Fort Hays State University Newsletter for Incoming Students

The school year is quickly approaching and there are many questions an incoming student may have like yourself. Over the next few weeks Residential Life Staff will provide Newsletters to help answer those questions and give you tips for your experience at Fort Hays State University. By the time you arrive on campus you will feel more prepared and ready to start a journey that will be remembered for a life time. As you read further into this issue just know that Fort Hays State University is ready to do whatever it takes to make you feel welcomed and prepare you for success!

Topics for this issue:

• 4 Things to be excited about in college!
• Things to do around Hays Kansas!

4 Things to be excited about in College!

School Spirit- Nothing compares to the pride you’ll start feeling to be a Tiger. Not only did you choose to be a Tiger, but now you will have a chance to embrace it. School spirit is ultimately something you choose when you signed up to be a Fort Hays State University Tiger. You will find a ton of other people once you arrive who love Fort Hays State University as much as you do, especially when football season starts in the fall. You won’t have to know what a halfback does to have a great time at a football game. Paint your face, wear school colors, get a foam finger, and head to a tailgate party.

Living in the Halls- You may wonder why does sharing a shoebox-sized room with a total stranger be something exciting about college. It is simple. What you lose in terms of privacy, you’ll quickly make up for with camaraderie. As it turns out, a shared hatred of communal showers is actually a great icebreaker between roommates, floor mates, or even just someone living across the hall. With the right attitude, living in the hall will be one of the best times of your college career. Besides enjoying your newfound independence, all of your friends, study groups, and the hang out parties that will always be right next door. Your RAs will want these first few months in a new environment to be a positive experience for you, and move-in day icebreakers are just the beginning. Social activities with your floor mates are easy to organize and super convenient. Post a sign-up sheet in the floor common room or post a message on your floor’s Facebook group to see who else wants to check out campus landmarks, grab ice cream, or even just drive to the nearest store for some much-needed groceries. Living in the halls in the best time to create your own independence!
Free Stuff- Students love free stuff, so businesses in the area will be loading you down with swag bags, school supplies, clothes, and whatever else it takes to grab your attention. Plus, Fort Hays State University wants you to be glad you chose to be a Tiger, so for the first few months of the semester, you’ll be showered with gifts branded with the university’s name and logo. By the end of the semester, you’ll realize half of your wardrobe has somehow become either school-spirited or part of an advertisement, and you’ll probably end up ditching most of it. But really, why turn down free stuff? Two more things you’ll quickly learn in college are how quickly dining halls get monotonous and how little extra cash you have to go out to eat. The solution? Free food on campus! All those clubs you’re joining will probably be serving refreshments at each meeting or even just giving it away at special events. Basing your extracurricular on the quality (and amount) of food they serve can even lead you to explore something you never thought you’d enjoy. If your stomach and wallet are feeling particularly empty, look for public lectures held by various academic departments—chances are pretty good they’ll be catered.

Traditions- Just like your high school Basketball team that painted their faces in school colors before competing at Regionals, college will be home to tons of ancient, time-honored, and completely insane traditions. But somehow, just like you got used to those over-enthusiastic high school athletes tracking paint all through the hallways, so will these college traditions become strangely endearing. After all, they’re your school’s weird quirks, and therefore, you’re allowed to take pride in them. Even if you never participate, you’re sure to take pride in relating the tales of your friends’ apparent insanity to all the folks back home. Plus, some traditions, such as: AfterDark, back to school picnic, the bonfire, tree lighting ceremony, and many more can actually be pretty sweet, help you feel at home, and remind you exactly why you were so ready to leave behind the comforting familiarities of wherever you grew up.

Leaving home for college can be scary, but saying goodbye to Mom and Dad will be a whole lot easier knowing all the awesome stuff you have to look forward to! This list is just the beginning, and everyone’s paths will be different. College is where you get to figure out what you love, so consider these tips a starting point to all the other amazing experiences you’re going to discover all on your own!

Things to do Around Hays Kansas!

Things to do in Hays

- AMC (Movie Theater)
$4 with Student ID
• Centennial Lanes Bowling Center
• Precision Valley Golf Center (Mini Golf)
• Sternberg Museum
  o Has replicated fossils, discovery room with hands-on activities, & much more
• Hays Larks Baseball
  o Free admission & Walking distance
• Festivals will happen throughout the academic year
• Downtown parades in October
• Dog Park
• Paint the Towne
  o Located downtown in walking distance

Shopping in Hays

• Wal-Mart
• Dillions (grocery store)
• Hastings (this is a video rental store)
• Hobby Lobby
• Big Creek Crossing “Our Mall” (JCPenny, Pay Less, Famous Footwear, Bath & Body works, etc..)
• Goodwill (thrift Store)
• Walgreens
• Downtown Hays this summer
  o Em’n Me Antiques
  o Hair Salons
  o Coffee shops
  o Pottery Works
  o Farmers market on the weekends
  o The Bargain Hunt
  o Plus many more!

Restaurants

• Gella’s Dinner and Lb. Brewing Co –Brewpub with live music and an open kitchen dispensing modern American grub.
• Sake2Me Sushi- Cozy, industrial-chic restaurant offering sushi rolls, house-made sauces and some Asian kitchen fare.
• Peter Mandy’s- Greek cuisines with vegetarian options and take out
• Cancun Mexican Grill- Casual eatery with fajitas, burritos and other Mexican fare, plus American food such as burgers.
• Al’s Chickenette- Chicken homemade meals with good quality. Check out homemade ice cream.
• Golden Q- Best burgers in town with sport events to watch all day every day.
• Thristy’s Brew Pub and Grill- American eats with cool decorations and tiki bar.
• Whiskey Creek Wood Fire Grill- Change serving oak and ash grilled steaks, bbq, pasta and causal dinning setting.
• Osaki Japanese Restaurant- Newly open restaurant that serves sushi and hibachi grill cuisines.
• Gutch’s Bar and Grill- Known for brick oven pizzas
• Taco Shop- Hometown favorite of quick Mexican dishes but most famous for their tacos.
• Soda Shoppe Café- Experience authentic old fashion soda fountain machine with great lunch options.
• Mokas Bakery- huge selection of coffees, smoothies and fresh made bakery items daily.
• Lomato’s Pizza- Best pizza in town with daily specials everyday
• Snow Cone Express- Best snow cones in town with a home location in the Big Creek Crossing.
• Plus your everyday fast food restaurant chains.

On Issue #2

Tips on talking with your roommate

Packing Tips

What not to bring

On June 30th Roommate assignments go out!!!

Thank you,

Residential Life Staff.