

Dear Transfer Student,

Congratulations and welcome to Dartmouth! You probably have dozens of questions swimming around in your head about what the next couple of years will be like. While I can't provide any certain answers, I can offer you a wonderful way to make your transition to Dartmouth smooth and pleasant. Your DOC Trip will provide you with an opportunity to meet other students and talk to your two upperclassmen leaders about absolutely anything you'd like! Additionally, you'll get a glimpse of the beautiful area surrounding our school.

When you register online, please be sure to indicate that you are a transfer student – we would like to put at least one other transfer student on your Trip so you get to know a mix of first-years and other transfers! Below are three recollections from transfer students about their DOC Trip and what it means to them. Enjoy!

I hope to see you all in September!

Scott Limbird '09
Trips Director 2009

Hello!

Never thought you'd be doing this again, did you? At least I didn't when I transferred two years ago. I hope all of you are excited to come in the fall, rather than having the mixture of complete fear and uneasy excitement that I had before and upon arriving for my first Dartmouth fall. One thing that I kept on telling myself and those around me before arriving in Hanover was "I don't want to go through a freshman orientation again. Come on, I've already done that, right?" Think again...

Trips are unlike anything one could ever imagine. Within five days, your eyes will be opened to a way of life not understood by many outside of our close-knit community. You will experience traditions, lingo, and what it means to truly be a Dartmouth student, regardless of when you decided to enroll. Whether you consider yourself an athlete, artist, writer, musician, computer technician, or a part of any other social group one can imagine, Trips is there to give you your first warm welcome into a place you will inevitably call home. And it can't be replaced. Though you may consider yourself a Dartmouth "student" right now, you will soon learn that you are in fact the new sons and daughters of our Dartmouth family -- a very unique group of sons and daughters that bring something very special to the table. And this family wants to make sure you have the best time of your life while you're here. There's only one way to start that, and it wouldn't be the same without you.

- Tommy Shanahan '10

As a transfer student at Dartmouth this past year year, I was one of about 30 students coming into this truly unique atmosphere. Having missed the freshman experience at Dartmouth I was really nervous about how I was going to integrate myself into the community and make new friends. Needless to say, I was anxious when I walked up to Robinson Hall to set out on my first ever hiking trip with complete strangers. However as soon as I sat down among my fellow tripees and met my trip leaders I knew I had come to the right place. What really struck me about the whole first-year trip experience was everyone's enthusiasm, their easy-going attitudes, and how welcoming everyone was. I felt that among these people I could really be myself while going through new experiences, learning about Dartmouth, and meeting new people. The DOC trips reassured me that I made the right decision in coming to Dartmouth.

-Samantha Stimmel '09

Transfers students are some of the most privileged students at Dartmouth. We get to experience two different colleges, Dartmouth waives a few requirements along the way (like the swim test and first-year seminar), and we're able to partake in all the first-year events and traditions that happen during Orientation. You might think that you're slightly "beyond" Orientation, which is definitely true. Transfer students are some of the most successful students at Dartmouth because we're "beyond" a lot of things. By "beyond," I mean to say that we have perspective and vision. Compared to most other students, we have a clearer idea of what we want and how to get it--indeed, that's why we transferred in the first place. And though you certainly don't see yourself as a first-year student anymore, the sheer fact of having a year or two distance from when you first came to college makes you all the more appreciative of the experiences of first-year students, your own time at your previous college, and how other Dartmouth students do all they can to make us feel comfortable.

The best way they do this is through Trips: one big goofy five-day romp through the woods of New Hampshire (or Maine). You'll no doubt see right through the zaniness as an attempt to quell the fears of new college students who are stressed out about finding friends and fun things to do. But what you'll see on the other side is even more zaniness and more generosity and more friendliness and more fun. Because that is Dartmouth. You get what you see. And believe me, you don't want to miss any of it. You're part of the family now, and certainly a very special part. Remember, you are privileged through your perspective and self-awareness--qualities that many first-year Dartmouth students spend years finessing. We transfer students have them in large supply, so much so that we had to get up and go from our last school because we knew all too well what we wanted and needed. These are the skills that will help you own your Dartmouth experience and mold it exactly how you desire.

You can and must make Trips your own. You and Dartmouth would not be complete without them.

-Michael Amico '07

