

Tips for a successful House/House Fellow Relationship:

- Designate a House Fellow Liaison to be the primary contact person from the house to the House Fellow. This should be a person who is comfortable communicating and keeping up contact with the House Fellow
- When your House Fellow comes to visit you should plan to meet them at the door (remember, your entrance is locked and they do not have access to get in), introduce them to students you see and plan to stay with them during their visit
- Consider a routine connection (e.g. tea on the last Friday of each month.)
- Have them invite their family to join them at house events or meals (kids and friends can be a fun distraction from every day life in the houses.)
- Share a list of your house residents and some of their likes/dislikes with your House Fellow (maybe a list of favorite candies will get your house a basket of candy at Halloween.)
- Share a description of your House culture with your House Fellow.
- Invite your House Fellow to house events (they won't likely come to all of them, but it will help them feel more connected.)
- Learn about your House Fellows hobbies and special talents (can they teach you to use Facebook, cook a gourmet meal, help you balance your check book?)

Who can I ask for help?

The Dean's Office and Dining Services will work with you to find meaningful ways for your house to socialize with your House Fellows. We would love to hear your ideas, so please get in touch with us if you have suggestions.

Julianne Ohotnicky, Dean of Students, ext. 4940
Kathy Zieja, Dining Services, ext. 2300



A Student Guide to the Smith College House Fellows Program

What is the House Fellows Program?

House Fellows are faculty or staff who you invite to be associated with your house, providing a wider range of contacts among students, faculty and staff. House Fellows can be involved with the house in a number of ways and it affords students the opportunity to be actively involved with members of the Smith community beyond their academic endeavors.

Suggestions for how your House Fellow might be involved:

- Houses can reserve one or two tables in a dining room to eat in a group with your house fellow – contact a Dining Manager, ext. 2300
- Dining Services will provide cheese and crackers in the house living room for a pre-dinner social with your House Fellow one or two times a year at no cost – contact a Dining Manager, ext. 2300
- Dining Services will provide a “take away” dessert if you and your House Fellow wish to return to your House for an evening event, discussion etc. one or two times a year at no cost– contact a Dining Manager, ext. 2300
- You can book one of the special dining rooms at Chase/Duckett if your house wishes to dine as a group with your House Fellow – contact Kathy San Antonio for more information – ext. 2162. (Room A/B holds 40; Room C holds 30)
- Attending house teas
- Hosting a study break
- Ordering pizza or other take-out for an in-house meal
- Showing films and having follow-up discussion
- Attending or participating in extra-curricular sports, student musicals, lectures, poetry readings or theatrical production
- Organizing day trips (hiking, museum, etc.)
- Apple picking or other seasonal activities
- Organizing “Game Night”
- Planning and participating in a community service and/or sustainability project

These are just examples and House Fellows may have other ideas. Once you have selected your House Fellow(s), post the information on a House bulletin board; continue to post activities or events that your House Fellow will participate in with your house.

Who should we ask to be our House Fellow? How should we ask someone to be our House Fellow?

You can ask and Smith College faculty or staff member to be your House Fellow for the year. You might begin by inviting a few different people to tea so that they might get to know you, and you them. You should ask your House Fellow in person so they can see your sincerity and true excitement for them becoming involved in your house. You should also discuss your expectations when you ask them to be your House Fellow (e.g. meals, teas, study breaks, presentations, and/or field trips.) You can share with them the ***Guide for House Fellows***. Also note that there is a small budget through the Dean of Students Office that House Fellows may access to support their participation in house events.

Once you have identified your House Fellow for the year please forward their name and contact information to Dean Ohotnicky (johotnic@smith.edu) so that she may forward them pertinent information regarding House Fellow participation.