Needing to get some steps in after Big Bite Night? Try out the self-guided Downtown Evanston historical walking tour, on which you'll discover the home of a US Vice President, the site of Evanston's former "fish rodeos," and the site where Northwestern first opened its doors to women students.



Ready to lace up your shoes and get started? Go to the [VibeMap](#) site to check it out!

### [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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