

Weekends at (HS)²

Weekends at (HS)² are a core part of the program. They offer students time to unwind, connect outside of the classroom, explore the Roaring Fork Valley, go on big adventures, and enjoy moments of rest—both individually and in community.

These shared experiences are essential. They deepen relationships, build community, and allow both students and staff to fully experience summer in Colorado together.

Strong weekends don't just happen—they are thoughtfully designed. The most successful weekends balance:

- Engaging, well-planned activities
- Clear structure and expectations
- Intentional downtime
- Active participation from RAs and faculty

When done well, weekends become some of the most meaningful and memorable parts of the (HS)² experience.

This document is designed to support that. It provides guidance on planning, communication, and execution so that our weekends run smoothly and create consistently great experiences for our students.

Roles

Administrator on Duty (AOD)

The AOD oversees all weekend operations. This includes transportation, activities, student wellbeing, and residential life.

The AOD is responsible for:

- Coordinating the full weekend schedule
- Communicating with RAs to ensure alignment and coverage
- Keeping the schedule on track
- Serving as the point person for any health or safety concerns

Residential Advisors (RAs)

RAs are responsible for executing and chaperoning weekend activities.

RAs are expected to:

- Lead and support activities outlined in the weekend schedule
- Collaborate closely with the RA team to share responsibilities
- Ensure activities run smoothly and responsibly
- Stay engaged and present with students throughout the weekend
- Communicate regularly with the AOD about student needs or concerns

Weekends at (HS)2

Strong teamwork among RAs is essential—weekends run best when the load is shared and communication is consistent.

Communication

Clear, consistent communication is the backbone of a successful weekend. The AOD, RA team, and Annie/Nikhil should stay in regular contact to ensure alignment and responsiveness throughout the weekend.

Key practices:

- **Friday Lunch Meeting:** The weekend team meets with the AOD and Annie/Nikhil to review the schedule, clarify roles, and align on expectations.
- **Ongoing Check-ins:** Regular phone communication and in-person check-ins throughout the weekend to stay updated and address any needs in real time.
- **Thursday Schedule Email:** Sent to all staff each Thursday morning, including:
 - Full weekend itinerary
 - Meal schedule
 - Optional and required activities

Strong communication ensures that everyone knows the plan—and can adapt as needed to best support students.

Annual Activities

- **Rafting**
 - Annual activity that usually happens on the first weekend of the program.
 - [General Information](#)
 - Glenwood Adventure Company (contact Logan Bartek)
 - Put in at the Carbondale boat ramp, take out at Two Rivers Park
 - Students need to pack a lunch in the morning
- **Lasater Picnic**
 - Annual activity that usually happens the weekend before or after 4th of July.
 - The Lasaters plan and host the event, so all we have to do is show up!
 - It is important to build excitement around the hike and volleyball tournament in the weeks leading up to the picnic.
 - It is not a required event, but it's awesome when all the faculty show up.
- **Aspen Hike**
 - Annual activity that usually happens on the third weekend of the program.
 - Hikers should depart around 7:30am, gondola riders around 9:15am
 - Bring a med kit and remind students to bring extra water
 - Easiest to park [here](#) on Ute Avenue
 - Aim to meet at the top of Aspen around 11:30am, gondola down around 1:30pm
- **Coffee House**
 - Annual activity that usually happens on the last Saturday of the program. It is an incredible celebration of music, talent, and all the hard work students have put into their extracurriculars.
 - It is important to structure time for rehearsal in the days leading up as well as the day of. Coordinate with whoever runs music!
- **Climbing and Kayaking outdoor days**
 - On the last weekend of the program, students who have participated in the climbing and kayaking Actives will have an outdoor experience day. Climbers will climb outside (likely at the Breakfast Nook), and kayakers will paddle a section of the Crystal River. It is an awesome capstone experience!
 - Make sure these students are packing a lunch
- **Crystal Theater Movie**
 - Organize ahead of time to rent out the Crystal Theater and show a stellar movie for the entire program.
 - (HS)2 pays for the movie, students have to pay for snacks.
 - Nice to organize in the early afternoon on a Sunday. Students will want to walk around town and get lunch beforehand.

Big Activities

- **Dorm Olympics**

- Dorm olympics are a great way to get all kids involved and in good spirit with their respective dorms. They are also a fun way to team build! It is important to run activities that are silly and inclusive to all abilities (i.e. not focused on athletic ability). It is also important to build hype and camaraderie within the dorms (dorms should wear the same color, paint their faces, etc.) Here is a running list of ideas

- Hydro-Olympics

- Freeze tag with water blasters
- Sponge soaker game: 2 buckets set across from each other (1 full, 1 empty), have to run with a wet sponge and fill up the empty bucket with water. Whichever team fills the empty bucket first wins.
- Water Balancing Race: balance a cup of water on a plate and race to the other side to fill a bucket

- Pie eating contest

- Dance off: 10 minutes to choreograph a dance to a song, teams present, staff votes on winners

- Dizzy bat relay race

- Marshmallow/toothpick tower building

- 1 pack of marshmallows, 1 pack of toothpicks, 5 minute timer, whoever can build the tallest/structurally sound tower wins

- [Banana relay](#)

- [Granny Pants](#) yard game (can use a trashbag)

- Silent birthday line up: students must line up in birthday order silently

- Three legged race

- Wheelbarrow race

- **Pond Party**

- A pond party is a fun way to spend a hot afternoon outside. It is important to make sure life jackets are available for those who might need them as well as checking in with students/faculty who want to swim about their ability. Some ideas:

- Snacks

- Fire up the grill and make some hot dogs!

- Yard games (check the triangle room)

- Swimming

- Get a canoe out!

- **First Fridays in Carbondale**

- First Friday will usually happen once during the program, and students have fun going into town. It's important to get into town early and set boundaries for

Big Activities

students to explore. It can also be nice to have an alternate option on campus during this time, like a movie. Most students will want to go into town.

- Make sure to institute a buddy system and a clear meetup time and location.

- **Miners Park**
 - Miners Park is an awesome place to go spend the afternoon/evening. Make sure to bring snacks and games!
 - Miners Park has basketball and volleyball courts, as well as a playground.

- **3rd Year sleepover in library**
 - If 3rd years push for this, it should happen after Coffee House on the last night of the program.
 - We need at least 2 faculty members to volunteer who aren't on duty RAs.

- **Colorado Outward Bound School**
 - Overnight leadership retreat for 3rd years. This should be evaluated and organized on a year by year basis.

- **Tie Dye Shirt Making**
 - This could be a fun activity to do outdoors, and it's something that is easy for all students to participate in. We just need a ton of white t-shirts, rubber bands, and clothes dye.

Small Activities

- **Outdoor**
 - Tick Ridge hike (nice to do in the early mornings)
 - Swim in the river
 - Volleyball tournament
 - Slacklining
 - Spikeball
 - Red Hill hike (nice to do in the morning, takes a bit longer)
 - Basalt pool

- **Night**
 - Stargazing (check the moon cycle!)
 - Bonfire & s'mores at night
 - Last weekend of the program, allow sleepovers in the common room (no cross dorm sleepovers)

- **Arts & Active**
 - Open gym (climbing or basketball)
 - Open studio silversmithing
 - Open studio blacksmithing
 - Knockout

- **Indoor**
 - Crafts
 - Movie
 - Board games (check in the Triangle room)
 - Trivia
 - Trivia can be organized in small groups or as an entire program. It's helpful to have a group of students take charge.
 - Karaoke in the barn
 - Dance
 - Bring snacks and have students help build an appropriate playlist. It's important to have at least one person roving during this time.
 - 5 Point Film screening in barn

- **Buses**
 - City Market
 - Walmart
 - Thrift shopping
 - Church buses on Sunday mornings (Catholic and non-denominational)
 - 7/11
 - Glenwood Springs

Academic

- SAT prep on Sunday afternoons (required for 2nd and 3rd years)
- Instructional support (as needed)
- Study hall at 7:15pm on Sunday night to reset the week!

Meals

- Friday
 - Dinner from 6pm-7pm
- Saturday
 - Breakfast from 8:30am-9:30am
 - Lunch from 12pm-1pm
 - Dinner from 6pm-7pm
- Sunday
 - Brunch from 10:30am-12pm
 - Dinner from 6pm-7pm