

100 WAYS TO BUILD COMMUNITY

INSPIRED BY THE IDEAS OF CURRENT AND FORMER RAS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY

- 1.) See residents on campus? Say hi! Role model community building through conversation both in and out of your community.
- 2.) Set up a weekly meal time for your community—everyone is invited and knows they won't have to eat alone that day if they don't want to.
- 3.) Celebrate residents' birthdays with monthly birthday celebrations—include summer birthdays when their half-birthday falls during the regular school year!
- 4.) Find out residents' favorite TV shows and have weekly viewing parties.
- 5.) Have residents introduce themselves at programs or when hanging out in common areas to make sure everyone knows one another.
- 6.) Post "Get to Know Me" sheets outside residents' doors before move-in where residents can answer fun questions and post pictures of themselves so residents can get to know one another.
- 7.) Introduce residents to one another based off of what you know about them.
- 8.) Decorate your common spaces for celebrations and holidays!
- 9.) Have your residents decorate common spaces for celebrations and holidays!
- 10.) Post weekly/monthly fun questions on butcher block paper in common spaces for residents to answer (i.e. What's your favorite movie? If you could visit anywhere, where would it be?)
- 11.) Create a monthly calendar where residents can post events they're involved in.
- 12.) Grab some residents and attend an event another resident is involved in to support them!
- 13.) Connect residents who have similar classes or majors—help form study groups!
- 14.) Celebrate residents' birthdays by decorating their door!
- 15.) Form community committees for things that are important to your community—birthday committee, decorating committee, etc.
- 16.) Create an interest survey to see what residents are interested in doing!
- 17.) Create a suggestion box where residents can suggest ideas.
- 18.) Have a "Resident Spotlight" where residents can specifically get to know someone in the community.
- 19.) Create personalized invitations to things.
- 20.) Send out or post a weekly/monthly newsletter with community highlights, upcoming events, and other important information.
- 21.) Create an academic initiative where residents can get recognized for academic accomplishments!
- 22.) Post inspirational quotes in common areas—have residents submit their favorites!
- 23.) Have a "take what you need" and "leave what you can" area where residents can give one another words of wisdom and encouragement anonymously.
- 24.) Encourage residents to keep their doors open!
- 25.) Set community standards that residents vote on—and empower residents to enforce them!
- 26.) Give your community a "theme" every month or for the year. Decorate and program around this theme so residents know what it is!
- 27.) Have community contests—decorating contests, knowing your roommate, program attendance contests just to name a few!

- 28.) Participate in intramurals as a community! Form a team for your community based on people's schedules and sport interests.
- 29.) Create a community communication chain for people when they want to share events, ideas, or have questions—GroupMe, Email, Facebook group, etc.
- 30.) Create a poll of the week!
- 31.) Let residents create their own door decs/tags.
- 32.) Have residents help you create and decorate your bulletin boards!
- 33.) Attend a campus recreation fitness class together.
- 34.) Have a space where residents can post their goals/News Year's resolutions so community members can support one another's goals.
- 35.) Have residents who are wanting to improve their fitness? Set up community workout times where residents can go together and hold each other accountable!
- 36.) Collect residents' favorite recipes and post them in your community kitchen/kitchenette. Have an apartment style community? Give everyone a copy to use in their apartment!
- 37.) Create a "Get to Know the Staff" bulletin board.
- 38.) Have communal bowls in common areas for residents with things people may need/want—sexual health items, candy, school supplies, etc.
- 39.) Create bulletin boards that are interactive and ask for residents' input.
- 40.) Completing rounds? Bring a hand-held game like Catchphrase with you and ask residents that you see to play with you.
- 41.) Ask your residents what they own or go checkout something at your desk and have an informal game night!
- 42.) Have a secret craft or gift exchange where residents draw names. Give them a budget, provide supplies—the possibilities are endless!
- 43.) Host a progressive dinner—participants can go from community kitchen to community kitchen or apartment to apartment!
- 44.) Advertise your building/complex/neighborhood council and bring residents with you to a meeting.
- 45.) Shoulder-tap residents you think specifically would be a great voice for your building/complex/neighborhood council and bring them with you. Elect floor representatives!
- 46.) Decorate bricks used to keep residents' doors open (make sure this is allowed first!)
- 47.) Find out what causes your residents are passionate about and complete a service project together—whether in your community or off-campus!
- 48.) Residents have a programming idea? Have them host a program!
- 49.) Have a community bathroom? Have residents donate old magazines and post articles from it throughout!
- 50.) Don't have a community bathroom? Still have residents donate old magazines and leave them in common areas for residents to read!
- 51.) Get to know residents throughout the building and do a "reverse trick or treat" by bringing treats around on building walkthroughs!
- 52.) Have your community get to know another community and have a battle of the communities competition! You pick the competition.
- 53.) Get a group together for an impromptu football, basketball, or other game outside!
- 54.) Have a game of "Where Is Waldo?" and hide an item/picture in the community. Whoever finds it brings it to you or another staff member and wins a prize!

- 55.) Pick a sport that your community enjoys watching and attend as many home games at your school as possible being your own mini-cheerleading section!
- 56.) Have a resident room showcase! Residents can show off their spaces to other residents so one another can see each other's spaces and get ideas for how to decorate and arrange their own!
- 57.) If your community created an intramurals team, but some people don't want to play, encourage them to be your team's cheerleaders and still attend!
- 58.) Have a lot of residents who are trying to get better grades? Set a community goal, and if the community achieves it, have a celebration!
- 59.) Have a lot of residents who are trying to get in better shape or lose weight? Set a community goal, and if the community achieves it, have a celebration!
- 60.) Residents in your community enjoy reading and have spare books around? Create a community or building library where residents can donate used books and find something new to read!
- 61.) Have someone new move into your community? Find a fun way to introduce them to your community so they feel a part of your already established community.
- 62.) As residents get to know one another, have them make a door dec/tag for someone else in the community.
- 63.) Have a community plant or pet (fish) that those who in your community want to can help take care of.
- 64.) Create a community name/identity! Survey your residents' input.
- 65.) Dedicate wall space where your residents can post flyers for events and organizations they're a part of—just make sure to monitor for appropriate content!
- 66.) Create a resident-lead recognition initiative! Residents can share “shout-outs” to other residents for various things (i.e. “John helped me carry my groceries in!” “Jessica has been crushing her workouts!”)
- 67.) Train your residents on bystander intervention—create a “see something, say something” campaign so residents are encouraged to look out for one another.
- 68.) Really listen to people and invest in their stories. This will show you care about them as a member of your community.
- 69.) Hang out in your common spaces—be visible, it will encourage others to do so too.
- 70.) Your community feeling stressed or down for any reason? Leave anonymous pick-me-up notes throughout your community.
- 71.) Is it finals or midterms time? Surprise your residents with encouraging messages and treats (i.e. Smarties—“you're a SMARTIE pants!”)
- 72.) At the end of each semester or the school year, create a memory keepsake with your residents to remember all the fun you had that year.
- 73.) Have a resident that you really only communicate with online—they're kind of a ghost? Make an effort to see them in person to show that you care and want to see them.
- 74.) Notice someone is around, but not engaged? Talk with them one on one to see what they would like done in your community so that would feel more likely to come out.
- 75.) Know someone has something big coming up (i.e. interview or assignment)? Write them an encouraging note and have other residents sign it!
- 76.) Have an impromptu dance party because you can!
- 77.) Challenge the people in your community to know one another's names and explain them the importance of knowing them.

- 78.) Have a community bathroom? Play music in the shower room and have impromptu shower karaoke where residents can DJ the song selections.
- 79.) Have residents who are graduating or leaving the university? Throw a “going-away” or graduation party for them!
- 80.) Decorate a graduating resident’s door or create a card so others can congratulate them!
- 81.) See someone eating alone in the dining hall? Ask them to join you!
- 82.) Have residents’ who have friends or partners who are in your community often? Include them in things like making them door decs/tags too.
- 83.) Create community spirit wear—t-shirts, bandanas etc.
- 84.) Is it a nice day outside? Have an impromptu study or hangout session outside.
- 85.) Have a resident with a special skill or talent (i.e. a dance style, craft)? Have them teach it to the rest of your community!
- 86.) Create a public “countdown” for upcoming major events (finals, move-out, etc.)
- 87.) Have residents create “Where Are You” boards so that people can know who is and isn’t around.
- 88.) Completing rounds? Introduce yourself to people as you see them!
- 89.) Collect residents’ majors/minors and share them with the community so residents can connect on their own!
- 90.) Figure out what organizations residents are in and share with residents when you think appropriate.
- 91.) Have your residents put together “pick-me-up” kits with you with items they think are important when someone is feeling down (i.e. funny notes, candy, tissues) and hand them out when someone is feeling blue.
- 92.) Create a community recommendation area where residents can post and recommend their favorite music, book, movies, TV shows, etc. to residents looking for something new.
- 93.) Have residents interested in sports? Create a community fantasy football/basketball/baseball league or complete March Madness brackets.
- 94.) Have a community “Flat Stanley” that travels throughout the year from resident to resident and goes on adventures with your residents!
- 95.) Encourage inclusivity in your community and celebrate diversity. Don’t be afraid to challenge and have difficult conversations with people to make sure this happens.
- 96.) Walk with people from your community to class.
- 97.) Write inspiring messages on your community mirrors!
- 98.) Encourage your residents to know your area staff (i.e. housekeepers, maintenance, secretary) and write them thank you notes for all the hard work they do.
- 99.) Have a community of residents of varying academic classifications? Implement a community mentorship program for those who want to join! (i.e. sophomore with senior)
- 100.) Have standout residents? Encourage them to apply for jobs in your residential community so that community building continues!