



New Paltz
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

Living Off Campus: Rights and Responsibilities as a Student in Our Community

Office of Student Activities and Union Services

www.newpaltz.edu/saus

Student Union Room 211

845-257-3025

saus@newpaltz.edu



Being a successful off-campus and commuter student means balancing a lot of roles.

Being a Good...

- Tenant
- Citizen of Our Community
- Neighbor
- New Paltz Student



Being a Good Tenant

- As a tenant you have many rights as well as responsibilities.
- It is important you are familiar with both ends of the spectrum -- know your rights as a tenant but also make sure you are fulfilling your responsibilities to your landlord.
- This is a business relationship – be professional, and responsible.



Being a Good Tenant

- **GET RENTERS INSURANCE:** It is very reasonably priced, and it can cover:
 - Stolen belongings (from your car as well as your home)
 - Property damaged in a fire
 - Liability claims (dog bites someone, someone falls)
- **LANDLORDS:** The relationship between you and your landlord is business first.
 - Get everything in writing and keep copies of everything
 - This ensures you can hold your landlord accountable for things like repairs



Being a Good Tenant

- **YOUR RIGHTS:** There are many resources you can use to learn all the rights you have as a tenant.
 - Rentlaw.com
 - Tenant’s Rights Guide offered by the NY State Attorney General’s Office.
- **KNOW YOUR DUTIES:** Follow your lease agreement and read it. You may have basic expectations and house rules attached to your arrangements.
- The Student Association has a lawyer on retainer. She can help you review lease agreements and more.
 - Vicki Kossover (www.kossoverlaw.com; 40 Main Street, 845-255-4655)



Being a Good Tenant

- **YOUR SPACE:** Keep any space you use clean and in good condition. Report damage promptly.
- **SAFETY:** Maintain the smoke detector, fire extinguisher and carbon monoxide detector. Check them regularly!
- **NEIGHBORS:** Be respectful of the property, your landlord, your room/housemates and the neighbors.
- **VACATION:** Notify the landlord if you will be away for an extended period of time. You must still pay rent while away. Check your lease – this could include Summer/Winter months while school is out.
- **WHEN YOU'RE DONE:** Repair any damage occurring to the apartment you or your guests have caused. Notify the Landlord.



Being a Good Citizen

- Know the rules and laws of the village and community.
(i.e Village of New Paltz: <http://www.villageofnewpaltz.org/>)
- If you see something that doesn't seem right, do something about it.
- YOU are responsible for your own safety.
 - Know emergency contact information
 - Lock your doors and windows
 - Report any crime by calling 911
 - Know how to get out of your apartment if there's a fire



Being a Good Citizen

- **PARKING:** Parking is prohibited on village streets and/or village parking lots when snowfall exceeds 2 inches.
 - If your vehicle is parked in such a location it may be towed at your expense.
 - It is your responsibility to know if snow is expected to exceed such accumulation and to plan accordingly.
 - Check with your landlord about the availability of off-street parking in advance!



Being a Good Neighbor

- **INTRODUCE YOURSELF:** Take the first step to say hello and to establish a good relationship with your neighbors.
- **BE RESPECTFUL:** Your neighbor is likely not a college student. They may have children and others they care for. They may also get up for work a lot earlier than you do. Keep that in mind as it relates to social gatherings, parking, and noise.
- **BE OBSERVANT:** Keep your community safe. Look out for your neighbors and help each other.



Being a Good Student

- Remember you are here for your education first!
- Living off campus can give you a lot of freedoms – make sure you find balance between school and your social life.
- Spend extra time on campus to do work and get connected. Take advantage of the time between your classes! Instead of going home, go to the Library, Student Union, or the Commuter Lounge.



Being a Good Student

- Keep in mind that ALL student services are available to you – campus services are not only for those living on:
 - Counseling Center
 - Athletics and Wellness Center
 - Health Center
 - Meal Plans/Hawk Dollars
 - Career Resource Center
 - Student Clubs and Activities



Being a Good Commuter

- If you're driving, plan extra time in your schedule to park on campus. The closest lots fill early.
- Purchase a campus hang tag to park in campus lots.
- Don't go home and don't hang out in your car between classes. Find a place that fits for you on campus and go there – maximize the time you have for socializing and studying. (i.e. the Commuter Lounge in the Student Union!)



Being a Good Commuter

- **COMMUTER LOCKERS:** Need a place to store your items? Get a locker in the Student Union. Stop by Student Activities in Student Union Room 211 after August 1.
- **COMMUTER LOUNGE:** A space just for Commuters on the 1st floor of the Student Union (TV, couches, microwave, charging station, printer, etc.)
- **COMMUTER PROGRAMS:** We hold programs and events specific for off-campus and commuter students – be sure to stop in!



Being a Good Commuter

- **THE LOOP**- A shuttle through the Village of New Paltz . Schedules available in Student Union 428. FREE w/ ID!
- **UCAT** – Ulster County Area Transit manages public transportation in New Paltz and to Poughkeepsie, Kingston, and Newburgh.
www.co.ulster.ny.us/ucatschedule.html
- **Ulster Poughkeepsie LINK** - Bus Service from New Paltz to the Poughkeepsie Train Station. FREE w/ ID!
- **TRAILWAYS** –The Office of Student Activities sells Trailways Bus Tickets Monday-Friday from 9AM - 4PM.
www.newpaltz.edu/saus/trailways.html



Some Good Resources

- www.newpaltz.edu/saus/commuters.html
 - ✓ Resources for commuters and off-campus students
 - ✓ Information about Student Activities & Union Services – our office, services, and how we can help you! We are the go-to office for Commuter Students!
 - ✓ You'll get weekly occasional emails about relevant events and reminders for off-campus and commuter students
- [Off-Campus Students Facebook Page](#)
 - ✓ Off-Campus Students Facebook Page! Like Us!
 - ✓ Search “SUNY New Paltz Off-Campus Students”