Dear Dartmouth ‘15,

Welcome to Dartmouth! Whether you know it or not, you’re about to embark on an incredible adventure here in Hanover. Without question, the best way to start your journey here is by going on a First Year Trip! On your trip you will spend 4 days outdoors in New Hampshire, getting to know your fellow classmates, upperclassmen, and maybe even yourself a little bit. After you get back, you’ll be tired, smelly, and more prepared and excited to start your time at Dartmouth. Trips is an experience that most people remember for the rest of their lives as an incredible introduction to Dartmouth, and in my opinion is one of the greatest parts of Dartmouth tradition.

The journey all starts at Robinson Hall here in Hanover – Home of the Dartmouth Outing Club. Pretty soon you’ll get to meet your other trippees and your trip leaders, and head off into the woods. Not sure you want to spend 3 days scaling mountains and sleeping under the stars? If you’ve never slept outside, or your idea of an outdoor adventure consists of a shortcut through the park, there are still plenty of trips you’ll love. Try Nature Photography, or Community Service, or Cabin Camping. Prefer more thrill on your trip? Consider going on whitewater kayaking, or rock climbing. Whatever your preference, we promise there’s a trip you’ll love and an experience you’ll never forget.

After your trip, everyone comes back together, this time at the Moosilauke Ravine Lodge. Here you all get to relax in the grass, talk about how much fun you had, and get fed a great meal. The lodge is full of fun and rich in Dartmouth tradition. If you’re not sure what that means yet, just wait, you’ll see!

Once you get back from your trip, we hope that you’ll share an appreciation for the New England wilderness that fuels the Dartmouth Outing Club. ‘Trips’ is a great way to get your feet wet, but there’s so much more to do and see! Like hiking? Join Cabin and Trail. Want to learn to Mountain Bike? Try the Mountain Biking Club. Whether your preference is climbing rocks (Dartmouth Mountaineering Club), canoeing and kayaking (Ledyard Canoe Club), or hunting and fishing (Bait and Bullet), there’s a club for you. It gets even better once snow starts to fly, with Winter Sports Club, Ski Patrol, and a Club Ski Team to take part in. There are even lots of options right around Hanover, with the Organic Farm running farming trips and frequent potlucks a mile off campus. Every DOC club has beginner trips, and lots of opportunities to get outside, even if you have no experience in the outdoors.

If none of those fit your fancy, apply for funding to run your own adventure, with the DOC’s Schlitz Adventure Fund. Whatever your experience or interest, I think you’ll find the DOC has something for you. Getting to spend time playing outside with friends has been one of my favorite experiences here at Dartmouth, and is something that Trips introduced me to. I hope you have as much fun as I did, and if you have any questions whatsoever about Trips, the DOC or just Dartmouth, feel free to send me an email! I look forward to seeing you on a trip this fall!

Yours in the out-of-doors,

Robert Collier ’13
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Dartmouth Outing Club President
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113 Robinson Hall
Dear '15,

May 2011

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 upperclass leaders who can answer all your burning questions. Trips will smooth your transition to college by immediately connecting you to a many new friends and helping you find your place and your passion here. We want to jump–start your Dartmouth experience in the best way possible and make you comfortable in your new home!

At this point you might be thinking, “If I’m not outdoorsy, why should I go into the woods for my first five 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 that this program is not for you. Trips enables people with absolutely ZERO experience in the outdoors to get outside and have a great time. (Last year, over 95% of first–year students went on a Trip!) We offer a wide range of trips that allow you to experience the out–of–doors while remaining clean, dry, and comfortable. We have trips ranging from community service to staying in a beautiful log cabin and learning yoga and photography to hiking up the ragged peaks in the White Mountains to learning how to kayak down our beautiful rivers. Students with physical disabilities or injuries 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. And again, you literally need zero experience outside to come on a trip, zero!

DOC Trips defies description; you must experience it to fully understand it. Please give the enclosed documents your close attention – they have important information for ALL incoming students. Signing up for a DOC Trip is the first step in an extremely valuable and memorable experience. Plus, most of your friends that go to other colleges will have already started their semester, so why not come up here and make 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 student leaders. Bright and early the next morning, depending on which trip you are on, you'll embark for three days of hiking, photography, community service, yoga, climbing, canoeing, kayaking, fishing, farming, trailwork, horseback riding, painting, writing, cabin camping, or just plain chilling out. Some trips camp out, while others stay in Dartmouth–owned cabins. On the last night, all the groups converge at the College–owned Ravine Lodge at the base of Mount Moosilauke for games, a possible dip in the nearby stream, relaxing on the lawn, a delicious 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. Trips is a student run program and is one of the quintessential parts of the Dartmouth Community. The 350+ Dartmouth student volunteers who are running Trips are preparing to make it one of the best experiences you'll have at Dartmouth. We can't wait to welcome you to Dartmouth, 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 or look at our website (www.dartmouth.edu/~doc/firstyeartrips/). Also, new this year! Friend ‘DOC Trips’ on Facebook and look at photos, join us for live chats with Dartmouth students from across the world who can address all your questions and learn all you ever wanted to know about Trips! Can’t wait to meet you in September...

Emily Unger ‘11
Emily Unger
Director, DOC First–Year Trips 2011