

Community & Hall Living

Residence halls at SDSU provide an environment which complements the teaching/learning mission of the University. Living in a community setting promotes development of young adults and offers growth opportunities not offered in a single family unit or apartment. Campus living also provides residents the chance to develop cooperation and leadership skills and other personal attributes.

To accomplish an atmosphere of cooperation, respect and open communication each resident will be expected to:

1. Show respect and understanding of others;
2. Be an active member of their community;
3. Know, understand and support SDSU and Residential Life policies;
4. Do their part in maintaining and respecting the physical environments of their campus community.

Residence Hall Life

It is often true that the most lasting friendships are those that are developed during the time one attends college.

Each residence hall community is comprised of smaller “house” communities. The “house concept” puts the emphasis on friendship and belonging with your neighbors. This is fostered through the sharing that takes place during house meetings, hall government, intramural athletics, and other programs and activities. All contribute to a feeling of belonging and making the house a unique living environment.

The University may be a big place, but your house is small and you can quickly make friends in this close community of 40-60 students. There will be many opportunities to express and share your concerns, ideas, opinions and differences with friends and especially your roommate.

Naturally, conflicts may arise. Roommates and housemates are not always alike, nor do they always share the same philosophies or values. Given the chance, however, your roommate and housemates could become a life-long friend. One of the most rewarding experiences of college life is getting to know many different kinds of people. Learning to accept and live with the differences of those in your community can be a valuable part of your education.

Here are some hints on getting along. Remember that your roommate is an individual with likes and dislikes that should be respected, the same as your own. Talk with your roommate. Rather than ignoring a problem situation or suffering in silence, talk about it. Conversation may be awkward at first, but if you try to arrive at a mutual

understanding you can save a lot of time and avoid hurt feelings. Use the “Roommates Bill of Rights” as a discussion guide. Do not be afraid to discuss your problems with your RA. Sometimes a neutral third party can point out common misunderstandings and a reasonable solution.

Roommate(s) “Bill of Rights”

This agreement is a reminder to you of your responsibility to your roommate(s) and others living in your house, floor, hall and campus as a whole. Your happiness while living in a residence hall community will depend, to a large extent, on consideration that you demonstrate to each other. The following list is a reminder of what your rights and responsibilities are as a roommate. These basic rights are:

1. The right to read and study free from undue interference in one’s room. Unreasonable noise and other distractions inhibit the exercise of this right.
2. The right to sleep without undue disturbances from your roommate, guests of roommate and others.
3. The right to expect that roommate(s) and their guests will respect personal belongings.
4. The right to a clean environment in which to live.
5. The right to free access to one’s room and facilities without pressure from roommate(s) and housemates.
6. The right to personal privacy.
7. The right to host guests with the expectation that guests will respect the rights of other hall residents.
8. The right to voice concerns and to have residence hall staff members assist in mediation.
9. The right to be free from fear of intimidation, physical and/or emotional harm.
10. The right to expect reasonable cooperation in the use of shared items.

The above are basic rights residents should expect and receive. These rights are endorsed by the Residence Hall Association (RHA) and the Department of Residential Life. *(Revised 6-06)*

Getting Involved in Your Community

Residence Hall Association (RHA)

The Residence Hall Association is the voice for all residents. As a member of the National Association of College and University Residence Halls (NACURH), your RHA joins students from across the country in developing leadership skills, advocating for residents' issues and needs, and serving residents through sponsorship and presentation of educational and social programs on their respective campuses.

Every student who lives on campus is a member of RHA. As such, you are encouraged to become actively involved in RHA by attending meetings, expressing your opinions, and taking the opportunity to participate in this national student leadership movement on the local, regional and/or national level.

Residence Hall Government

Members of your community are elected to serve as officers on the Hall Government. They plan activities and programs, facilitate improvements to services and facilities, and represent residents at the hall level.

Your hall government will be anxious to hear your ideas about what you would most like to see happen and will welcome your involvement. As a resident of your hall, you are also a member of your hall government, so don't hesitate to take advantage of this opportunity for leadership!

Hall governments are financed through voluntary hall dues collected when you move into your hall. Payment of these dues will allow you to take full advantage of hall government sponsored services and functions.

Programming

Residential communities offer a wide variety of activities. These programs are planned and implemented by Residential Life staff, RHA, fellow students, and hall governments. You are urged to become actively involved in planning these events and to participate in as many as possible. The leadership skills that you will gain can help you develop abilities and insights that may contribute significantly to the quality of your SDSU experience. Your participation is also a way to make new friends.

Hundreds of programs dealing with a variety of topics are sponsored by the residence halls each year. These have included health education series, career seminars, international dinners, bike repair clinics, leadership development workshops, relationships, alcohol awareness and sexuality programs. Sponsored social activities include picnics, movies, ski trips, ice cream socials, and semi-formal dances to note just a few.

Student Employment

Another excellent opportunity to become involved in the residence halls is to become a student employee. The Department of Residential Life employs over two hundred students. They work at residence hall desks, distribute mail, help maintain safety, perform maintenance and custodial services, and even shovel snow! For information about student employment with the Department of Residential Life, contact your RHD, stop by the hall desk or you can apply on-line through the department web page or mystateonline.sdstate.edu.

