



2020 FYSH Fest Pre-Orientation Program

July 16, 2020 Update

Dear Vanderbilt Class of 2024,

This year, in conjunction with Vanderbilt University's plan to return to campus in the fall, we will be launching a new programming format whereby students can engage with each other and Hillel staff in small groups, while respecting social distancing guidelines and safety precautions. It is within this framework that we are re-imagining FYSH Fest to take place in-person across the first three weeks of the academic term. First year students who register for FYSH Fest will be placed in small groups that will meet weekly, beginning the first week of classes. These meetings will consist of conversations, games, and programming where new students will become acquainted with Vanderbilt Hillel, get to meet upperclassmen who are dedicated to ensuring their smooth transition, and most importantly connect with other first year students.

While this is not historically what our FYSH Fest program has looked like, our team of staff and students are excited and energized to bring the vital mission of FYSH Fest - building Jewish community for our incoming students - to life in the safest way we can. We will continue to update you all as the specifics of this program take shape, and look forward to connecting with the Class of 2024 once we are all in Nashville together. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to either of us.

Thank you all for your patience and understanding as we work together to ensure the success of the Class of 2024!

Best,

Brian

Brian Small
Vanderbilt Hillel Assistant Director

Veronica

Veronica Grady
FYSH Engagement Specialist
Springboard Innovations Fellow



2020 FYSH Fest Pre-Orientation Program

June 18, 2020 Update

Dear Vanderbilt Class of 2024,

As you are no doubt aware, Vanderbilt recently shared its preliminary details for a modified return to campus in the fall of 2020. Orientation, among other things, will be structured very differently than it has in the past. We understand that this must be a jarring experience for you and your family.

Rest assured, though, we will still have a FYSH Fest. Given the current situation, we believe that our FYSH Fest mission to build a strong Jewish community from the outset of the academic year is more important than ever. Over the next few weeks our staff and team of talented student leaders will be reimagining our FYSH Fest program to be compliant with Vanderbilt's orientation timeline and to follow important guidelines for social-distancing. It is our top priority to provide each one of our incoming 'Dores with the resources they need to succeed, and to do so safely and responsibly. As the start of term nears, we will do our very best to keep you in the loop as important program details become more clear and concrete (including travel arrangements).

Again, welcome to the family and thank you for your continued patience and flexibility.

Best,

Brian

Brian Small
Vanderbilt Hillel Assistant Director

Veronica

Veronica Grady
FYSH Engagement Specialist
Springboard Innovations Fellow



2020 FYSH Fest Pre-Orientation Program

Tuesday, July 28, 2020

Dear Incoming Class of 2024,

Congratulations on your decision to attend Vanderbilt University and welcome to the First Year Students of Hillel (FYSH) Class of 2024! We are so excited to meet you and want to extend an invitation to you, and the rest of the Class of 2024, to join Hillel on campus a few days early for food, fun, and friends! Register today for FYSH Fest, Vanderbilt Hillel's third annual FREE pre-orientation program.



Our goal is to ensure that you start your Vanderbilt experience with an advantage that most other incoming students do not enjoy. FYSH Fest participants will be shown around campus and will make meaningful connections with peers before moving in. You will also learn more about our Hillel, your Jewish family on campus. We have amazing on-campus and off-campus activities planned for you.

In addition to the other incoming students, you will be joined by a group of student facilitators - hand-picked upperclassmen who have been through it all and want to share all their wisdom. They represent a wide variety of majors, have lived in almost every dorm, come from all over the country, and can tell you about every activity on campus you need to know about. More importantly, they are all leaders on campus and will be there for you with mentorship and support before, during, and after FYSH Fest.

This FYSH Fest packet has all the information that you need to register for our August 20 & 21 program. We provide the food, pay for the activities, provide t-shirts, etc. All you have to do is sign up! [You can register by filling out our online form](#) by Monday, July 13. The program is FREE for the class of 2024 thanks to the support of our donors.

Have questions? Call Veronica Grady, Hillel's FYSH Engagement Specialist, at (813) 789.1747, or e-mail veronica.l.grady@vanderbilt.edu. She's here, all summer long, to answer any questions you have about FYSH Fest and campus life in general. Once you sign up, you will get monthly E-mails (starting in May) before the program with additional important information that will make your experience coming to campus super easy.

Don't miss this amazing opportunity to hang out with us and make an early adjustment to campus life!

Sincerely,

Alex

Alex Grace
Class of 2022
First Year Students of Hillel VP
Vanderbilt Hillel Student Board

Veronica

Veronica Grady
FYSH Engagement Specialist
Springboard Innovations Fellow

Program FAQ

What is a FYSH?

Vanderbilt Hillel has extensive programming for our First Year Students of Hillel (FYSH). This includes our pre-orientation program, FYSH Fest, a mentorship program, a leadership and programming board, and social programming. Keep an eye out for our FYSH Programming all year long!



When does FYSH Fest start?

You will need to be here for FYSH Fest on Thursday, August 20 for an evening welcome program and registration. We will have programming all day on Friday, August 21, for students AND parents. The program will conclude with Shabbat on Friday evening and students will move into their dorm rooms on Saturday, with the rest of the class of 2024.

What is the FYSH Fest Pre-Orientation Program?

FYSH Fest is a pre-orientation program for all incoming students offered by Hillel and coordinated facilitators. Facilitators (we call them FYSH-facilitators) are hand-picked upper-class students that staff the FYSH Fest activities and guide the incoming students as peer mentors. FYSH Fest involves two days of activities on and off campus, culminating in a special Shabbat at the Schulman Center for Jewish Life.

Why participate?

This program is a great way for incoming students to meet upperclassman and peers before the academic year begins. Many of our program alumni have even shared that they made their best friends at Vanderbilt during FYSH Fest. Incoming students also get better acquainted with campus, learn how to get involved, and more!

Who is FYSH Fest for?

Everyone! It doesn't matter if you are an incoming first-year student or a transfer student. Hillel will offer fun activities for everyone regardless of your Jewish background or interests. All of the food will be provided by Hillel and is under kashrut supervision. Even the most observant Jewish students can enjoy FYSH Fest!

All incoming students are welcome, regardless of their religion.

How do I sign up?

[Fill out our online registration form.](#) Follow the instructions provided and book your transportation and hotel. Registration is FREE and includes the food, activities, a t-shirt, and more.

What are you waiting for?

Registration will remain open until Monday, July 13, or we hit our registration cap of student participants. We expect spots to fill quickly. Register TODAY!

Additional Questions?

Do you have any additional questions about FYSH Fest? Call Veronica Grady, Hillel's FYSH Engagement Specialist, at (813) 789.1747, or e-mail veronica.l.grady@vanderbilt.edu. She's here, all summer long, to answer any questions you have about FYSH Fest and campus life in general.



2020 FYSH Fest Pre-Orientation Program

Tips for Parents

When Does My Student Move In?

Your student will participate in Vanderbilt's scheduled move-in day on Saturday, August 22, and will receive top-notch service from the Vanderbilt move-in crew. Your student will also have the full Vanderbilt Orientation experience.

Where Can My Family Stay?

We recommend making accommodations with hotels within walking distance of Hillel. Consider booking with our partners at Homewood Suites. We will be contacting them shortly to arrange for a special rate for FYSH Fest families:

Homewood Suites by Hilton *
2400 West End Avenue
Nashville, TN 37203
1-615-340-8000

Make sure your reservation extends through the entire weekend so that you can move your student in during Vanderbilt's Saturday, August 22, move-in-day.

How Long Should My Family Stay?

While FYSH Fest is primarily for the incoming students, we are happy to provide parent-focused programming during FYSH Fest, as well. We can answer all of your questions about Hillel and campus life. We can give you important tips about Birthright, Greek Life, Holidays, and much, much more. You are also welcome at our Shabbat on the evening of Friday, August 21 with your student. It's important to note, though, that Hillel respectfully asks families to disengage from their students during the programming schedule on Thursday night and Friday during the day. You'll have plenty of time to shop and explore Nashville with your students before and after FYSH Fest.

Is FYSH Fest "Too Jewish"?

A number of families and incoming students ask us if FYSH Fest is "too Jewish". We always tell them that while FYSH Fest is accommodating to all Jewish students (as we are observant of dietary laws as a Jewish organization), and we do culminate with Shabbat services and dinner, FYSH Fest's first priority is to be a social program where students can become comfortable with their new environment. Hillel welcomes all Vanderbilt University incoming students to participate, regardless of their religion.

Additional Questions?

Call Veronica Grady, Hillel's FYSH Engagement Specialist, at (813) 789.1747, or e-mail veronica.l.grady@vanderbilt.edu. She's here, all summer long, to answer any questions you have about FYSH Fest and campus life in general.



2020 FYSH Fest Pre-Orientation Program

Tips for Parents Continued

Directions to Hillel's Schulman Center for Jewish Life

From the West:

1. Take I-40 East
2. Use the right 2 lanes to take exit 206 for I-440 East toward Knoxville
3. Continue onto I-440
4. Take exit 1 for Murphy Rd toward US-70S E/West End Ave
5. Turn left onto Murphy Rd (signs for The Parthenon/West End Ave/US-70S E)
6. Use the left 2 lanes to turn left onto West End Ave
7. Turn right onto 25th Ave South
8. Turn left onto Vanderbilt Place
9. Hillel will be the first building on the right

From the North:

1. Take I-65 South
2. Keep right at the fork to stay on I-65 S, follow signs for I-40 W/Huntsville/Memphis
3. Use the left 2 lanes to take exit 84B for I-40 W toward Memphis
4. Continue onto I-40 W
5. Follow directions 2-9 for coming from the West

From the South:

1. Take I-65 North to Nashville
2. Use the right 2 lanes to take exit 80 to merge onto I-440 West toward Memphis
3. Take exit 1 to merge onto US-70S East/West End Ave
4. Merge onto US-70S East/Highway 1 East/West End Ave
5. Turn right onto 25th Ave South
6. Turn left onto Vanderbilt Place
7. Hillel will be the first building on the right

From the East (Airport):

1. Merge onto I-40 West
2. Use the left 3 lanes to take exit 213A for I-440 W toward Memphis
3. Follow directions 3-7 for coming from the South

Helpful Destinations

College Shopping Needs:

Wal-Mart Supercenter
(615) 352-1240
7044 Charlotte Pike
Nashville, TN 37209

Target
(615) 352-8461
26 White Bridge Road
Nashville, TN 37205

Bed, Bath, and Beyond
(615) 646-7383
7657 Highway 70 South
Nashville, TN 37221

Markets (With Kosher Options):

Kroger
(615) 269-5649
4560 Harding Pike
Nashville, TN 37205

Trader Joe's
(615) 356-1066
90 White Bridge Rd
Nashville, TN 37205

Accommodations:

Homewood Suites by Hilton *
2400 West End Avenue
Nashville, TN 37203
1-615-340-8000

Or another Vanderbilt Campus-Area

Vanderbilt Hillel

Schulman Center for Jewish Life

www.vuhillel.org • (615) 322.8376 • Hillel@vanderbilt.edu



2019 SAMPLE FYSH FEST SCHEDULE

SUBJECT TO CHANGE

This is what we did LAST YEAR! We expect the program to look VERY similar to last year's program.

Thursday, August 15, Arrive in Nashville		
Time	Location	Description
9:00 – 4:00 p.m.	Vanderbilt Hillel Schulman Center for Jewish Life	Come Get Your Stuff Pop by Hillel all day to pick up anything you decided to send ahead via the mail.
6:00 – 6:45 p.m.	Vanderbilt Hillel	Hillel Welcome BBQ Come to Hillel to check into the program and for a welcome BBQ dinner. Mingle and meet the other families. <i>Parking is limited in the Hillel lot and is reserved for families needing accessible parking or special accommodations. Vanderbilt Parking Services has provided our participants with spaces in the 25th Ave. Garage. Please park in ZONE 3, which is accessible from the Highland Ave. lot entrance. No parking is permitted in the Medical Center side of the facility. Parking enforcement will not ticket on August 15 (after 4:00 p.m.) & 16 during all FYSH Fest and Hillel Orientation program times.</i> <i>Limited parking may be available on Vanderbilt Place and surrounding streets. However, participants are encouraged to please consider walking to the Schulman Center from their hotels if possible.</i>
6:45 – 8:00 p.m.	Vanderbilt Hillel	Family ONLY – Reception Families are invited to join the Hillel staff for an after-dinner dessert reception and schmooze-fest.
6:45 – 7:30 p.m.	Vanderbilt Hillel Upstairs	Student Ice Breakers and Dessert Hillel's student leaders will introduce themselves and help you get to know each other.
7:30 – Late-Night	Nashville	Escape with Us Get to know your fellow FYSH and the FYSH-Cilitators by being locked in a cool escape room with them. We will stop someplace special before heading back to Hillel.
11:30 p.m.	Vanderbilt Hillel	Come and Get Your Students If you are a hotel beyond walking distance, please come and pick up your student from Hillel for the night. Too late or don't have transportation? Hillel will take care of your student and make sure they get back to you.



2019 SAMPLE FYSH FEST SCHEDULE

SUBJECT TO CHANGE

This is what we did LAST YEAR! We expect the program to look VERY similar to last year's program.

Friday, August 16, Programming		
Please wear your FYSH Fest shirts!		
Time	Location	Description
9:30 – 10:00 a.m.	Vanderbilt Hillel	<p>Good Morning Bagel Breakfast! Grab a traditional nosh before the FYSH Fest program commences for a full day of programming.</p> <p><i>Parking is limited in the Hillel lot and is reserved for families needing accessible parking or special accommodations. Vanderbilt Parking Services has provided our participants with spaces in the 25th Ave. Garage. Please park in ZONE 3, which is accessible from the highland Ave. lot entrance. No parking is permitted in the Medical Center side of the facility. Parking enforcement will not ticket on August 16 & 17 during all FYSH Fest and Hillel Orientation program times.</i></p> <p><i>Limited parking may be available on Vanderbilt Place and surrounding streets. However, participants are encouraged to please consider walking to the Schulman Center if possible.</i></p>
10:00 – 11:30 a.m.	Vanderbilt Hillel	<p>Family ONLY - Everything You Need to Know to Have a Happy Jewish College Student & Breakfast Hear about all the important tips and tricks you need to know to support your college student (including some things you won't hear from Vanderbilt). Topics will include: Birthright, Greek life, Jewish holiday observance, safety tips, and more.</p>
10:00 – 11:00 a.m.	Vanderbilt Hillel	<p>Student Information Session Learn everything you need to know about campus programming, groups and organizations. Break out into small groups, ask questions, and learn from the upperclassmen!</p>
11:00 – Noon	Vanderbilt Hillel	<p>Student Campus Tour Wondering where your classes are? We have you covered. We will provide personalized small-group tours that will make sure you are navigating through your first day of classes with ease.</p>
11:30 – 12:30 p.m.	Leave from Vanderbilt Hillel	<p>Family Tour of Campus Alex, a student tour guide and FYSH-Cilitator, will take the families around campus to show them everything they show on the University tours and more.</p>
Noon – 12:30 p.m.	The "Commons Side" of Campus	<p>Student Picnic Lunch on Campus Pizza and exotic popsicles! We will take our annual FYSH Fest picture, also!</p>
12:30 – 1:00 p.m.	The "Commons Side" of Campus	<p>Student Tour Continues</p>
1:00 – 1:30 p.m.	Vanderbilt Hillel	<p>Student Rest and Chill at Hillel Grab a snack before we head off for our electives around Nashville.</p>
1:30 – 4:00 p.m.	Nashville	<p>Nashville Day Out Play games at Dave and Busters and enjoy walking around cool areas of Nashville.</p>



2019 SAMPLE FYSH FEST SCHEDULE

SUBJECT TO CHANGE

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4:00 - 4:30 p.m.	Vanderbilt Hillel	FYSH Fest Closing Ceremonies Reflect on the busy last 24 hours. Let's talk about the FYSH Fest program.
4:30 p.m.	Vanderbilt Hillel	Come and Get Your Students If you are a hotel beyond walking distance, please come and pick up your student from Hillel for the night. Too busy or don't have transportation? Hillel will take care of your student and make sure they get back to you.
5:30 - 8:00 p.m.	Vanderbilt Hillel	Shabbat Services & Dinner Take a rest and enjoy our student-led religious services followed by a delicious kosher catered dinner of all of Hillel's favorites (including Goldie's brisket).

Sunday, August 18, Welcome!

Time	Location	Description
9:00 - 10:15 a.m.	Vanderbilt Hillel	Welcome Bagel Breakfast Join Hillel for a weekend of orientation events that will introduce you to other families, new and returning students, and give you a taste of what Hillel is all about. Sunday morning, join us for a Bagel Breakfast! Pop in and have a nosh with us. Questions? E-mail Veronica @ veronica.l.grady@vanderbilt.edu .