

Hamilton College First-Year Experience: Overview for RAs in First-Year Buildings

As a part of their programming and general student support responsibilities, RAs with first-year student advisees will also serve as First-Year Experience (FYE) Group Leaders. Responsibilities will include communication with and oversight of an assigned group of approximately 15-20 first-year students (some may also be your advisees, others may not). Specific responsibilities are outlined below.

FYE Group Leader Role and Responsibilities:

- Familiarize yourself with FYE programming, structure, and the FYE Competition
- Communicate information about the First-Year Experience to your FYE group members and within your residence hall. This includes hanging posters, sending emails, and answering questions. Minimally, you should send an initial email or meet with your group in person to let them know what the FYE is, which group they are in, and explain the Core Sessions and Competition.
- Encourage first-year students to attend FYE events and earn points in the FYE Competition!
- Attend and help to facilitate 4-5 FYE Core Sessions
 - Typically 1-2 Core Sessions will require attendance only.
 - Some sessions may be small group, meaning that you facilitate a conversation or activity around an outline provided by the FYE leaders and Coordinator of Orientation and First-Year Programs.
 - Some sessions will be large group (the primary activity facilitated by FYE staff), but will have a post-event small group component; usually a debrief conversation facilitated by FYE Group Leaders (RAs).
- Optional, but encouraged:
 - Create a name for your FYE group. This will help to differentiate FYE from other groups that first-years have been a part of (ie: Pre-O, Orientation), can be used to indicate your group on the regular FYE point updates, may help get your group excited about the competition, and is obviously more interesting than being called “FYE Group 27.”
 - Keep your group up to date on other FYE-Eligible events throughout the semester, and encourage them to check out the FYE online for more info and updates.

Sample schedule of Core Sessions:*

**This outline is intended for example purposes only. Changes will likely be made to both times and content between now and fall 2015, though it is not expected that the work required by RA FYE Group Leaders will increase from what is listed below. RAs in first year buildings will be given an updated schedule in late spring 2015.*

- **Academic Life Hacks:**
 - **Date/Time/Location:** Sunday, September 7th at 1pm in FYE Group Meeting Spaces
 - **Your Role:** Small group facilitation
 - **Format:**
 - 12:30pm – 12:45pm: Meet at Sadove Sun Porch to review session and facilitation plans, ask any last-minute questions you have about the session.
 - 1:00pm – 2:00pm: FYE Groups meet for small group sessions in their assigned spaces. An outline and links to video clips will be provided to guide the discussion. ***Facilitated by FYE Group Leaders (you)***

- **Diversity & Difference:**
 - **Date/Time/Location:** Sunday, September 14th at 1pm in Events Barn and FYE Group Meeting Spaces
 - **Your Role:** Attendance at large group session, facilitation in small group breakout discussions afterwards
 - **Format:**
 - 12:30pm – 1:00pm: Meet in the Events Barn to review session and small group facilitation plans.
 - 1:00pm – 2:00pm: Diversity & Difference Large Group Session: Panel of 6 students, who will share their personal experiences with identity and diversity at Hamilton College. In the Events Barn.
 - 2:00pm – 3:00pm: FYE Groups break off for small group discussions around topics of diversity and difference. ***Facilitated by FYE Group Leaders***

- **Study Habits and Time Management:**
 - **Date/Time/Location:** Sunday, September 21st at 1pm in FYE Group Meeting Spaces
 - **Your Role:** Small group facilitation
 - **Format:**
 - 1:00pm – 2:00pm: FYE Groups meet for small group sessions in their assigned spaces. An outline, facilitation guide, and necessary materials will be provided ahead of time. ***Facilitated by FYE Group Leaders***

- **Speak About It!** *****This session is mandatory for first-year students***
 - **Date/Time/Location:** Sunday, September 28th at 2pm in Wellin Auditorium and FYE Group Meeting Spaces
 - **Your Role:** Attendance at large group session, facilitation in small group breakout discussions afterwards
 - **Format:**
 - 11:30am – 1:00pm: Brunch and training with Speak About It! Facilitators, to prepare for post-session small group discussions.

- 2:00pm – 3:00pm: Large group session in Wellin Auditorium
 - 3:00pm – 4:00pm: FYE Groups meet for small group sessions in their assigned spaces. An outline, facilitation guide, and necessary materials will be provided ahead of time. ***Facilitated by FYE Group Leaders***
- **Wellness and Balance**
 - **Date/Time/Location:** Sunday, October 5th at 1pm in Romano Auditorium (Kennedy Arts Center)
 - **Your Role:** Attendance at large group session
 - **Format:**
 - 1:00pm – 2:30pm: Large group session in Romano Auditorium

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