

Making the Most of Parent/Family Weekend

When visiting campus, it's not just about crab puffs at receptions and shaking hands. This is a real opportunity to connect with your student and her campus! Here are a few tips to help make the most of your visit:



- **Attend Classes.** Spelman may offer the chance to sit in on portions of popular classes. See what your daughter is experiencing in the classroom so you can “talk academics” throughout the remainder of the year.
- **Listen to Your Student.** Listen as she tells you about the intramural team she joined or the bio lab she's really enjoying. Listen as she tells you about a group she'd like to join or how much she has connected with her RA. This is your time together to communicate face-to-face. Try to talk less and listen more—you just may pick up on some subtleties that don't come through long-distance via IM and phone calls.
- **Try New Things.** There will be quite a slate of activities available during family weekend. Try some of these new things with your student, from a Visit to the Georgia Aquarium, "Cinema Remixed and Reloaded: Black Women Artists and the Moving Image – Part II" Exhibit, and a Riding Tour of Black Atlanta. She may find a new hobby, interest or direction as a result!
- **Meet & Mingle.** Attend the Family and Friends Breakfast reception, talk with other parents, and meet administrators and faculty. These folks are at your disposal during the weekend. Plus, you'll get a better feel for what campus life is about and who is available to your student.
- **Participate on Campus.** It might be tempting to head off campus away from the hub-bub yet participating on campus is how you and your student will likely feel most connected. You'll enjoy the Pre-Game Jaguar Jam and Marketplace
- **Ooh and Aah Instead of Huffing and Puffing.** Try to be upbeat and positive throughout the weekend. Comment on how good the dining hall food is instead of making negative remarks. Compliment what your student has done to make her room look homey, how pretty the campus grounds look, and more. Your student will be seeing campus through your eyes this weekend!
- **Connect with the Campus Parent Association.** If your school has a parent group, go to a meeting and look into getting involved. It's a great way to meet other parents and to participate in the life of the campus.
- **Put Yourself in Visitor Mode.** You're on your student's turf this weekend. Let her take the lead and show you her place with pride during the Residence Hall Open House. And have a wonderful visit!

More Tips

- It may be time for your student to switch from summer clothes to fall/winter ones. If you're driving in for Parent/Family Weekend, bring a load with you and take the no longer needed clothes home. It'll save your student some valuable space!
- Get to know your student's friends during the weekend. You may even want to suggest ahead of time that a group of their friends and families all go out for dinner one night (with everyone paying their own way).
- Ask someone to take a family photo of you during the weekend. Send it to your student via email or regular mail once you get home as a happy memento.
- Check out campus facilities while you're visiting. If the pool is open, why not go for a swim? Roam around Manley Center, visit the historical sites on campus and soak it all in.
- Hide a note under your student's pillow or tucked into her computer keyboard (just don't open drawers or other items that are private!) so that she'll find it once you've

gone home. It'll help the good feelings
associated with your visit linger on.

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