

SMITH TRADITIONS

Campus Colors

According to the college archives, the college color is white--hence, the white dresses for Ivy Day and the Alumnae Parade. In the 1970s, the athletic teams began wearing blue and white for competition (blue uniforms were easier to clean). The logo uses the colors blue and gold in a modern look on white.

Convocation

Convocation takes place the night before the opening of classes in September. The faculty marches in wearing academic robes; there are a few short speeches by the President of the College and SGA, music by the Smith College Glee Club, and lots of cheering. It is a loud and raucous beginning for the year. Adas usually sit together in front, stage right.

Mountain Day

Mountain Day is a surprise college holiday during the fall semester. Smith's president chooses a beautiful fall day at random, and announces that classes are cancelled by ringing the college bells; all are encouraged to enjoy the outdoors. The college provides picnic lunches for students living on campus. Adas usually create a phone tree system to notify each other, especially those living off-campus or commuting.

Otelia Cromwell Day

Every November, Otelia Cromwell Day honors Smith's first known African-American graduate with an annual day of workshops, lectures, films, and entertainment. Afternoon and evening classes are cancelled, so students can attend the events. The symposium continues the college's efforts to create a diverse and multicultural community.

Rally Day

Rally Day is a college holiday held in February, celebrating the Smith community. The college President awards 'Smith College Medals' to distinguished alumnae and a prominent speaker addresses the student body. Rally Day is also the first day seniors may wear their commencement robes. Instead of mortarboards, the seniors wear colorful, fun hats of their own--the more outlandish, the better! The day is capped by an evening show of comic skits portraying life at Smith, performed by students from each class. The Adas organize and perform a skit, usually led by the Rally Day Chairs.

Ivy Day

One of the special events on the Saturday of Commencement Weekend brings together seniors and alumni to celebrate the students' transformation into alumnae. The day begins with the alumnae march, from the oldest to the youngest classes, through two lines of seniors wearing white dresses and holding roses. After the march, junior ushers, carrying a laurel chain, symbolizing the college ivy, lead the seniors into the Quad where the graduating class plants ivy sprigs at the base of a campus building. Prizes and awards are announced by chief administrators.