



Dartmouth Outing Club First-Year Trips

P.O. Box 9, Hanover, New Hampshire 03755

Dear '13,

May 2009

Congratulations, and WELCOME TO DARTMOUTH!

I am happy to invite YOU to participate in a Dartmouth Outing Club (DOC) First Year Trip! 'Trips', as we call it, is an amazingly fun five-day outdoor pre-orientation program designed to welcome you to Dartmouth in style! Trips is a unique and incredible opportunity for you to bond with other incoming students, spend a few days in the beautiful area surrounding your new home, and meet upper-class leaders who can answer all your questions. Trips will smooth your transition to college by immediately connecting you to a whole host of new friends and helping you find your place and your passion here. We want to jump-start your Dartmouth experience in the best possible way!

At this point you might be thinking, "If I'm not super outdoorsy, why should I go into the woods for my first 5 days of college?" Please know that EVERY incoming student is STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO COME ON A DOC TRIP! Don't think that simply because you have never been an outdoor enthusiast before that this program is not for you. One of the wonderful things about the DOC is that it enables people with absolutely ZERO experience in the out-of-doors to get outside and have a great time. (Last year, 85% of first year students went on a Trip!) We offer a wide range of trips, from hardcore hiking trips to cabin-camping trips that allow you to experience the out-of-doors while remaining clean, dry, and comfortable. Students with physical disabilities have also actively participated in previous years. No matter which trip you go on, DOC Trips offers an unforgettable introduction to the place where you will spend the next four years of your life.

DOC Trips truly defies description; it needs to be experienced in order to be fully understood. I urge you to give the enclosed documents your close attention - they are full of important information for ALL incoming students. Signing up for a DOC Trip is the first step in an extremely valuable and memorable experience. Plus, your semester school friends will all already be gone: why not come on up here and make some new friends before classes start?

Before you plow into registration, let me tell you a bit more about the actual program. Your trip will start when you arrive on campus along with the other 100 or so students on your trip section. You will be warmly welcomed by Hanover Crew, an enthusiastic bunch of students who organize the first day of your trip. Your afternoon will be spent on campus getting to know your trip group—six to ten first-year students and two upper-class leaders. Bright and early the next morning, you'll embark for three days of either hiking, photography, climbing, canoeing, kayaking, fishing, organic farming, trailwork, horseback riding, painting, writing or just plain walking around. Some trips camp out, while others stay in Dartmouth-owned cabins. On the last night, all the trip groups converge at the college-owned Ravine Lodge at the base of Mount Moosilauke for field games, a possible dip in the nearby stream, relaxing on the lawn, a warm dinner, dancing, and an evening of songs and stories. These activities, plus the hospitality of our famous Lodge Crew, make the night spent at the Lodge a high point of the trip for many people.

The online registration for DOC Trips will not be the first form you fill out at Dartmouth, nor will it be the shortest, but it could be the most worthwhile. The over 300 Dartmouth students who are running DOC Trips this year are gearing up to make it one of the best experiences you'll have at Dartmouth. We cannot wait to welcome you into the Dartmouth family, and we are psyched to kick off your time here with a fabulously fun DOC Trip! If you have **any** questions at all, please feel free to phone or email. The Trips office number is (603) 646-3996 and our e-mail address is doc.trips@dartmouth.edu. We can't wait to meet you all in September!

Yours in the out-of-doors,

Scott Limbird '09
Director, DOC First-Year Trips 2009

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