

RENSELAER COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES - FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why should I develop an activity? This is an opportunity to get to meet people who have interests similar to your own and to learn something fun and/or meaningful by way of other people's projects. So lend a hand – teach your favorite hobby, organize a weekly outdoor lunch, plan a pick-up game, or anything else that interests you.

Why are these activities posted on the Summer@Rensselaer Web site? The Graduate Student Council and the Academic Outreach Programs were charged with identifying activities for the Rensselaer community in the summer of 2009 as historically, the RPI campus culture slows down a great deal during the summer. Now with added weeks during winter recess the success of summer RCA will continue into the winter!

Do I have to develop an activity in order to participate in other people's activities? No – you can come to any activity of interest to you. (Note, though, that some activities may have pre-requisites especially for physically strenuous activities.) Maybe you'll find a new hobby!

Can groups develop an activity together? Yes! Many campus clubs do not host activities over the summer or winter recess, which is part of the reason why campus can be lonely for some people. If your club, lab, or group of friends has an idea for an activity you'd like to run, please contribute!

Why haven't I heard of anyone doing this before? In the past, we've focused almost exclusively on activities run by faculty and staff. However, students often have a better idea of what other students need and want, so we're trying something different. The summer of 2009 was the first year in which we've tried this approach. And since then you have helped us make it a success!

How long should an activity run? Can I afford the time to run an activity? Keep in mind that the scale of the activity is up to you. It can be something as simple as getting together a bunch of people who love watching movies, having an informal video game tournament, or meeting over lunch to practice English. It could be something as complicated as touring campus machine shops and creating a project there, or helping put together a racecar. It's up to you!

What if the activity I want to run involves materials? Do I have to buy those out-of-pocket? Nope! Some activities will be eligible to receive funding through the Graduate Student Council and other sources of funding. However, even if your activity is not eligible you can specify a materials fee for each participant and when you'd need to have that fee in-hand.

Are these activities open to just undergrads? No – they're open to the entire RPI community (faculty, students, staff, and alumni)! Certain activities may be geared towards one specific audience or another (a seminar entitled "So Now You're a Grad Student" may not be relevant to faculty), but in general, you are welcome at any event of interest to you.

If I create an activity, who's my audience? Activities should be geared towards as much of the RPI community as possible, but should not focus on non-RPI groups or the public at large. (Non-RPI members can give presentations, as long as an RPI member organizes the event.)

Can alumni host and attend events? Yes! Alumni are part of the RPI community and are welcome to host and/or attend any events of their choosing. However, it may be helpful to work with at least one faculty, student, or staff member in order to reserve space on campus.

What if this activity will only work with a minimum of people? Please specify in the form any size limitations by noting the maximum or minimum number of attendees.

How much does it cost to participate? Unless the course description specifies otherwise, activities are free. Some activities may ask participants to pay for some of the seminar costs, such as those for materials, transportation, or food.

Okay, so I have an idea for an activity and I've filled out the form. What's next? All activities will be reviewed to ensure they are safe, legal, and in keeping with RPI general regulations. Groups or individuals organizing an event will be contacted with any questions before the event is publicized to the campus.