

Carleton College
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Dear Northfield Option Students:

Welcome back to the school year. According to our records, you are one of the 105 Carleton students living off-campus in the Northfield community this fall. This will be a new experience for you, and undoubtedly different from your previous experiences in the residential life system on campus. This new experience may bring on additional responsibilities (cleaning, cooking, snow removal, yard work, garbage removal, etc.) and challenges as you navigate the important responsibilities of living in a residential neighborhood. We use this letter to offer some advice for this year to **ensure success and pleasure with your “living in Northfield” experience!**

- 1. Get to know your neighbors.** Get to know the names of their kids, their dog, and what football team they root for in the fall. Exchange phone numbers, cookies and shovel an extra 8 feet of their sidewalk in January. Everyone does this in Northfield; it's part of the package deal.
- 2. Safety and Security.** Please remember to walk in pairs at night while going to and from campus from your house/apartment or between off-campus residences. Though you may feel a sense of safety in small-town Northfield, it's always a good idea to walk in small groups of two or more. Lock your house/apartment door, as well. Break-ins and theft can occur in off-campus homes and we want you to be secure. If there are problems, contact the Northfield Police non-emergency, (507) 645-4477.
- 3. Social Activities.** As we all know, some off-campus houses/apartments are common gathering spaces for students. We encourage you to have friends over – for cook-outs, to play lawn games, to build snow-structures, or for whatever social activities you enjoy doing. However, social gatherings can shift from fun to problematic when you decide to add alcohol. Please be aware that the City of Northfield has a new Social Host Ordinance that was put in place in this past spring, and it may affect you as a party host. ***The Social Host Ordinance*** makes it a crime to knowingly provide a place where underage drinking occurs.

A violation of this ordinance carries a penalty of a \$1000 fine and 90 days in jail, and the ordinance has been implemented 3 times already this summer. For more information on social host ordinances visit:
<http://ricecountyhc.com/partners/enforcement/exploring-social-host-ordinances/>

- 4. Uninvited Guests.** Be assertive and clear about who is welcome and not welcome in your home. Problems may occur because of the actions of uninvited guests. How you choose to control who enters through your front door will impact your relationship with your roommates and neighbors.

Finally, we want you to enjoy your off-campus living experience, and we want you to be safe. For more detailed expectations on living in the Northfield community, please refer to the brochure you received at Northfield Option Draw last spring term or go online to http://apps.carleton.edu/student/housing/housing/northfield/Living_In_Northfield/.

If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the Dean of Students Office. Our best for a great year ahead!

Respectfully,

Hudlin Wagner
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