

# RES LIFE U

Bemidji State University

Department of Residential Life

## STAFF NEWSLETTER

Summer 2011

### What's Inside?

Training FAQ!	2
Summer Haps!	2
Hall Councils!	3
FAB-ulous!	3
Signs, Signs!	4

QUESTIONS? CONTACT  
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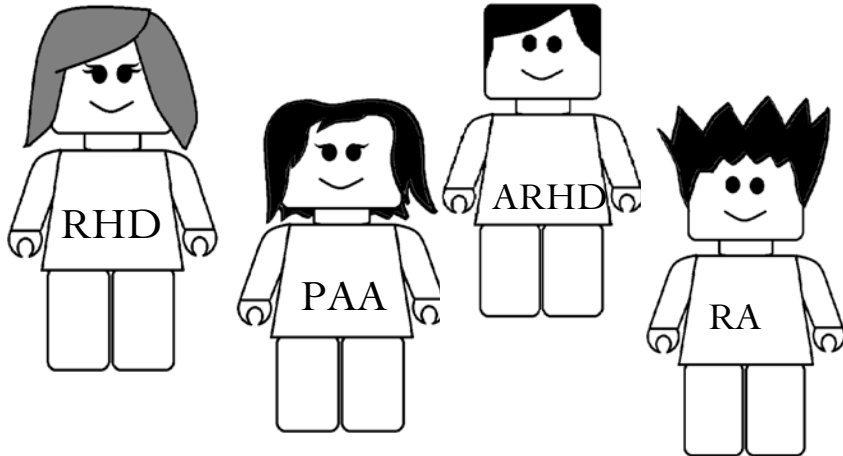
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building our  
communities!!

As summer winds down, we are preparing for our Staff Training so we can put the blocks together and "Build Our Communities!" 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 9 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:

July 31	ARHD Apartments Available
August 1	ARHD Training Begins (9am)
August 6	RA/PAA Rooms Available
August 9	RA/PAA Training Begins (3pm)
August 18	Hall Council Exec/Desk Receptionist Rooms Available
August 19	All Halls Open/New Student Orientation
August 22	All Classes Begin



*“Staff Training is an intense time, full of both active and more traditional learning opportunities.”*



## 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 9 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 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 @ RES LIFE THIS SUMMER?

**CENTRAL OFFICE HAPS** - We are currently in the process of filling three positions in the central office. Hopefully by the time you arrive we will have filled the secretary/receptionist, room assignment, and assistant director of facilities positions! Wish us luck!

**BEDLOFT.COM** - We have contracted with Bedloft.com to fully operate our bed lofting program. They will take orders online and deliver/remove lofts from resident rooms. Go to Bedloft.com and check out the BSU page for more details!

**FACILITIES IMPROVEMENTS** - Several facilities projects are underway this summer. Maple Hall B-Wing has been spiffed up and is ready for residents. The Student Center for Health and Counseling has been moved to Cedar and is almost ready. The Birch Hall renovation project is a go and will begin soon. 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!




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*“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!**

See us at:

[www.bemidjistate.edu/  
students/reslife/](http://www.bemidjistate.edu/students/reslife/)

## 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 Tobacco Free - No tobacco use permitted on campus
- 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

## RESOURCE AVAILABLE FOR RESIDENTIAL LIFE STAFF!

We have a resource through PaperClip Communications to provide all staff access to a great website jammed packed with resources, tips, and information to make your work with students a success! Please plan to access this website and explore before you arrive to campus. We will be putting together some structured opportunities to use this site once you arrive to campus. Go to:

[www.reslifetrainingzone.com](http://www.reslifetrainingzone.com)

Username: bemidji

Password: remote