Parent and Family Orientation event sites
Listed below from north to south, shown in violet on the map.
- Louisa Theater (inside the Wirtz Center)
- Ryan Center for the Musical Arts
- Cahn Auditorium
- The Rock
- McCormick Foundation Center

Student residences
Listed below from north to south, shown in turquoise on the map.
- Schapiro Hall
- Elder Hall
- Kemper Hall
- Slokka Residential College of Science and Engineering
- Ayers Residential College of Commerce and Industry
- Goodrich House
- McCulloch Hall
- Bobb Hall
- Lindgren House
- 2313 Sheridan
- 2303 Sheridan
- Lunt Hall
- Foster-Walker Complex
- Willard Residential College
- 720 Emerson
- 710 Emerson
- Public Affairs-Residential College (PARC)
- at North Mid-Quads (NMQ)
- 640 Emerson
- 630 Emerson | Robert H. and Helen Kellogg International Affairs Residential College (HIRC)
- 1856 Orrington
- 1871 Orrington
- Shepard Residential College at South Mid-Quads (SMQ)
- Rogers House
- Chaplin Hall | Humanities Residential College (HRC)
- Shepard Hall
- 1839 Chicago
- West Fairchild | International Studies Residential College (ISRC)
- East Fairchild | Communications Residential College (CRC)
- Alison Hall
- Jones Hall

Parking in free September 12–13 in all campus lots and garages; avoid parking in reserved spaces. Locations shown in dark blue will have the most spaces available. Note that most Evanston residential street parking has a strictly enforced two-hour limit. Parking shuttles will not run on September 15; please park on campus.
8:30–10 a.m.  Move-in day parking shuttle in operation

After unloading your vehicle, park in designated locations on campus or the Ryan Field (Field) east lot. A free shuttle runs continually between the west lot and the center of campus. Staff will be available at shuttle stops to assist families and answer questions. See map for parking and shuttle stop locations.

9 a.m.–5 p.m.  Check-in for Wildcat Welcome and Parent and Family Orientation

New students should check in at their residential area’s Wildcat Welcome Center after moving in. Parents, family members, or students can pick up the parent and family orientation schedule and Parent and Family Guide. See map for Wildcat Welcome Center locations.

11 a.m.–3 p.m.  Complimentary lunch for parents and families

New students will swipe their Wildcard to use their area’s Wildcat Welcome Center after moving in.

5:30–6:30 p.m.  Academic welcomes for families

Learn about your student’s school and hear from faculty and staff. Family ambassadors will be available afterward to walk family members to the president’s reception.

Blinn School of Music
Ryan Center for the Musical Arts, McCormick Choral and Recital Room

McClintock Choral and Recital Room

Ryan Center for the Musical Arts, McCormick Center, Forum

School of Communication

School of Education and Social Policy

Annenberg Hall, G22

Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences

Cahn Auditorium

6:30–8 p.m.  President’s reception

Enjoy heavy hors d’oeuvres and mingle with other parents and families. Staff and student leaders will be available to answer questions. Come as you are—we understand you’ve been helping your student move in today; this is not a formal event.

Harris University Center, East Lawn

6–9:30 p.m.  “A Year in the Life”

Family ambassadors perform vignettes depicting typical first-year and transfer student experiences, followed by a Q&A session. (This event is also available at 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday.)

Harris University Center, McCormick Auditorium

10–11:05 a.m.  March through the Arch®

Cheer for the Class of ‘23 and new transfer students as they take their symbolic first steps toward Northwestern.

At 9:30 a.m., families may line the March through the Arch route (shown at right) while students assemble with their PA groups.

At 10 a.m., led by the Northwestern University Marching Band, PA groups 1 through 200—all carrying numbered signs—start crossing Sheridan Road to take their walk through Wilder Arch, then on to Deering Meadow for a pep rally with University and student leaders.

Around 10:30 a.m., PA’s ’23 and ’24 time is a time for families and students to say Hi! Farewells. Students then rejoin their PA group for the rest of the day while families attend orientation events.

12:30–4:30 p.m.  Campus tours

Family ambassadors give hour-long walking tours of campus leaving every half hour; the last leaves at 3:30 p.m. Tours begin in front of the Rock, near Harris Hall.

12–1 p.m.  Dean of students’ welcome and overview of campus resources

Dean of students’ welcome and overview of campus resources and support systems. (This event is also available at 3 p.m. Cahn Auditorium)

1–4 p.m.  Parent and family resource fair

Interact with University staff to learn about the resources and support services that Northwestern and Evanston provide for students throughout the year; in areas ranging from religious life to health, safety and athletics. (This event is also available at 1 p.m. Cahn Auditorium)

Note: March through the Arch proceeds as planned, rain or shine. In the event of severe weather, change-of-plan information will be announced by 9 a.m. and families and students will be told their goodbyes at the residences.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

2–3 p.m.  Resource session for families of LGBTQ+ students

Counseling and Psychological Services and Multicultural Student Affairs staff will discuss the experiences LGBTQ+ students may face in their transition to Northwestern and present the resources available during these students’ first year.

Norris University Center, Wilder Room (101)

3–4 p.m.  Dean of students’ welcome and overview of campus resources

Dean of students’ welcome and overview of campus resources

3:30–4:30 p.m.  Resource session for families of students of color

Counseling and Psychological Services and Multicultural Student Affairs staff will discuss the experiences students of color may face in their transition to Northwestern and present the resources available during these students’ first year.

Norris University Center, Wilder Room (101)

Family ambassadors perform vignettes depicting typical first-year and transfer student experiences, followed by a Q&A session. (This event is also available at 8 a.m. on Monday.)

4:15 p.m.  “A Year in the Life”

Family ambassadors give hour-long walking tours of campus leaving every half hour; the last leaves at 3:30 p.m. Tours begin in front of the Rock, near Harris Hall.

5–6:30 p.m.  Parent and family resource fair

Interact with University staff to learn about the resources and support services that Northwestern and Evanston provide for students throughout the year; in areas ranging from religious life to health, safety and athletics. (This event is also available at 1 p.m. Cahn Auditorium)

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

The Family Engagement staff thanks you for being here! We look forward to seeing you back on campus November 4–6 for Family Weekend (details at bit.ly/NU-FamilyWeekend) and to staying in touch through our parent and family email list and social media. Safe travels to you!