Dear Incoming Dartmouth Student,

Congratulations and WELCOME! We are so excited 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 known – is a unique, five-day, outdoor experience designed to welcome you to Dartmouth. Trips can provide you with the opportunity to bond with other incoming students, connect with upperclass leaders who are eager to support you, and explore the beautiful areas surrounding campus. Trips is student-run, and we are extremely committed to helping you feel comfortable and excited in your new home!

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?” We want you to know that DOC Trips is a program for everyone – all incoming students are encouraged to go on a DOC Trip, if possible. 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 a wide range of trips – everything from exploring the Dartmouth Organic Farm, to learning yoga or photography, to kayaking & canoeing on the beautiful New Hampshire rivers – 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 impact your participation.

Before you jump into the registration materials (please visit our website and read all the directions before filling out the registration form!), we want to share some important details about the Trips program:

- DOC Trips is the largest and oldest outdoor pre-orientation program in the country – this year, we turn 78! In the last few years, approximately 95% of first-year students (including international, transfer, exchange students) participated in the program.
- Approximately 100 students begin their trip on each of the 10 sections. As you arrive, you’ll be welcomed by Hanover Crew – 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 trip leaders.
- You will head out on your trip the next morning for 2 days of hiking, kayaking, photography, community service, canoeing, cabin camping, or just chilling out with your trip! Some trips stay in Dartmouth-owned cabins, while others camp outdoors.
- For your last night, all the trips converge at the College-owned Moosilauke Ravine Lodge for a delicious dinner and an exciting evening program. The lodge’s activities, along with the hospitality of our lodge crew, make this night a highlight of the trip for many students!

The DOC Trips registration forms (which can be found online) will certainly not be the shortest forms you complete at Dartmouth, but they may be the most worthwhile. Over 350 Dartmouth students have been very busy preparing to welcome you to Hanover, and we look forward to creating a fun & memorable experience for you to begin your time at Dartmouth! If you have any questions, concerns, or just want to learn more about DOC Trips, please feel free to give us a call or send us an email. You can also check out our blog or find us on Facebook & Twitter (@DOCTrips). We can’t wait to meet you this fall & hope you have a wonderful summer!

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