

RES LIFE U

Bemidji State University's Department of Residential Life

STAFF NEWSLETTER

Summer 2009

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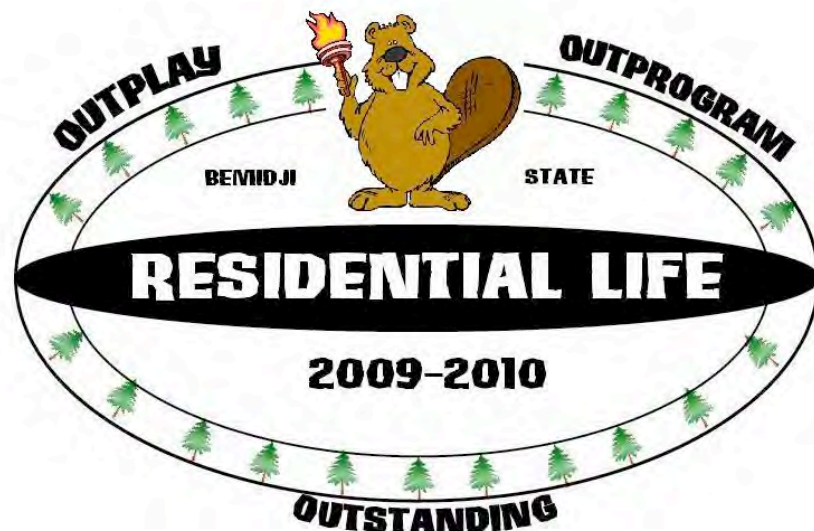
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Staff "Survival" Training!

As summer winds down, we are preparing for our Staff "Survival" Training (you know the TV series analogy)! We want to congratulate each one of you and welcome you to our team! This newsletter is intended to provide you with the information you need to prepare for staff training and the start of the year in Residential Life at BSU.

When Should I Arrive?

When you arrive according to the schedule below, your key will be at BSU Security and Safety. Please make sure to bring a picture ID to receive your room key. RA/PAA training begins on Tuesday, August 11 at 3:00 pm! Training will continue through the day we open the halls, so please come rested! It will be a blast!

Important Dates:

August 1	ARHD Apartments Available
August 3	ARHD Training Begins (9am)
August 9	RA/PAA Rooms Available
August 11	RA/PAA Training Begins (3pm)
August 20	Hall Council Exec/Desk Receptionist Rooms Available
August 21	All Halls Open/New Student Orientation
August 21	FYRE Residents Move In
August 24	Classes Begin
August 24	All Classes Begin



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TRAINING FAQ!

What is training like?

Staff training is an intense time, full of both active and more traditional learning opportunities. It is a time to develop team, skills, and knowledge.

Will I get time for me?

We encourage you to move in early and settle into your room. We have also built in free time during the week for you to relax and/or take care of personal stuff.

Can I get ahead of the game?

Consider creating your themes for bulletin boards, door decs, hallway and door signs, programming, etc. now! Also, get lots of rest!

Are meals provided?

You will begin eating at Northwoods at supper on Tuesday, August 11 and meals are covered through training.

Is there time with my hall staff?

Training will include large group sessions with the entire staff and in-hall sessions with your hall staff. You will build team in hall as well as with other hall staff members.

Will we be camping overnight?

We are planning to take the entire staff to Camp Thunderbird again this year for training and teambuilding. Lots of learning, good food, and FUN, FUN, FUN!

Service learning project?

We are in the process of lining up several meaningful service projects for us to complete as a staff. More info when you arrive!

Other questions?

If you have any other questions, please contact your hall director! We are excited and ready for your arrival!

WHAT'S HAPPENING @ BSU THIS SUMMER?

WELCOME ADAM DANDAR! Residential Life is proud to announce the addition of Adam Dandar to our residence hall team! Adam will assume the hall director responsibilities for Tamarack, Pine and Cedar. Adam is originally from Sterling Heights Michigan (8 miles north of Detroit), and graduated with a Master's in Adult and Higher Education from Northern Illinois University. He has participated in club Ultimate Frisbee and has been active in other intramurals. The thing he looks most forward to in his work is being around the front desk or lobby and speaking with students. He loves to find a student having a rough day and being able to help them reach a happier place. His hobbies include: movies, video games (Xbox 360), television (Heroes and Burn Notice), Frisbee, and soccer. He is also trying to teach himself how to beat-box! Adam will begin at BSU on July 1. We look forward to you meeting him!



FACILITIES IMPROVEMENTS - Several facilities projects are underway this summer. New picnic tables have been placed outside Oak Hall. The Tamarack floor kitchens are getting a facelift with new sinks, flooring and paint. New beds have arrived for the remaining rooms in Oak and Pine Halls, and new mattresses will go into Tamarack Hall. Additional loft kits have been ordered as well! As usual, in all the halls we are moving ahead with carpet cleaning and replacement, painting, and other repairs in between summer conference and camp groups. Our GMW and maintenance staff has been working hard this summer to get our facilities in tip-top shape!

HALL COUNCILS

One of the most important learning opportunities of residence hall living is the participation in RHA and Hall Council. We have spent time evaluating our efforts regarding hall councils and are committed this year to focus on the improved success. The ARHDs, RAs, CA, and PAAs play a critical role in this success through active participation in the meetings, but also through recruitment and recognition of these hall leaders.

As the year begins, you will find hall councils receiving more focus. We will expect you to assist us in identifying, recruiting, and supporting potential leaders for the hall councils. We will also expect

that you will support these leaders through attendance at the meetings.

Hall Councils are venues for our residents to gain leadership skills and to have a voice in residence hall living. These volunteer students provide role modeling and leadership as they work to improve community in the residence halls.

When hall leaders are excited, they ignite a positive spark in their communities. Please plan to do your part by supporting and encouraging the leaders on your floor and in your hall. The time and energy you spend with these leaders will pay off!



“Hall Councils and FABs are venues for our residents to gain leadership skills and to have a voice in residence hall living.”

ABSOLUTELY FAB-ulous!

Be on the lookout during move-in day for those FAB-ulous individuals who show their leadership ability from the start. You will find these leaders helpful as you organize your Floor Advisory Board (FAB)! The FAB is a group of floor resident leaders that works with the RA on things like Community Agreements, floor programming, and resident recognition. When a FAB is working well, the RA will find many of the responsibilities of the position much more rewarding and successful.

As you begin to explore potential possible leaders on your floor, you should look for:

- individuals who go around first introducing themselves to others and maybe even introducing everyone else to each other!
- individuals who appear to be taking everything in – even if they seem quiet or shy – they may be looking for a niche in which they can step in and shine!

- individuals who may appear to give off a more “negative” vibe – especially if people seem to listen to and follow them. Take the initiative to involve these potentially negative leaders in a positive role – they may be looking for a niche as well. YOU can make the difference in their choice to become a positive leader!
- individuals that have previous experience with leadership in high school or another college or university. Chances are they will bring new ideas and energy to your floor if they are asked to participate!

Take the time early in the year to establish a FAB. This group will be helpful in establishing a positive community and will provide you with resources, energy, and assistance throughout the year. You will be grooming student leaders and mentoring in the process!!

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We're on the Web!

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SIGNS, SIGNS, EVERYWHERE THERE'S SIGNS!

Staff will want to make signs for their floors to communicate important information to residents. It is important not to create poster blindness through excessive signage. Also, use creativity and appearance to provide visually attractive signs, and remove out-of-date information.

We have created *some* signs that we will make copies of and make available for staff use. More on this when you arrive for training! Here are sign ideas:

STAIRWELLS

- Welcome to _____! (floor)
- Fun and Encouraging notes for those climbing to upper floors.

HALLWAY

- Your Resident Assistant(s) is/are:
- Peer Academic Assistant(s) are:
- Your Floor Advisors (FAB) are:
- Upcoming Events:
- Birthday Calendar
- No Pets (Except for Fish!)
- BSU is Smoke Free - No smoking is permitted in the residence halls
- Important Phone Numbers:
- Help Needed or Will Help (academic connections)
- Smoke Detector Batteries and Light Bulbs Exchanged at Desk
- Map - Where are We All From!

- Intramural Team Info
- Closet Doors Must Remain in Room
- Screen Must Remain in the Window
- Decorate your floor bulletin board
- Door Decs (40-50 - one per resident with their name)

BY YOUR DOOR

- Message Board
- RA on Duty (name, room, phone #)
- In/Out Board

SIGNS FOR OPENING

- Lofting Hours 12pm - 8pm
- Please Cut Wood Outside
- Empty Boxes - Break Down and Take To _____
- Floor Meeting Info (date/time, what to bring)

BATHROOM

- Please Keep Our Bathroom Clean
- Women/Men Only
- Areas for Individuals to Decorate

KITCHEN

- Please Keep Our Kitchen Clean
- All Dishes Must Be Accompanied By A Person
- Please Close Door While Cooking
- Do Not Leave Burners/Oven Unattended
- Did You Turn Off the Stove/Oven?
- Pizza #s
- Recycling Bin Info
- Ironing in Kitchen Only

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