Dear COW Residents:

Welcome back to Wooster! We are happy to have you back on campus for another academic year. The Residence Life Staff has worked diligently to prepare this handbook to assist in orienting you to living in The College of Wooster’s Houses and Apartments. As you might imagine there are a few things that distinguish the houses and apartments from the residence halls, particularly the housekeeping, neighbor relations, reporting repairs, and responsibility for things occurring in the house. We gently remind you that, while you no longer live in a residence hall, you have still signed a housing and dining agreement with the College of Wooster and that the same rules and regulations that apply to residence hall living also apply to College owned houses and apartments. There are variations on a few policies and procedures and those are noted in this handbook. The complete list of policies and procedures is in our Scots Key located here.

The purpose of living in a house or apartment is to provide upper class students with the opportunity for more independent living, one similar to an off-campus or post-college experience. Your designated Residence Life Professional Staff member is Robin Schreck, the Assistant Director of Residence Life. There are no Resident Assistants responsible for houses and apartments.

Please review this handbook as well as the Scot’s Key carefully. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Office of Residence Life.

On behalf of the entire staff, we wish each of you a successful academic year!

Best,

College of Wooster Residence Life
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<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>EMERGENCY (FIRE, POLICE &amp; MEDICAL)</strong></td>
<td>911</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Security and Protective Services</td>
<td>330-263-2590</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campus Access</td>
<td>330-263-2564</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Longbrake Wellness Center</td>
<td>330-263-2319</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service Center *</td>
<td>330-287-3000 (x.1234)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residence Life Office</td>
<td>330-263-2498</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*This is Monday-Friday, 8a-4p. After hours you will need to call Security and Protective Services if it is an emergency and cannot wait until business hours.
INFORMATION YOU NEED TO KNOW

The next few pages outline information that will make your living situation a bit easier. We strongly encourage you, your roommates and housemates take a few minutes to review the information contain in this book and the Scot’s Key carefully. The Scot’s Key can be found HERE.

Rights and Responsibilities

Residents are responsible for understanding and complying with the Code of Social Responsibility as stated in the Scot’s Key. Behavior that threatens or endangers the well-being of others or substantially interferes with the rights of others may result in an administrative housing move, as well as other disciplinary actions. In general, College of Wooster students are expected to practice good judgement, have a sense of responsibility, and to conduct their lives in ways that make a positive contribution to the community in which they live.

Please remember that many College houses and apartments are located in residential neighborhoods. Respect for the residents of Wooster should be shown. Students are expected to be good citizens and conscious of and respectful toward the basic need of others.

Occupancy Information

Occupancy begins one day before the start of classes and ends at 10am the day after final exams have concluded. Graduating seniors participating in commencement exercises will be permitted to stay until 8pm the day of Commencement.

In the event of a vacancy in your house or apartment, the College will allow five business days for roommates to find a replacement. The replacement must be an upperclass student, in good standing with the College, and part of the program that the house or apartment participates in. In the event you do not find a replacement the Office of Residence Life may assign an individual to that vacancy.

Please remember that all house and apartments are closed during Winter Shutdown. Residents must either leave for the break or register to stay in a temporary space on campus. Information about that process will be sent via email as Winter Shutdown gets closer.

The basement is not a bedroom. It is against city code and College policy to turn space in the basement into a bedroom.

If you switch bedrooms in the house, it must be coordinated through Residence Life. Do not swap keys with someone in the house or apartment without going to Campus Access and signing out the key you will be carrying. You are responsible for the key you sign out as well as the room you are listed as occupying through Residence Life.
Fire Safety

Fire Policy for College Houses and Apartments

All residents must abide by local, state and College regulations regarding fire safety. Failure to comply with these regulations jeopardizes the safety of others and can result in fines, disciplinary action, and/or an administrative housing move. In addition, negligent activation of fire safety equipment can result in fines and/or disciplinary action.

- Residents may not limit access to or block fire escapes, room windows and doors, or other exits with furniture or other obstacles/objects.
- Basement, garage, and attic access is prohibited. Access is only granted when laundry services are located in the basement.
- Residents must adhere to the social capacity numbers of the house. These are located on the walls in the common spaces.
- The oven and stovetop must be kept clean of grease build up.
- Smoke detectors are located in each house/apartment. Smoke detectors are never to be tampered with or covered.
- Porches and yards must remain free of trash, interior furnishings, and generalized clutter.

Please review the Scot’s Key for more information regarding Fire Safety and items not permitted in College Housing. It can be accessed HERE.

Fire Alarm/Evacuation

All residents, guests and visitors must exit a building when a fire alarm or a smoke detector sounds. Failure to evacuate is a violation of state law and College policy. Failure to evacuate could endanger the life of the house or apartment occupants and the responding fire and safety personnel. Failure to evacuate, tampering with fire safety equipment, and/or intentionally causing a false fire alarm may result in disciplinary action through the College or referral to the civil/criminal court system by fire authorities. Please refer to the Scot’s Key for more information on fire safety. All residents should be familiar with at least two exit routes from their house or apartment.

Should you accidentally set off the fire alarm system (by cooking, steam, etc) DO NOT attempt to disable or reset the fire alarm system. You should exit the building, as required, after phoning Security and Protective Services, and inform responding units of the cause of the alarm.

Report any malfunctioning smoke detector issues to Facilities by calling the Service Center, 330-287-3000 (x 1234), as soon as they occur. After hours you can call Security and Protective Services, 330-263-2590.
**General Safety**

All students are encouraged to be aware of their surrounding and minimize risk to themselves and others in their community. Students should not leave doors unlocked or propped as it increases risk to all who occupy a house or apartment. Residents must never admit anyone who is not their guest or visitor when entering their house or apartment. You must report anyone who is not a resident, guest or visitor of a resident or other suspicious circumstances. First floor sliding glass doors and windows must be secured, except when patios are in use, and must never be used as the primary entrance as it compromises house or apartment security. Balconies and rooftops should not be accessed as this is a safety risk.

**Health and Safety Inspections**

Health and Safety Inspections will be conducted mid-semester. These will usually take place at the time of Fall and Spring Break but can be conducted at other times. Notification of the general timeframe of the inspection will be issued before they are conducted. Facilities will conduct their own fire safety inspections and will inform Residence Life when those will take place.

College officials may walk through the house at any given time – it is college property, same as a residence hall. Residents of houses or apartments are not always given a warning when work is going to be done at the house or apartment. It may be an emergency repair and the time to get the information to Residence Life to get to the students could make a significant difference in addressing the issue.

**Prohibited Items**

For a list of prohibited items please review the Scot’s Key. Any furniture not owned by the College that was originally in the house must be removed when you move out. This includes items in the common spaces. At the end of the year please be considerate and do not leave the last person in the house to remove these items. **Items left behind will incur a charge to all house or apartment residents.** If your house/apartment has a basement that has not been closed off, please do not store items in the basement as many basements also are used for facility storage and will be accessed regularly by those employees.

**Smoking**

Smoking is not permitted in any college housing, including houses or apartments. All smoking is to be at least 25 feet away from a building intake. Also be considerate of where your smoke is going so that it doesn’t waif into windows.
Parking

Students are permitted to park only in house or apartment driveways or authorized parking spaces. Parking is never permitted on lawns. Individuals who park or drive on lawns or other unauthorized locations will be responsible for damages (lawn, personal property, etc.) and may be charged with disciplinary action through our Student Conduct system. Students may also be responsible for any fees necessary to repair the damage. Vehicles must be registered with Security and Protective Services, located in Culbertson Slater House.

Check-In and Check-Out

Check-In

Residents of houses/apartments will complete a Room Condition Report (RCR) when they move into their space. This Room Condition Report will now be digital and can be found in Self-Service. It is imperative that you complete this form, noting the condition in which you find your assigned space and its furnishing, and submit the form within 24 hours of moving into your space. All damages noted on this form during the check-in process will protect you from being billed at the time of check-out. Damages not noted on this form at check-in and noted at the time of check-out will be the resident’s financial responsibility. There are not Resident Assistants for the houses and apartments. If you have questions about completing the RCR please contact Residence Life at reslife@wooster.edu, or call 330-263-2498.

Check-Out

Upon checking out of an assigned space, residents must restore the assigned space to check-in condition. This means that all resident rooms must have all furniture from the RCR at move-in, in the proper room and must be in proper order (furniture unstacked, beds unlofted – not disassembled), garbage must be removed, and the space must be clean. In addition, in the common spaces (kitchen, lounges, bathrooms, basement, porches) furniture must also be in proper order, food must be removed and the refrigerator wiped out, cabinets emptied and wiped out, garbage removed, and the space must be clean. All members of the unit will be held responsible for any cleaning, trash removal, furniture replacement, and damage in common spaces. Each resident of an assigned room will be responsible for cleaning, trash removal, furniture replacement, damage or other items that differ from the RCR that was turned in at the residents move-in.

Residents must complete an Express Check-Out. If Residence Life does not receive your Express Check-Out you will incur a $100.00 improper check-out fee. There are two different ways to check-out. The first is online through the Express Check-Out Survey that can be found on the Residence Life website. The second is to fill out the Express Check-Out Form (which can be found in the Campus Life Office or Campus Access) and drop it off at one of the drop boxes located at the Campus Life Office or Campus Access. Do not fill either of these out until you are
LEAVING campus. This indicates that you are gone and ready for College officials to enter the space. Any hard keys you have will need to be returned to Campus Access. Failure to return your key will result in a key core change charge of $150.00. Please note that once you have turned in your Express Check-Out or completed the Express Check-Out Survey, you must have completely vacated the space. If during the Winter Shutdown inspections, we find you still in the housing space, you will be charged a late fee as well as a daily fee depending on the day of your departure/check-out and may be asked to relocate. Any property left in a house/apartment may result in a fee for its removal. Any items left in College property will become the property of the College. Once you officially check out of your housing assignment, you are not permitted to reside in the space. This includes the end of the year during Commencement Week.

All residents are required to follow proper check-in and check-out procedures.

**Party/Noise Policy**

The noise level must be consistent with the College of Wooster Noise Policy and consistent with all city ordinances. All parties must be registered with the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities. While private, contained, registered parties are permitted, they cannot exceed the social capacity of the house or apartment. They cannot overflow into hallways, porches, yards, or kitchens. Non-registered parties are not permitted and if a house or apartment is found violating this policy, all residents of the house may be held responsible through the Student Conduct system. The process is not difficult but you will need to schedule a meeting with the Director of Student Rights and Responsibilities in the Campus Life Office by Wednesday before your party. Please refer to the Scot’s Key for the full party policy, which can be found [HERE](#).

**Garbage Pick Up**

The following items are not allowed to be placed in or around receptacles: hazardous or infectious waste, tires, storage batteries, appliances containing Freon, brush, grass clippings or other yard waste, waste oil, bricks, rocks, concrete, dirt, or any material prohibited by state or federal law from being land filled.

All garbage must be disposed of in the trashcan receptacles provided by the College. Receptacles must be on the curb by 6:00 am the day of collection. Empty receptacles must be removed from the curbside by 11:59 pm of pick up day.

Do not leave bags full of garbage out in the open. Please keep garbage can storage areas neat and clean. Keeping this area clean will limit the number of problems with rodents, bugs, and other wildlife. Maintenance/up-keep of the exterior of the College house (keeping trash and discarded items off of lawn and front porch) is the responsibility of the residents of the house.

**Schedule for Trash/Recycling Pick Up**
Some houses and apartments will use the College dumpsters instead of individual house trash cans. Residents in houses or apartments who miss their garbage pick-up may use any College dumpster. There are dumpsters specifically located at **Bissman Hall, Bornhuetter Hall, Kenarden Lodge, Luce Hall, Lowry Center, Compton House, Troyer House, Kennedy Apartments, and Gault Schoolhouse**. If your house is not mentioned below you will need to dispose of your garbage in the dumpster closest to your residence.

**Trash and Recycling Pick-Up**

**Curbside Pickup**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Weber House</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Corner House</td>
<td>Rickett House</td>
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<tr>
<td>Colonial House</td>
<td>Schlabach House</td>
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<td>Henderson Apt</td>
<td>Eastend Apt</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hider Apt</td>
<td>Fairlawn Apt</td>
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<td>Hider House</td>
<td>Howell House</td>
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<td>Aultz House</td>
<td>Morris House</td>
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<td>Avery House</td>
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<tr>
<td>McDavitt House</td>
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**Recycling Materials Guidelines**

**Single Stream Recycling Acceptable Materials**

- Plastics #1-7
- Water Bottles
- Soda Bottles
- Detergent Containers
- Salad Dressing Containers
- Milk Jugs
- Plastic Cups
- Tupperware
- Office Paper
- Junk Mail
- Newspapers
- Magazines
- Chip Board (Cereal Boxes)
- Pizza Boxes (if clean)
- Cardboard
- Tin Cans
- Aluminum Cans
- Glass- Clear, Green and Brown

**Single Stream Recycling Un-acceptable Materials**

- Wood, plastic banding, Styrofoam, tarps, automotive parts, tires, PVC piping, light bulbs, window glass, clothes hangers, vinyl siding, plastics unnumbered, ziplock bags, stretch wrap, plastic silverware, ceramics, mirrors, porcelain and computers

**Repair Request**

All requests for service or repair should go to this [link](#). Emergency requests occurring after hours, weekends, and holidays need to be called immediately to Security and Protective Services at 330-263-2590. An emergency is a situation that requires immediate attention (electrical outage, gas leak, flooding, etc.)
Residence Life Staff

The houses and apartments do not have a Resident Assistant assigned to your area. Your main contact for issues within your house or apartment will be Assistant Director of Residence Life, Robin Schreck, rschreck@wooster.edu. You may also contact any professional Resident Life Staff member at reslife@wooster.edu.

Internet Service

Internet access is provided in houses and apartments at no additional charge to students. Most of the houses and apartments are on the College of Wooster’s network. There are a few house and apartments that are not on the College of Wooster’s internet infrastructure. These houses and apartments internet is handled by MCTV. Any issues with the internet in the following spaces will need to be reported to Residence Life.

Fairlawn
Helms Duplex
Henderson Apartments
Morris House

Cable

The College no longer provides cable. Cable or satellite cannot be purchased for the house or apartment.

Air Conditioning

No window air conditioning units are permitted to be installed in houses or apartments without prior approval from Residence Life. Residents who have a medical need that requires air conditioning must complete the accommodations process by the specified deadlines. This information can be obtained from the Learning Center.

Unauthorized Areas

Students are not permitted access to attics, basements (unless there is laundry or operable showers in the space), roofs, ledges, terraces, balconies, garages, or any other unsafe areas.

Housekeeping and Care

There is NO CUSTODIAL service. It is the resident’s responsibility to maintain their individual room and all shared areas. The College will provide garbage bags, trash cans, paper products, and cleaning supplies. Students can request these items by going to the Service Center located on Wayne Avenue behind Culbertson-Slater, Monday through Friday 8am-4pm. Each house should have a vacuum, mop bucket, mop handles and heads, broom and dust pan.
Meal Plans and Cooking

All students are required to purchase a meal plan.

Cooking is permitted in the house and apartment kitchens. Students must supply their own cooking supplies and utensils. Students need to practice safety procedures when using cooking appliances. Below are a few tips to keep safe and prevent setting off the fire alarms:

- Keep an eye on your cooking and stay in the kitchen whenever the stove is in use.
- If you have a vent fan, use it.
- Wear short or fitting sleeves. Loose clothing can catch fire.
- Clean cooking surfaces after each use to prevent food and grease build-up.
- Keep towels and potholders away from hot surfaces.
- Turn pan handles to the rear to prevent food spills by accidentally knocking a pot off the stove.
- Never pour water on a grease fire. Use baking soda or a fire extinguisher.

Pets

*Fish are the only pets permitted by students in college housing.* No other animals are permitted in residential spaces for any period of time unless specially approved by the Office of Residential Life. Unapproved pets may result in disciplinary action, fees and costs of assessment of cleaning, and possible pest control.

Storage

Students are not permitted to store items in the houses/apartments during the summer months. Any items left in College houses or apartments become the property of College. You can work with the Student Government Association to figure out storage of your items.

Keys and Lock-Outs

Keys

Duplication of any college key is prohibited, including keys for any house/apartment, in the event that you lose a key, please report it to Campus Access immediately for a lock change or replacement.

Lock-Outs

Safety and Security should be contacted for all lock-outs.
**Guest Policy**

The only individuals who may reside in college owned houses and apartments are those individuals whose names are on the housing agreement. A resident may have an overnight guest or visitor only if the presence of the guest or visitor does not inconvenience the other roommate(s). The same guest or visitor may not exceed a total of six nights per semester even if the nights are nonconsecutive. Hosts are responsible for their guests and visitors actions and must be with their guest or visitor for the duration of the visit. Any violations of this policy could possible hold all the residents of the house responsible. Please review the entire guest policy located in the Scot’s Key located [HERE](#). You are responsible for knowing and understanding the policies located in the Scot’s Key.

**HELP!!!**

**Tips for Living in Campus Houses and Apartments**

Living in a campus house or apartment with roommates can present different challenges than traditional housing. There are new experiences that arise when you transition from living in a residence hall to a house or apartment, such as dividing up chores. Discussing a plan early and choosing a system that you can all agree on will help prevent frustration later in the semester. The following tips are provided to help you navigate living in a house/apartment and help bring up some of the questions you should be discussing with your roommates.

**Shopping and Sharing**

When living with roommates, there are going to be certain goods that everyone will use and benefit from (i.e. paper towels, cleaning supplies, silverware, etc.). It is important to decide early who is going to buy what, and if everyone can share these necessary goods. Obviously, there could just be multiple sets of everything. There are also cheaper, and more efficient, ways of sharing. One method is to make each roommate responsible for a particular good or set of goods. For example:

- One roommate can purchase cups, plates and eating utensils
- Another can bring pots, pans and cooking utensils
- Another can bring a blender or food processor you might use.
- Another can bring the television and so forth.

Make sure that roommates are spending about the same amount of money, within their financial abilities, and are comfortable with the amount that they are willing to spend. All of the roommates will often share all of the supplies, so whenever something runs out, the roommate responsible for that good should replenish it. Whatever method you decide, be sure to be upfront about your feelings and stick to whatever decisions that you make as a group.
This conversation can also come up in the way of food. Some roommates like to share, some don’t. This is an important conversation to have as soon as possible. If you do like to share food – one rule that can be helpful is that if you finish the last of something that you didn’t buy (i.e., bag of chips, cereal, milk, etc.), you should inform the person that bought it and you should replace it with a new batch as soon as possible. Again, sharing can become a difficult situation, so tread lightly.

**Chore Completion**

The specific process you use to divide chores doesn’t matter as much as the agreement among all house/roommates. It will be important that everyone seems to be contributing equally to the maintenance of the space. It will be helpful to create a list of things that need to be completed on a weekly basis. The list may look like this:

- Trash and recycling: taking trash and appropriate recyclables to their specified locations within the time limits. This task also includes replacing garbage bags in empty cans.
- Cleaning the bathroom: weekly tasks include cleaning the toilet, bathtub or shower, and sweeping. The more often you clean these spaces the shorter amount of time it will take to clean them.
- Cleaning the kitchen: weekly tasks include sweeping, cleaning counters, refrigerator, and sink (excluding dishes, unless one person really wants to do all the dishes all the time).
- Vacuuming and sweeping common areas: including dining room, living room, hallway, and stairs.

The important part is to make sure that everyone is happy in their jobs to actually do them. Housecleaning is much easier when everyone helps out! You are doing chores, find ways to make it enjoyable. You’re going to be spending a lot of time doing cleaning and maintenance around the house over the course of the year, so you should have fun!

Once you have complied a list, you can decide how the tasks will be completed. It may be that you rotate responsibilities each week or that a task is assigned for the semester. You may also want to decide how the completion is tracked and what will happen if a task is not completed. Some people choose to have a chore-chart that is initialed when a task is complete, others may find that unnecessary. You will also want to address cleaning tasks that should be done by the individual, including:

- Washing dishes: how long can they stay in the sink?
- Personal belongings: can they be left in common areas? When is it time to remove that stuff?
- How clean do individuals’ bedrooms need to be?
Housecleaning Tips

Many of you will never have taken care of your own household before this year. Having a house or apartment is a very different experience than living in a residence hall.

Here are a few tips for cleaning your house quickly and thoroughly:

• Don’t let food sit around, it will attract bugs and grow mold
• Scrap food off dishes into garbage.
• Let dishes soak in hot soapy water while you clean up the rest of the kitchen after a meal. This will allow a lot of the leftover food to loosen up and come off the dishes more easily.
• For plastic curtains, clean with laundry pre-wash spray. Spray along the top, letting it run down to cover the curtain. Allow it to sit for a few minutes and then rinse it off.

In-House Standards for Guests and Visitors

At least one roommate is likely to want to invite someone over at some point; it’s natural to want to show off your new living space and spend time with people who aren’t living with you. However, having guests or visitors over can often bring conflict into a house. Here are a couple of questions you should discuss with your roommates before you bring people over:

1. Are guest welcome all the time?
   - It may save you conflict later if you and your housemates decide if guests and visitors are welcome to come over at any point during the day. Maybe in the morning some people would prefer if guest did not see them in their pajamas. At night, it might be good to have guests and visitors out by a certain time so that your housemates can get some sleep.

2. What if my housemates’ guest or visitor eats my food, or use my possessions without my permission?
   - You should have some guidelines about allowing your housemates to use your possessions and eat your food. If you have feelings about people from outside the house taking the same liberties, set boundaries before it becomes an issue.

3. What if a guest or visitor enters my bedroom when I’m not in the house?
   - Make sure your bedroom door is locked when you leave the house. This can be a potentially dangerous situation. Items could be stolen, “borrowed,” or broken. A good tip is to avoid going in someone else’s room regardless of what you agree upon as housemates. In the long run, it will save some headache.

4. Should guests or visitors be allowed to stay in the house if no one is home and the door is unlocked?
   - NO! The door to your apartment should always be locked unless someone is up and around. If your housemates are sleeping, keep them safe by the locking the
Keep in mind that planning ahead and being flexible are extremely valuable in these situations. Respecting your roommates’ right to privacy and a quiet bedroom may occasionally result in having to ask your guests to leave.

**Conflict Resolution**

Although residents living in houses and apartments should be familiar with sharing their living space, your new place is likely to present a greater number of occasions on which you will need to be aware of others’ different needs regarding their living space. Residents living in the same house may have different expectations around issues like the use of space, cleanliness, or amplified noise. If these things aren’t discussed at the beginning of the year things can escalate quickly.

It is always important to establish boundaries that are comfortable for everyone involved in a house or apartment early. Even when clear boundaries are set and agreements reached, there is still the potential for disagreement to occur.

In most instances we encourage residents to try to address whatever disagreements might exist with their housemates directly, being clear about what the problem may be and how they would like to resolve the issue. What is the problem? What interest do each party have in the matter? What sort of solution can satisfy the interest of all involved parties?

In as much as it is preferable that housemates resolve their conflicts together, sometimes issues arise which may seem too great to resolve within the house. In these instances, you can contact the Assistant Director of Residence Life, Robin Schreck, rschreck@wooster.edu and schedule a meeting to discuss the situation and how to move forward.