Moving In, Reaching Out

Each year, 75 freshmen move into their residence halls a few days before NYU Welcome Week begins and spend four days volunteering in their new city through Project Outreach. Students deliver hot meals to West Village residents, paint elementary schools, and spruce up city parks. While volunteering, students get to experience New York’s incredibly diverse service scene. This year Outreach volunteers hosted a carnival on campus for a nonprofit organization that supports children suffering from health issues.

College of Arts and Science student Mike Han, this fall’s senior coordinator, says, “Honestly, Project Outreach has been such a life-changing experience for me. It has been the gateway to every single activity I am or have been involved with on campus. It has provided me with some of my closest friends.” When he was a freshman, Mike was anxious about the transition to college, fearful that he would not find a sense of community at NYU. He says, “For me, as an incoming student, Outreach instantly extinguished my worries. The program was like a warm, welcoming embrace before classes even began.”

Read Project Outreach’s blog at projectoutreach.wordpress.com.

NYU Eats

In an informal poll, about 15% of participating students gave a shout out to the local burger joints, including Bare Burger on La Guardia Place and Burger Creations on Eighth Street.

Neighborhood cafés are favorite places for about 25% of the polled students, who specifically mention Café Reggio, Café Dante, and Grey Dog Café.

The Violets: A Surprising Division III Powerhouse

Yes, we are the NYU Violets (a menacing moniker, no?) but did you know that NYU was ranked number three of all Division III athletic programs in the US last fall? NYU’s athletic program—with varsity athletic teams, club sports, and 8,600 intramural enthusiasts a year—is full of surprises. Take for example, club sports. Living in New York City doesn’t stop the NYU Equestrian Club Team. Co-captain Katie Young says, “The 25 riders take weekly lessons at Essex Equestrian Center in nearby West Orange, New Jersey. During the year, we compete at up to 10 shows where riders from different schools compete against other students of similar riding ability.” Other club sports include ice hockey, hiking, and crew.

And later this year, NYU will officially recognize its already successful intercollegiate Quidditch team!

NYU has not one, but two gyms, the Coles Sports and Recreation Center and the Palladium Athletic Facility, that together include everything from climbing walls to two pools and a diving tank.

The varsity Violets compete in the University Athletic Association, which includes eight elite private research universities, all in metropolitan areas—no scrubs allowed.

- Brandeis University
- Carnegie Mellon University
- Case Western Reserve University
- Emory University
- New York University
- University of Chicago
- University of Rochester
- Washington University in St. Louis

Since 1986 (when the UAA began), NYU has won 44 championships in nine sports!

Tower Wars!

Every fall in the Third Avenue North first-year residence hall, student teams from each of the hall’s three buildings battle it out in a fun competition—“Tower Wars.” The hula hoop-a-thon is a favorite event, and a scavenger hunt sends students all around Greenwich Village and Union Square to take photos in front of the Blue Note Jazz Club and get cupcakes at Crumbs Bakery.

Activities like Tower Wars are part of NYU’s First-Year Residential Experience (FYRE)—a living and learning program that builds community and makes use of the intellectual and cultural resources of both NYU and New York City. Through FYRE, freshmen make friends while experiencing New York City—from dim sum in Chinatown to a trip to the American Museum of the Moving Image. Many FYRE programs are thematic by floor, ranging from World Cultures to the Big Apple Big Screen.