



April 2026

Happy April, Yellowjackets!

We are in the home stretch, and there is a clear sense of energy across campus. Spring is when student organizations are at their best—bringing people together through performances, highlights, celebrations, and end-of-year events. It's great to see the level of engagement and creativity across campus.

There are several exciting events ahead, including [Springfest 2026](#) and [Dandelion Day](#), as well as a wide range of senior send-offs, banquets, and cultural programs throughout April. These moments are a strong way to close out the year, celebrate your work, and recognize the impact your organization has made.

As you move through this final stretch, take time to review leadership transition resources and begin preparing your next officers for success. A smooth transition sets your organization up well for the fall. If you need resources, the best place to start is our [Leadership Transition webpage](#). This page will provide you with a lot of helpful information to make your transition as smooth as possible! But if you need more support, be sure to reach out to your advisor!

A quick reminder: **Friday, May 1, 2026, is the final day to host student organization activities.** Be sure your plans are in place and approved ahead of that deadline.

Good luck as you wrap up your events and prepare for your finals. Take care of yourself and each other during this busy time, and make the most of the final weeks of the semester.

Take care,

Eric M. Pope, Ed.D.
Manager of Student Programs

What's Inside:

1. [Save-the-Dates](#)
 2. [Awards, Recognitions, and Highlights](#)
 3. [Welcome Week Volunteer Sign-Up Deadline Extended](#)
 4. [Dine Around the World: Danforth Dining Takeover](#)
 5. [SOFO Updates & Reminders](#)
 6. [Last Chance: Perform or Host an Event during Fall Welcome Week](#)
 7. [Does Your Organization Need to Fundraise?](#)
 8. [Reservation Requests for Study Breaks are Now Open!](#)
 9. [Reservation Assistant Job Opportunity](#)
 10. [Student Org Storage / Space Reminder](#)
 11. [Join the Meliora Weekend 2026 Volunteer Team!](#)
 12. [URochester Connects Continues this June!](#)
 13. [Get Involved in Meliora Weekend](#)
 14. [CASC 358: The Leadership Experience](#)
 15. [Multi-Institutional Study of Leadership Survey](#)
 16. [Medallion Program Workshops](#)
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Save-the-Dates

Budget Appeal Deadline (SAAC/SOFO)

Wednesday, April 1st @ 10 a.m.

Last Day to Submit 30-Day Reservation

April 1st

ECM Blackout Dates

Friday, April 3rd - Sunday, April 5th

Saturday, April 11th

Saturday, April 18th

Friday, April 24th

Budget Appeal Hearing (SAAC/SOFO)

Tuesday, April 7th

Fall Welcome Week Proposal Form

Due April 15th

Meliora Weekend Applications

Due April 15th

Springfest Weekend

Thursday, April 23rd - Sunday, April 26th

Dandelion Day

April 24th

SOFO Office Closing Early

Closing @ 12 p.m., Friday, April 24th

Last Day to Transact (SAAC/SOFO)

Friday, May 1st

Last Day to Host Student Organization Activities

May 1st

Advance Reservation Template Closes

May 4th @ 8 am

Fall Leadership Training

August 30th

Meliora Weekend

October 1st - 4th

Awards, Recognition, and Highlights

On March 29th, **Club Tennis** became finalists in the Silver Bracket at Georgetown's Duel in the District Tournament, competing against D1 schools. Congratulation to the team!



Welcome Week Volunteer sign-up deadline extended to April 3rd

There's still time to sign up to help welcome new students to the River Campus! The Office of Orientation and New Student Programs is still accepting applications to help staff and set up events throughout Welcome Week through **tomorrow, April 3 at 5 p.m.** This role is crucial to creating a fun, welcoming atmosphere for our newest Yellowjackets. **Volunteer perks include a free Welcome Week t-shirt, comprehensive training, limited complimentary meals, and early move-in.** Learn more on the [Orientation and New Student Programs website](#) and [apply for the position](#).

Dine Around the World: Danforth Dining Takeover!

On April 9th, in collaboration with Dining Services, the Paul J. Burgett Intercultural Center is bringing our signature [Dine Around the World: Danforth Dining Takeover!](#) During Danforth's lunch service, stations will be serving street food-inspired meals chosen by student organizations.

All undergraduate and graduate students are welcome to join us for lunch. Enjoy eating and learning about foods from around the world!

If you have a reduced meal plan or no meal plan and would like a meal voucher for lunch this day, please RSVP and indicate that you would like a meal voucher below. RSVP'ing does not guarantee a meal voucher for lunch as they are limited and on a first-come, first-served basis.

Students who indicate they would like a meal voucher will be contacted by our staff with instructions on how to pick them up before the day of the event and will need to provide the voucher upon entry to Danforth, otherwise you will be responsible for the cost of entry. An RSVP is not required to attend this event.

SOFO Updates and Reminders

Shops @ WilCo Reservation Availability

The **Shops @ WilCo** will be **closed starting Monday, April 6th**, through the end of the semester for groups who receive a budget from SAAC. This status provides the time for the organization's funds to be processed and spent by the last day to transact (May 1st).

Dandelion Day - Limited Hours

The **SOFO Office** in Ruth Merrill will be **closed at 12 p.m. on Friday, April 24th**. If your student organization is traveling that weekend and needs to pick up a gas or credit card, *please be sure to come before noon*.

Last Chance: Perform or Host an Event during Fall Welcome Week

Don't miss out on the chance to welcome new students to campus this August! Fall 2026 Welcome Week program proposals and performance interest forms are **due Wednesday, April 15 by 11:59 p.m.** Plan and host a program or activity for new students or perform at select events throughout the week with your student organization. Learn more on the [Orientation and New Student Programs website](#). Questions? Contact orientation@rochester.edu.

Does Your Organization Need to Fundraise?

Looking to raise some extra funds for your organization? Why not try Crowdfunding! It's a simple and easy process that allows you to fundraise on a broader scale and connect with your own personal network. If interested, please meet with your advisor to start the process!

Reservation Requests for Study Breaks are Now Open!

With limited exceptions, student organizations are not permitted to reserve space during times when classes are not in session. One of these exceptions are Study Breaks! Organizations that are categorized as **Academic/Professional or Programming** (e.g., Class Councils) can request space to host Study Breaks during the time between the last day of classes and the start of finals (also known as reading period). Study Breaks are not eligible to receive any services. Requests for Study Breaks can be submitted through the Study Breaks CCC Form.

Organizations that are not categorized as Academic/Professional or Programming should consult their advisor before submitting a Study Break request.

Reservation Assistant Job Opportunity

Are you your organization's VEMS contact? Are you interested in helping events on campus be successful? Consider applying to become a Reservation Assistant! Reservation Assistants process student organization reservation requests, review activity registrations, help e-board members with reservation questions, and more! Interested students should **apply on JobLink**.

Student Org Storage / Space Reminder

As we approach the end of the semester, this is a reminder that student organizations are not allowed to store personal belongings in their assigned storage or space. If any personal items are discovered in storage rooms or space allocated to your organization, they will be disposed of. If

you are storing any items for your club in your room or at an off-campus location, please fill out a [Storage Space](#) request form so we can get your items moved into an official on-campus space.

Before leaving for summer, **make sure your organization has cleaned and organized any assigned storage or space.** Areas that are left in unsatisfactory condition will be cleaned out over the summer and items will be disposed of. Spaces that are found to have not items in them will be unassigned from the organization.

Join the Meliora Weekend 2026 Student Volunteer Team!

It might seem far away, but Meliora Weekend 2026 (October 1-4) is one of the biggest and most high-energy weekends of the year, and we're building our volunteer team now! We're looking for students to assist with events on River Campus throughout the weekend.

Volunteers enjoy perks such as an exclusive T-shirt, food truck credits, access to staff space, and opportunities to win tickets to major events.

Find the full volunteer description and sign-up details [here](#).

Curious about how your student organization can participate — and potentially receive funding support? Check out our [Student Organization Involvement Guide](#) for details.

Questions? Contact Melissa Waughtel, Associate Director of Student Engagement, at melissa.waughtel@rochester.edu.

URochester Connects Continues this June!

Thank you to everyone who joined us for URochester Connects in March; it was an incredible evening of connection, conversation, and community. With a strong turnout of students, alumni, and industry leaders, the event created meaningful opportunities to build relationships and explore career paths across industries.

URochester Connects is continuing this June with additional events across the country! URochester Connects brings together alumni, current students, and industry professionals for an evening of engaging networking and career exploration. Attendees can expand their professional circles, gain valuable insights, and form connections that extend well beyond the event itself. Local industry experts will be on site to share their experiences, answer questions, and support your career journey.

If you weren't able to attend in March, or want to keep the momentum going, be sure to explore upcoming dates and locations this June.

Register now to secure your spot and continue building your Rochester network! <https://www.rochester.edu/alumni/rochester-connects/>

Questions? Contact hannah.ramsey@rochester.edu



Get Involved in Meliora Weekend Applications due April 15th! 🎉

Student organizations, this is your moment ✨ Apply to participate in Meliora Weekend (October 1-4, 2026) by April 15.

👋 Volunteer with Your Organization: Want to be part of the action but not sure how? Sign up to volunteer as a team and make an impact together!

🎤 Perform in the Meliora Village: Got talent? Take the stage and wow the crowd with your group's performance!

🏆 Compete in the Golf Cart Spirit Contest: Show off your Yellowjacket pride by decorating a golf cart for a chance to win funds for your organization. Attendees will vote for their favorite, and the top 3 orgs will win up to \$500!

🇺🇸 Host a table at the Student Organization

Reunion Fair: Reconnect with alumni over great food, drinks, and conversation. We provide the setup; you bring the energy!

🎂 Milestone Anniversary Event: Celebrating a milestone? Unsure? [Check here](#). Host an event to celebrate your organization's past, present, & future!

📅 How to Apply: Check out our [involvement guide](#) and submit your [Meliora Weekend 2026 Student Organization Involvement Application](#) by April 15.

Questions? Contact Kelsey Michener, associate director of student experience affinity programs, at kelsey.michener@rochester.edu.

Let's make this Meliora Weekend unforgettable! 🚀💖

CASC 358: The Leadership Experience

CASC 358: The Leadership Experience is a 2-credit course offered on Wednesdays from 2 - 3:15 p.m. during the Fall semester for students who hold a student organization officer position or are on a varsity athletic team. This course allows student leaders to work through their organizational goals by utilizing leadership theories, styles, and the resources of peers. The course will also broaden ones understanding of leadership practices and connect the work with their own leadership experience.

To register for The Leadership Experience course, complete this [interest form](#) to receive approval to request to join on UR Student. For more information, please contact [Brian Magee](#), Assistant

Dean of Students.

This course meets the requirements for the Medallion Program.

Multi-Institutional Study of Leadership Survey

4,000 students at the University of Rochester received an email from mssl@expandingleadership.org requesting participation in the Multi-Institutional Study of Leadership. **Please check your email to see if you received the survey and complete by April 8th.** This study will 1) inform the direction of leadership programming for the next four years and 2) show us how URochester students compare to other institutions in their leadership development.

Medallion Program Workshops

The [Medallion Program](#) is designed to assist student organization officers with developing leadership skills to help your group thrive. If your organization has an event which could count towards the Medallion Program, or would like to co-host one of our workshops, email Medallion@rochester.edu for more information. Organizations can earn extra points towards Student Organization Annual Review (SOAR) for 2026.

If you are not yet enrolled in the Medallion Program, complete the [Enrollment Form](#) and follow us on Instagram @medallionprogram!

Workshop	Date	Start Time	Domain
Public Speaking Workshop	4/1/2026	7:00 PM	Practical Competence
Calming U Classes with Debra	4/3, 4/10, 4/17, 4/24	11:00 AM	Knowledge Acquisition, Practical Competence, and Intrapersonal Development
Understanding Leadership	4/4/2026	3:00 PM	Level 1 Opener
Calming U Classes with Sean	4/6, 4/13, 4/20, 4/27	7:00 PM	Knowledge Acquisition, Practical Competence, and Intrapersonal Development
Interfaith Literacy for 21st Century Leadership	4/7/2026	5:00 PM	Civic Engagement
Slam Dunk Success with Alumni Charlie Norris '68	4/7/2026	6:30 PM	Cognitive Complexity & Interpersonal Competence
Healing from Within Series	4/9/2026	6:30pm	Knowledge Acquisition, Practical Competence, and Intrapersonal Development
The Practices of Leadership	4/11/2026	3:00 PM	Level 2 Opener

10 Lessons Learned Along the Way with Trustee Barbara J. Burger	4/14/2026	4:00 PM	Knowledge Acquisition & Interpersonal Competence
Me Before We: Navigating Identity and Independence in Relationships	4/17/2026	11:00 AM	Interpersonal Competence
The Practices of Leadership	4/18/2026	3:00 PM	Level 2 Opener
Relax and Renew Retreat	4/18/2026	9:00 AM	Practical Competence & Intrapersonal Development
Membership Retention	4/20/2026	7:00 PM	Interpersonal Competence
UR: Bee the Future	4/21/2026	5:00 PM	Knowledge Acquisition

This publication is brought to you by Student Activities: The Student Organization Insider is Student Activities' monthly e-newsletter for student organization executive boards and advisors. The Student Organization Insider (SOI) is intended to keep student leaders informed on opportunities and updates from their areas of advisement: Students' Association, Athletics, the Interfaith Chapel, Fraternity and Sorority Life, Residential Life, Center for Community Engagement, the Hajim School, and Student Activities. The SOI will not focus on information available to students through the Weekend Highlights, and it will not be used to advertise student organization events. Instead, this newsletter is a unique and specialized publication with information and opportunities that are relevant to you as student leaders.

Student Activities
University of Rochester

Email sent by Student Activities <studentactivities@rochester.edu> to kmill88@ur.rochester.edu

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