



January 2026

Welcome back, Yellowjackets!

Happy 2026! I hope you had a chance to recharge over the break and are coming into the new semester feeling refreshed. We're excited to see your organizations back in action—planning events, welcoming new members, and contributing to a stronger, more connected campus community. Every semester brings new possibilities, and your leadership is a key part of what makes those possibilities real.

In exciting news, there have been some recent changes to Wilson Commons Student Activities (WCSA). WCSA is evolving within University Student Life and will be transitioning into two focused departments: **Student Activities** and **Student Centers & Services**. This structural change positions us to better meet the needs of our students and strengthen the overall campus experience. Ken Beck will be leading Student Centers & Services, and I will be leading Student Activities. We are both very excited about the opportunities ahead for each of our departments.

While the division of responsibilities will unfold over the coming months, one thing will not change — our commitment to delivering consistent, high-quality support to students. Your student experience remains the priority, and our services will continue without interruption throughout this transition.

Since this is the first Student Organization Insider of the semester, it will be a bit longer than usual. Please be sure to read through all of the reminders, updates, deadlines, and opportunities.

The Student Activities team is here to support you every step of the way. Whether you need

guidance on event planning, help navigating policies, assistance with funding, or just someone to troubleshoot an idea with, our staff is ready to help you and your organization succeed. Don't hesitate to reach out early and often.

Here's to a semester filled with creativity, collaboration, and meaningful moments

- Eric M. Pope, Ed.D.

Student Activities

What's Inside:

1. [Save-the-Dates](#)
2. [Activity Registration Reminders](#)
3. [Mid-Year Leadership Training](#)
4. [AlertUR Test](#)
5. [Winter Activities Fair](#)
6. [Leadership Appreciation Reception](#)
7. [Community Kitchen Training](#)
8. [Apply to Co-Host a Late Night Event](#)
9. [Submit Your Travel Waiver Today!](#)
10. [Reservation Assistants are Here to Help!](#)
11. [Recruitment is Open for the Student Alumni Ambassador Program](#)
12. [Learn about Alumni Mentorship from Upperclassmen](#)
13. [Get Connected \(with your orgs alumni\) this spring!](#)
14. [Tea & Talk with Dean Algier](#)
15. [Orientation Leader Applications due February 8](#)
16. [Yellowjacket Experience Days](#)
17. [Medallion Program Workshops](#)
18. [ARC Analysts are Needed](#)

Save-the-Dates

First Day to Transact (SAAC)

Tuesday, January 20th

First Supplemental (SAAC)

Tuesday, January 20th

Mid-Year Leadership Training

Sunday, January 25th from 1 - 5pm

Winterfest Weekend

Friday, January 30th - Sunday, February 1st

Winter Activities Fair

Registration Deadline: Wednesday, January 28th @ 11:59 pm

Event Date: Friday, January 30th @ 1 - 3 pm

Tea & Talk with Dean Algier

Friday, January 30th @ 3:30 - 4:30 pm

Nominations for Student Life Awards

Sunday, February 1st @ 11:55 pm

Budget Training (SAAC)

Tuesday, February 3rd

Leadership Appreciation Reception

Friday, February 13th from 3 - 5pm

ECM Blackout Dates

Friday, February 13th - Saturday, February 14th

Saturday, March 21st

Friday, March 27th - Sunday, March 29th

Friday, April 3rd - Sunday, April 5th

Saturday, April 11th

Saturday, April 18th

Friday, April 24th

Last Day to submit for Supplemental

Friday, February 27th

Last Supplemental (SAAC)

Tuesday, March 3rd

Last Day to Transact (SAAC)

Friday, May 1st

Activity Registration Reminders + Updates

There has been one change to the event registration policy for this academic year. Beginning in Spring 2026, **all activities that include URochester departmental co-sponsorship or sponsorship with a community entity** are required to be registered on the **14-Day Activity Registration Timeline**. All **activities with non-URochester guest speakers** must also be registered on the **14-Day Activity Registration Timeline**. This includes speakers at general member meetings. Those meetings must be registered as separate activities.

At this time, Event and Classroom Management (ECM) has provided the following dates as "blackout dates" and will not be able to support any additional activities for the dates listed below. If your organization already has a confirmed reservation on any of the dates listed, ECM is expecting to support your activity.

- February 13-14, 2026

- March 21, 2026
- March 27-29, 2026
- April 3-5, 2026
- April 11, 2026
- April 18, 2026
- April 24, 2026

As a reminder, student organizations must stick to strict timelines in order to ensure the success of their activities. Failure to follow activity registration timelines will result in event denial by the organization's advisor.

Any activity that meets the following registration criteria must follow the **30-Day Activity Registration Timeline**:

- Any on-campus activity where attendance will exceed 100 people.
- Any on-campus activity that requires significant University resources (e.g., services supplied by Facilities, Public Safety). This includes activities that will be held in the following spaces: Upper Strong, Lower Strong, Spurrier Dance Studio, Douglass Commons, Wilson Commons Hirst Lounge, Wilson Commons May Room, the Palestra, and the Field House.
- Any on-campus or off-campus event where alcohol is being served.
- Any activity using the university ticket system.

Any activity that meets the following registration criteria must follow the **14-Day Activity Registration Timeline**:

- Event with non-URochester guest speaker, URochester departmental co-sponsorship, or sponsorship with a community entity.
- Food (approved caterers, temporary food permits, perishable food items). This excludes pizza and pre-packaged foods.
- Additional AV/Furniture needs beyond self-service options.
- Funding, but excludes funding for pizza and pre-packaged foods or General Interest Meeting funds.
- Any additional services.

The only activities that can follow the **4-Day Activity Registration Timeline** are:

- Hirst Info Tables
- Member/Chapter Meeting (No Services)
- General Interest Meetings

Should you have activity specific registration questions, please work with your advisor.

Mid-Year Leadership Training

Mid-Year Leadership Training (MYLT) for student organization officers is **Sunday, January 25th 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.**, starting in the Feldman Ballroom. This training is required for new student organizations and any new officers as of September 2025. Registration links to the sessions can be found on the [Mid-Year Leadership Training website](#).

UPCOMING

AlertUR Test

You will receive a test message
**Thursday, January 29,
at 6 p.m.**



AlertUR sends you a message when a campus emergency occurs.

Learn more or update your contact information at rochester.edu/alertur.

Winter Activities Fair

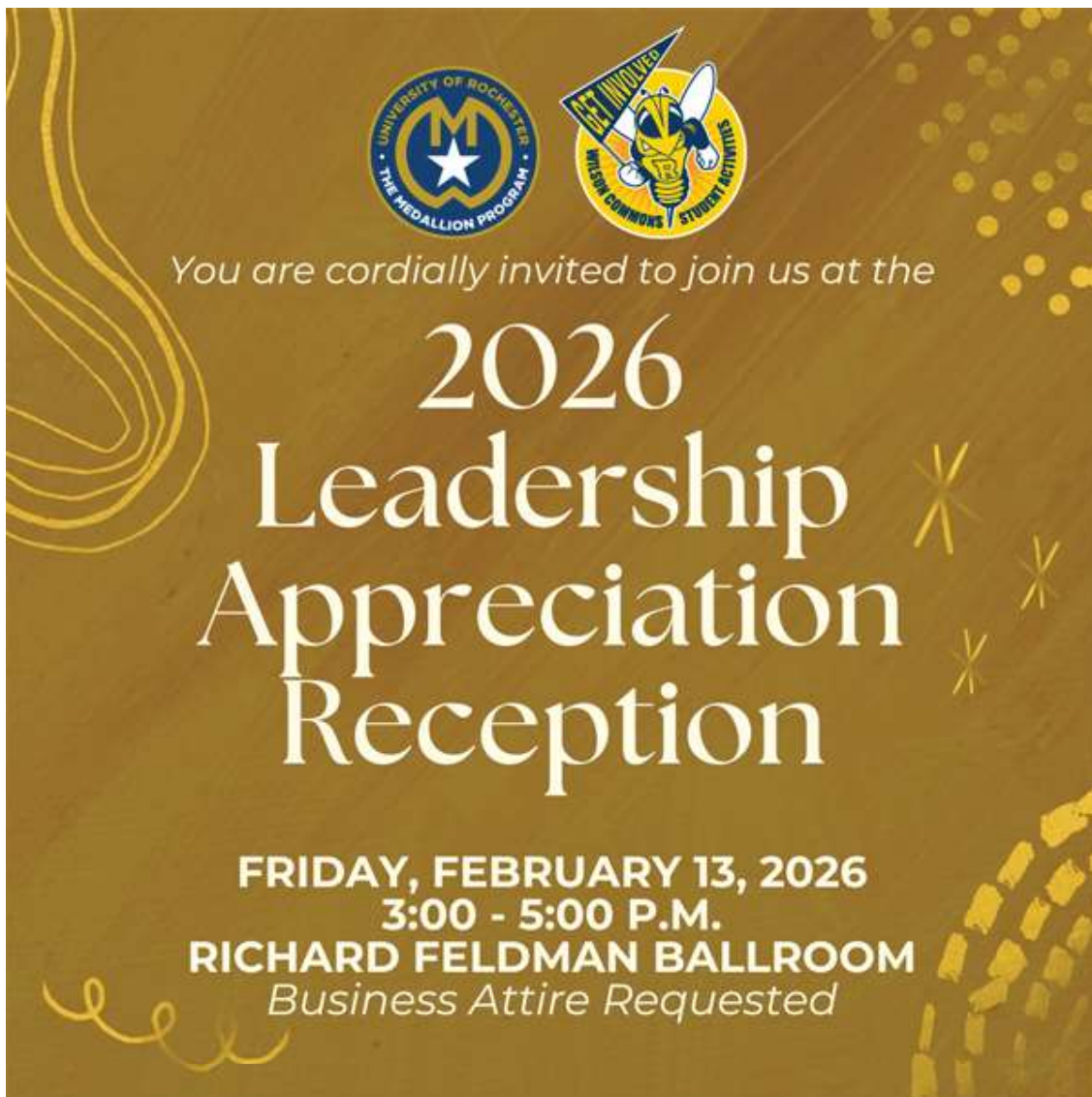
Join us at the Winter Activities Fair on **Friday, January 30th, 2026 from 1-3 p.m.**, hosted in Zornow Courts located in the Goergen Athletic Center! **To confirm your attendance and to earn bonus points for SOAR, please complete this [form](#) by 11:59 p.m. Wednesday, January 28th, 2026.** We ask that you coordinate with your executive board so that only one form is submitted per organization.

Quick Details:

- Set-up begins at 12:15 p.m. Student orgs are welcome to arrive by 12:30 pm.
- Each organization will be provided one half of an 8-foot table, 2 chairs, and a 8.5" x 11" organization name sign.
- Requests for additional table space will not be granted.
- Organizations with printing needs should expect longer processing times at the Campus Information Center. Please plan ahead.
- Registering for the Activities Fair is an evaluated area of the Student Organization Annual Review (SOAR). Don't miss out on easy points by not participating in this amazing event!

Shout out to the orgs who have already registered early! Thank you in advance team.

Leadership Appreciation Reception



The annual [Leadership Appreciation Reception](#) to celebrate the work of our incredible student leaders will be held on **Friday, February 13th**, from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. in the Feldman Ballroom! All student organization leaders, Fraternity & Sorority Life, and students enrolled in the Medallion Leadership Program are invited and encouraged to come and celebrate the winners of several student organization awards, such as the Outstanding New Student Organization award, Outstanding President award, Outstanding Business Manager award, and more! We look forward to celebrating all your hard work and accomplishments this past year and hope to see you there!

Community Kitchen Training

Building community through food is one of the best ways to connect with others and their cultures. The Community Kitchen is the perfect place to build those connections. It's a fully equipped kitchen for groups looking to make a large meal and build community through food! [Sign up](#) for a training session to become an approved kitchen user.

Apply to Co-Host a Late Night Event

Student organizations are invited to apply to co-host a UR Late Night Event! This is a fantastic opportunity to bring your group's energy, creativity, and unique spirit to a fun, campus-wide event that fosters community engagement and late-night excitement. Have an idea for a new event or want to help with an event the URLN team has already planned? Both are options! Fill out this [form](#) to apply!

Submit Your Travel Waiver Today!

Undergraduate students in the School of Arts & Sciences and the Hajim School of Engineering & Applied Sciences must have a completed and approved [Individual Travel Waiver](#) to participate in student organization activities more than 50 miles off-campus. Eastman School of Music students who participate in these events with students from River Campus must also complete a waiver. Waivers must be submitted each academic year. If you submitted and received an approved waiver in the Fall Semester you do not need to submit again for the Spring.

Reservation Assistants are Here to Help!

Have questions about your reservation? Need support in navigating the Virtual EMS system? Stop by the Campus Information Center after January 20th to talk to a Reservation Assistant when they are in!

CIC Reservation Assistant Hours Spring 2026

Sunday: 1 – 5 p.m.

Monday: 3:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday: 6 – 9 p.m.

Wednesday: 5 – 7 p.m.

Thursday: 3:30 -7:30 p.m.

Friday: 3 – 5 p.m.

Recruitment is open for the Student Alumni Ambassador Program

Student Alumni Ambassadors (SAAs) are a select group of volunteers, comprised of undergraduate student leaders who serve as the student voice to the University's alumni community. SAAs represent current student culture and share their Rochester experience while helping shape how students and alumni connect, now and in the future.

This is a flexible, high-impact leadership role for students to represent Rochester, expand their network, and gain valuable personal and professional skills and experience.

SAAs are students who are:

- Positive, responsible, and enthusiastic;
- Strong communicators who enjoy meeting new people;
- Engaged in campus life and familiar with University initiatives and mission.

Learn more and **apply by midnight on Monday, February 9th** on the [SAA website](#) and follow [@urochester.saa](#) on Instagram. Join our **info session on Thursday, January 22, at 6 p.m. in the Gowen Room** to meet current ambassadors and learn about the program.

Questions? Contact Karen.Carhart@rochester.edu.

Please note: applicants must be enrolled during the 2026–2027 academic year; students studying abroad this spring are welcome to apply.

Learn about Alumni Mentorship from Upperclassmen

Join the fast-paced **Meliora Collective Networking Sprint on January 28** to meet upperclassmen who actively use the platform and learn how alumni mentoring can support your goals. Turn networking from a concept into a reality by hearing directly from students who have made it work. Hosted by the Student Association, in partnership with the Greene Center and Alumni Relations.

Mentorship applications open at the end of January, and the Networking Sprint is the perfect way to explore whether the program is right for you!

👉 **Learn about mentorship by attending the Networking Sprint:** January 28 at 6 pm in Wilson Commons. [RSVP](#).

👉 **Apply for The Meliora Collective Mentorship Program:** Application is open January 25 through February 8. [Apply](#) now.

Get Connected (with your orgs alumni) this spring!

Looking to strengthen your student organization by engaging alumni? The [Get Connected Program](#) helps student groups build meaningful alumni relationships in the following ways:

1. Alumni Newsletters ★

Create and send an alumni newsletter using our template—and we'll handle distribution. Share semester highlights, member spotlights, donation links, and more. Alumni LOVE these newsletters—our average click-through rate is nearly 3x higher than general University communications.

Submission window: January 1 – March 20 (CCC forms submitted outside this period will not be accepted).

2. Alumni Event Invitations 🎉

Invite your alumni to an event and receive reimbursement for each alum who attends through the Get Connected Alumni Involvement Fund.

Submission window: January 1 – April 15 (CCC forms submitted outside this period will not be accepted).

3. Crowdfunding Campaigns 🍀

Raise funds for a special project or initiative using the University's no-fee crowdfunding platform and keep 100% of the funds raised.

Ready to Get Connected? Talk with your Student Activities Advisor and complete the [Alumni Involvement, Crowdfunding, & Donation Receipts Request form](#) through the CCC. Want to learn more? Check out the [Get Connected Packet](#).

Tea & Talk with Dean Algier



Tea and Talk with Dean Algier

Stop by the Faculty Club in Douglass Commons (across from Douglass Dining Center) on Friday, January 30th 3:30 – 4:30 p.m., to relax and enjoy a laid-back afternoon of great conversation, tasty treats, and delicious tea with Dean Algier. This is your chance to connect with the Dean, ask questions, share ideas, or just enjoy a casual cup of tea. We hope to see you and your organization's members!

Orientation Leader Applications due February 8

Hone your leadership skills and mentor new students next year as an [Orientation Leader](#)! The Office of Orientation and New Student Programs is accepting applications for this important leadership role through Sunday, February 8 at 5 p.m. Already have summer plans? You can still help welcome new students and families to campus next fall as a [Welcome Week Leader](#) or [Welcome Week Volunteer](#). Time commitments and specific responsibilities vary by position, so be sure to [review the website](#) for full details on each role. You can also register for an [upcoming virtual information session](#) to learn more.

Yellowjacket Experience Days

This spring, the Office of Undergraduate Admissions will once again be hosting four on-campus Yellowjacket Experience Days - **Saturday, March 28th, Friday, April 3rd, Saturday, April 11th, and Saturday, April 18th**. We invite any student organization to be part of the Student Expo. The Expo is designed to give newly admitted students an opportunity to connect with the University of Rochester student organizations to learn more!

If you are interested in participating, please fill out the Google Form linked here: [Student Expo Interest Form](#). If you are not able to participate in our Student Expo but are interested in collaborating on future admissions projects – please feel free to fill out the form and include information for your best point of contact so we can keep you in the loop with future opportunities. If you have any questions about the Student Expo event, please contact [Pat Trivison](#) or [Caroline Honsberger](#).

We look forward to having you join us in welcoming our future Yellowjackets to campus!

ARC Analysts are Needed

An ARC Analyst plays a key role in fostering the success of student organizations by offering support and guidance on navigating student organization policies. In this role, you'll have the opportunity to update student organization constitutions, engage in the Student Organization Annual Review (SOAR), and actively provide outreach and advice to enhance student groups. Candidates need to be available to attend weekly ARC meetings on Wednesdays from 8:00-10:00 PM during the Spring semester.

Apply [here](#).

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	Time	Domain
Toward a More Perfect Union: Social Responsibility & Justice	1/26/26	5 pm	Civic Engagement
Commitment: What Keeps You Motivated	1/27/26	6 pm	Intrapersonal Development

This publication is brought to you by USL 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 USL 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.

Wilson Commons Student Activities

University of Rochester

Email sent by Wilson Commons Student Activities <wcsa@rochester.edu> to kmill88@ur.rochester.edu

[Unsubscribe](#)
