



Dartmouth Outing Club First-Year Trips

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Dear Fellow Dartmouth Student,

Congratulations and WELCOME! We are thrilled that you've chosen to join us at Dartmouth and we cannot wait for you to arrive this fall! While you've undoubtedly received a lot of important information so far, we'd like to invite YOU to participate in a Dartmouth Outing Club (DOC) First-Year Trip - the College's largest pre-orientation program that takes place right before the start of the fall term.

Trips, as the program is called, welcomes first-year students to life at Dartmouth through the beauty of the New Hampshire outdoors. It is a unique, five-day, outdoor experience designed to provide students with a support system from the time they arrive both among incoming students and with upper-class student volunteers, and it encourages students to befriend people of all backgrounds and create an inclusive Dartmouth beyond Trips. Trips is proud to be student-run, and we aim to create a program in which all first-year students feel welcome during and after their trip through the mentorship of upperclass Dartmouth students and through quality programming.

At this point, you might be thinking, *"If I am not outdoorsy, why in the world would I want to spend my first days of college in the woods?"* Well, many of us thought the same thing upon receiving this letter. The first time Apoorva went hiking was on her first-year trip and Doug doesn't know to ride a bike, but we are directing this program because of how thoughtfully Trips welcomes First-Year students. We want you to know that **Trips is a program for everyone; over 90% of first-year students have participated in recent years** (including international, transfer, and exchange students), and those students' levels of comfort and experience with the outdoors have varied drastically. Your prior outdoor experience (even none at all) does NOT matter; Trips enables people without any hiking or camping experience to participate to the extent they feel comfortable.

We offer over 30 types of trips – everything from exploring the Dartmouth Organic Farm, to learning yoga or photography, to kayaking and canoeing on beautiful New Hampshire rivers, to mountain climbing – that allow you to experience the outdoors in whatever way you prefer. Furthermore, we recognize that some students may need additional accommodations related (but not limited) to religious practices, physical conditions, dietary restrictions, allergies, diabetes and/or other conditions. We're committed to providing accommodations for your accessibility needs, including any circumstances that might affect your participation. Finally, Trips is committed to making this experience as financially accessible and affordable for any incoming student who would like to participate.

Before you jump into the registration materials, we want to share a few more important details about the Trips program:

- Beginning in 1935, DOC Trips is the largest and oldest outdoor pre-orientation program in the country – this is our 82nd year!
- More than 100 students begin their trip on each of the 10 sections, meaning over 1,000 incoming students go on a Trip. As you arrive, you'll be welcomed by Hanover Crew ("H Croo")– the group of students who organize the first day of your trip. You will spend the first day in Hanover getting to know the other students on your trip (your tripees) & your two trip leaders!
- You will head out on your trip the next morning for 2 days of hiking, meditation, community service, mountain biking, cabin camping, or just chilling out with your trip! Some trips stay in Dartmouth-owned cabins, while others camp outdoors under tarps.

- For your last night, all the trips on your section will converge at the Dartmouth Skiway's McLane Family Lodge for a homemade, delicious dinner and an exciting evening program. The Lodge's activities and Trips traditions, along with the hospitality of our Lodge Crew ("Lodj Croo"), serve as the perfect finale!

Please carefully review all [instructions online](#) before completing your registration. The [DOC Trips registration form](#) is due on **June 16th at 5pm**. It will certainly not be the shortest form you complete at Dartmouth, but in our humble opinions, it's worth it! Please refer to our website for notes from the Dean of the College, Faculty, the Undergraduate Dean's Office, and the International Student Programs Office, offering their congratulations and providing you with valuable resources and contact information.

Over 350 current Dartmouth students have been very busy preparing to welcome you to Hanover, and we look forward to creating lifelong memories with you as you begin your time at Dartmouth! If you have any questions, concerns, or just want to learn more about DOC Trips, please feel free to check out our [website](#), give us a call, or send us an email. You can also check out our [blog](#) or find us on Facebook and Instagram ([@DOCFirstYearTrips](#)). We can't wait to meet you this fall and hope you have a wonderful summer!

Doug Phipps '17 & Apoorva Dixit '17
Directors, DOC First-Year Trips 2017

Mallory Byrd '19
President, Dartmouth Outing Club

