



CONNECTIONS

SUMMER 2023



Dear Bulldog Family,

Fall semester is just around the corner and your student is probably getting excited (and maybe a little nervous) about starting a new chapter at Mississippi State University. We are ready to welcome each student with open arms!

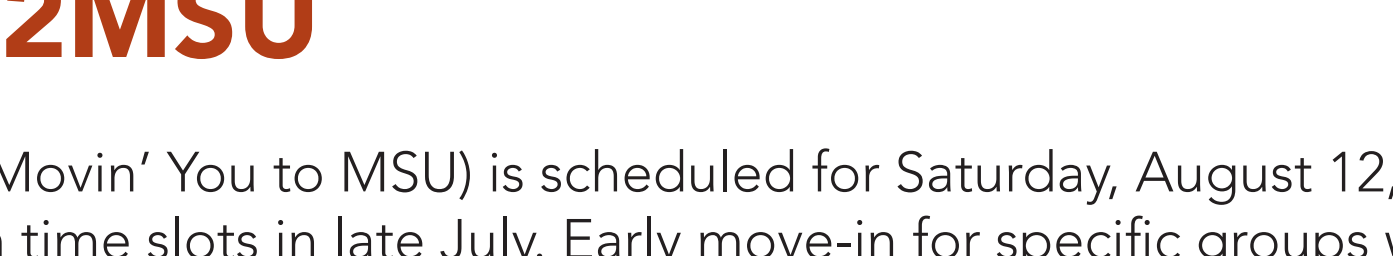
While leaving home for college is super exciting, it can also be a bit scary and overwhelming. Keep the lines of communication open with your student and make sure you set expectations. To help with student success, Mississippi State has developed a checklist and the Parent Portal. Sit down and review the checklist provided during Orientation with your student. Make sure your student has given you access to the Parent Portal.

If you see that your student needs help, offer encouragement and a nudge in the right direction. If you do not know where to send your student, please call or e-mail the Office of Parent and Family Services. Our office is available to help you through any situation. We also provide a variety of resources through our Parent and Family website to help you navigate through helping your student.

Welcome to the Bulldog Family and please stop by for a visit the next time you are on our beautiful campus. We are located on the 1st floor of the YMCA in front of the Colvard Student Union.

Remember to follow us on social media!

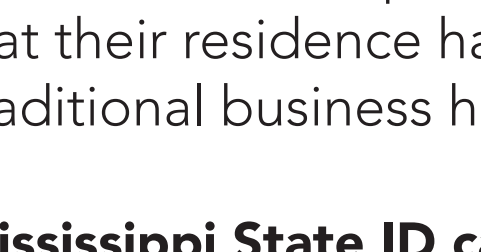
Cat Walker & Becky Faulk | Office of Parent and Family Services
662.325.3611 | family.msstate.edu | family@msstate.edu | msstate.campusesp.com



BULLDOG FAMILY WEEKEND

Save the Date!

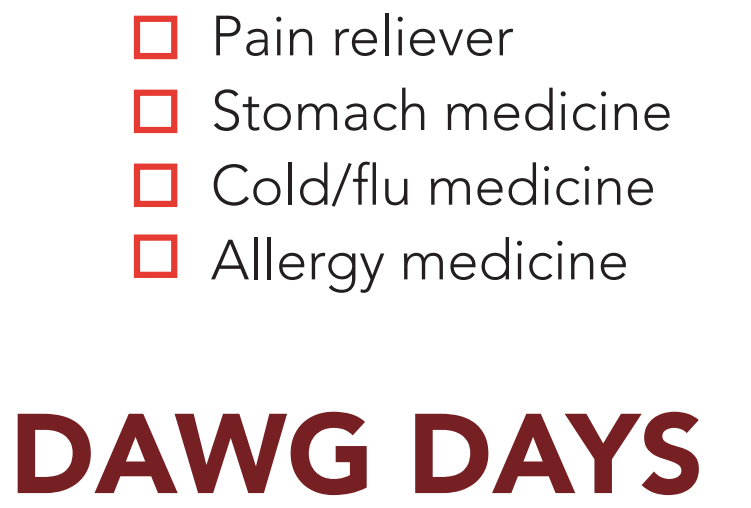
OCTOBER 27-29, 2023



MVNU2MSU

MVNU2MSU (Movin' You to MSU) is scheduled for Saturday, August 12, 2023. Students will sign up for move-in time slots in late July. Early move-in for specific groups will be announced by each organization. Students will need to check their email for more information on this process.

Students will check-in at the Sanderson Center for north campus residence halls and the Animal and Dairy Sciences building for south campus residence halls prior to heading to their residence hall. Upon your arrival at these locations, volunteers will be on hand to direct you to your residence hall. (Please do not go straight to the residence hall.)



Students who are unable to arrive on their specific day and time slot will be able to check-in at their residence hall beginning Sunday, August 13 during traditional business hours.

Students must have their Mississippi State ID card to check-in.

For detailed information regarding MVNU2MSU, visit the link below. We are excited to welcome your student HOME!

Housing and Residence Life | Dogwood Hall | 662.325.3555 | housing.msstate.edu/move-in

PACKING LIST RX

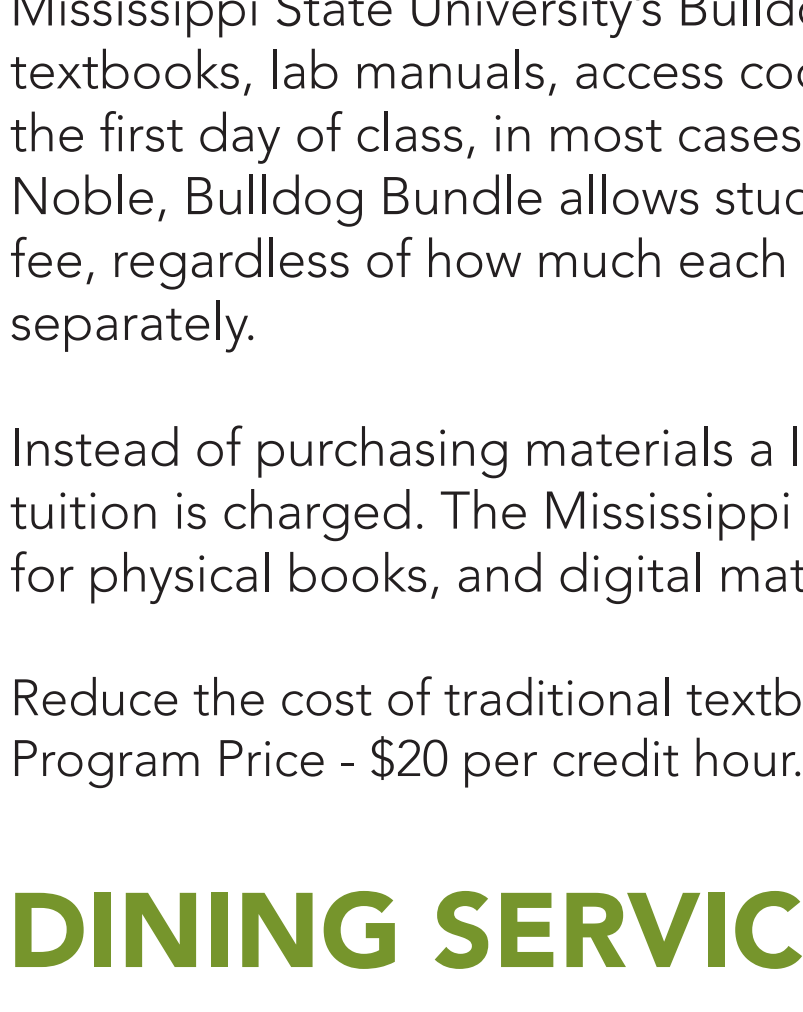
Most students and parents will always remember the necessities when coming to college - toiletries, bedding, and computers. However, a first aid/medicine kit is often overlooked, yet critical. Here is a list of suggestions to send with your student:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Thermometer | <input type="checkbox"/> Cough medicine |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pain reliever | <input type="checkbox"/> Alcohol or hydrogen peroxide |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stomach medicine | <input type="checkbox"/> Antibiotic ointment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cold/flu medicine | <input type="checkbox"/> Band-aids |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Allergy medicine | <input type="checkbox"/> Ice pack/heating pad |

DAWG DAYS

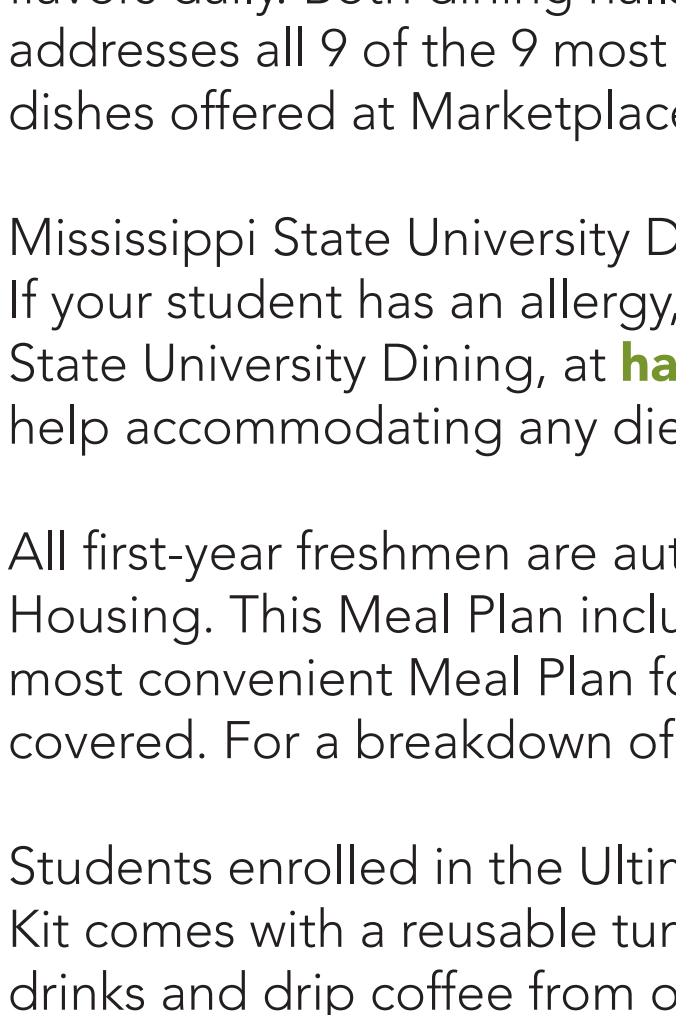
If you are wondering what happens on campus between the moment residence halls open until classes begin, the answer is Dawg Days! This year Dawg Days is scheduled from August 12-20. Events will include movie nights, trivia, game nights, live entertainers, service opportunities, URec The Day, free food, giveaways and much more. These events offer students an opportunity to meet friends and learn more about life on campus. For a complete schedule of activities, visit dawgdays.msstate.edu.

HAPPY PACKS



The Office of Parent and Family Services creates and distributes "Happys" for students from families during the school year. You can purchase three happy packs (First Day of Class (large), Winter Finals, and Spring Finals) for only \$115. Halloween and Valentine's Day packages can be added on to the order separately. Orders must be placed online by July 8. We will deliver the First Day of Class "Happys" by the first day of class. To purchase a happy pack for your student, visit family.msstate.edu.

FRESHMAN YEAR NAVIGATORS



Every new freshman student has a Freshman Year Navigator, a Mississippi State student who works with assigned freshmen, helping them successfully navigate their first year. Navigators email, text, call, and meet their freshmen face-to-face, providing them with valuable information and answering questions throughout the year. Navigators are focused on helping freshmen achieve academic success and avoid common pitfalls.

Center for Academic Excellence | 1st Floor YMCA Building
662.325.7231 | studentsuccess.msstate.edu

BULLDOG BUNDLE

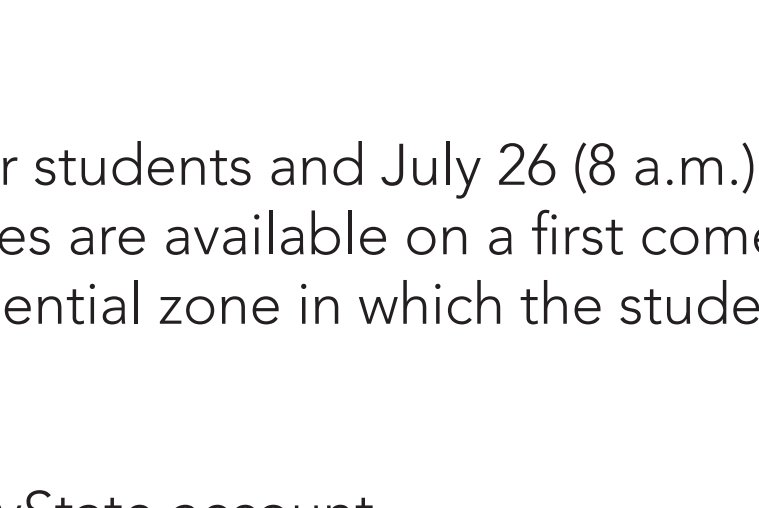
Mississippi State University's Bulldog Bundle gives undergraduate students access to all required textbooks, lab manuals, access codes and electronic book versions in a convenient bundle before the first day of class, in most cases, at discounted prices. Through a partnership with Barnes & Noble, Bulldog Bundle allows students to receive required course materials for all classes for a flat fee, regardless of how much each individual textbook/digital access would cost to rent or purchase separately.

Instead of purchasing materials a la carte, the cost is applied to the student's account at the same time tuition is charged. The Mississippi State bookstore provides each student with a convenient package for physical books, and digital materials are automatically populated to students' courses in Canvas.

Reduce the cost of traditional textbooks by up to 50% with Bulldog Bundle!
Program Price - \$20 per credit hour. Learn more by visiting msstate.edu/bulldogbundle.

DINING SERVICES

We provide our campus community with a total of 20 dining locations with options available from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m.! Our all-you-care-to-eat Residential Dining Halls, Marketplace at Perry and Fresh Food Company, serve unique menus and authentic flavors daily. Both dining halls offer a True Balance Station, which addresses all 9 of the 9 most common food allergens with vegan dishes offered at Marketplace at Perry and Fresh Food Company.



Mississippi State University Dining strives to accommodate all students' dietary needs on campus. If your student has an allergy, please reach out to Jill Hamilton, Registered Dietitian with Mississippi State University Dining, at hamilton-jill1@aramark.com to schedule a one-on-one consultation for help accommodating any dietary restrictions.

All first-year freshmen are automatically enrolled in the Ultimate Meal Plan when they enroll in Housing. This Meal Plan includes Unlimited Block Meals, 10 Guest Meals and \$150 Flex. It is the most convenient Meal Plan for on-campus students, assuring that all of your students' meals are covered. For a breakdown of the Meal Plan view the Freshman Dining Guide at msstatedining.com.

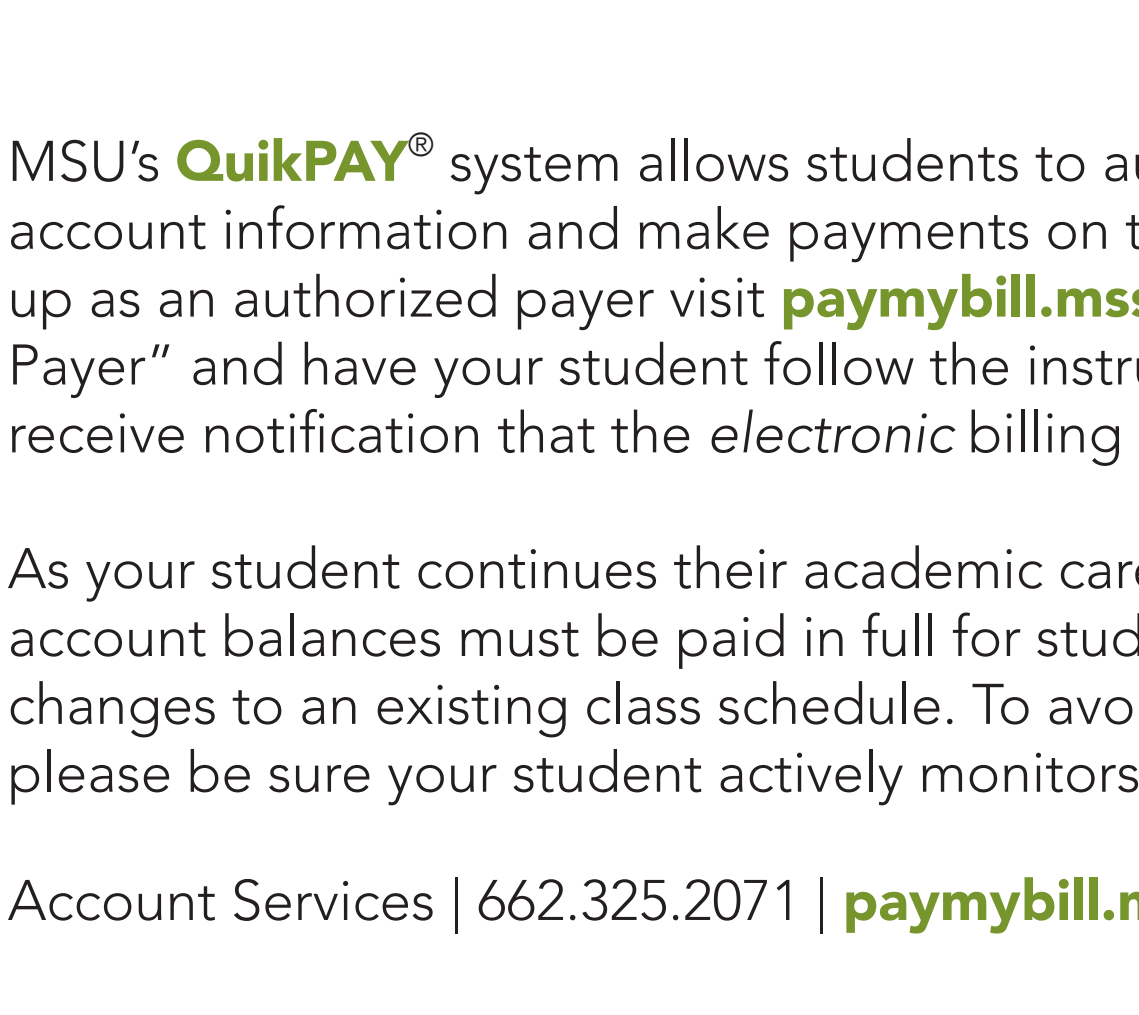
Students enrolled in the Ultimate Meal Plan will receive a free Ultimate Eco Kit! The Ultimate Eco Kit comes with a reusable tumbler that students can use for free drink refills (includes fountain drinks and drip coffee from our local partner, Umble Coffee), a reusable to-go container, and a thermal reusable bag. Students will receive their Ultimate Eco Kit after the first two weeks of the semester and can pick them up in the Dining Office.

MSU Dining Services | 662.325.7120 | msstatedining.com

MISSISSIPPI STATE® FAMILY HUB

The Mississippi State® Family Hub is designed to enhance your Bulldog family experience by providing you with customized newsletters and 24/7 access to campus related news, academic resources, tips for parenting college students, financial guidance, and more. Parents and family members can register by visiting msstate.campusesp.com.

FALL CONVOCATION



Freshmen, new Transfer students, and family members are invited to attend Mississippi State University's 2023 Fall Convocation on August 22, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. at Dudy Noble Field.

PARKING & TRANSIT SERVICES

The Department of Parking & Transit Services is committed to providing safe and reliable parking and transit options to all campus visitors.

PARKING SERVICES

Parking permits will go on sale July 19 (8 a.m.) for Commuter students and July 26 (8 a.m.) for Residential students. Commuter and Maroon Permit zones are available on a first come-first serve basis. Residential permits are guaranteed for the residential zone in which the student is housed.

Permits must be purchased online through your student's myState account.

All permits are digital this year, as your student's license plate will serve as their permit. Residential and Greek permits will be mailed a permit that must be displayed to enter their permitted zone on game days. Students will need to make sure the correct vehicle and license plate is linked on their parking account with their purchased digital permit.

All vehicles on campus must have a digital permit, be registered in a timed/metered area or in ParkMobile. Timed/metered areas are available on Lee Boulevard, at the Roberts Building, Barnes and Noble, Bost Extension, North Garage, or the Old Main Academic Center Parking Garage.

Daily permits are available for visitors, and they are valid in any commuter, staff, or residential area. Daily permits can be purchased at the Roberts Building, Parking and Transit Services Office. Various parking lots are available for use with the ParkMobile app, found in the App Store or Google Play.

Parking Services | 662.325.3526 | parkingservices.msstate.edu

TRANSIT SERVICES

Transit Services provide a broad range of transportation services for campus, Starkville, and the Golden Triangle Region. The Starkville-MSU Area Rapid Transit (SMART) system is a free public transit system with daily routes. SMART welcomes all passengers and is committed to providing exceptional service. Our shuttles are equipped with wheelchair lifts and service animals are welcome. Shuttle routes can be tracked in real-time by downloading the TransLoc app.

Transit Services | 662.325.7594 | smart.msstate.edu

MONEY MATTERS ACCOUNT SERVICES INFORMATION

- Student accounts will be billed around the 15th of every month and the balance will be due on the 1st of the following month.
- MSU offers payment plans that will allow you to pay tuition, residence halls, meal plans, and other expenses through monthly installments. Learn more on our website at paymybill.msstate.edu.
- You must pay the full balance on your student's account (net of aid) or be enrolled in a payment plan by August 1, otherwise, your student's class schedule will be subject to cancellation.
- Don't forget - e-Checks are free. If you are using a debit card, avoid the 2.8% convenience fee by choosing the e-Check option. Credit card payments also incur the 2.8% convenience fee.

MSU's **QuikPAY**® system allows students to authorize a payer (usually a parent) to access account information and make payments on the student's behalf. To have your student set you up as an authorized payer visit paymybill.msstate.edu, click on "Payment" then "Authorized Payer" and have your student follow the instructions. As an authorized payer, you will also receive notification that the electronic billing statement is available.

As your student continues their academic career at MSU, it is important to remember student account balances must be paid in full for students to register for a new semester or make changes to an existing class schedule. To avoid unnecessary late fees or registration holds, please be sure your student actively monitors their account and makes timely payments.

Account Services | 662.325.2071 | paymybill.msstate.edu | studentaccounts@msstate.edu

COST SAVING TIPS

HOUSING:

Did you know Mississippi State offers multiple housing options? Costs for double occupancy range from **\$2,611 to \$4,294**, potentially saving a student **\$1,683** per semester. A comprehensive list of housing choices and costs are available at housing.msstate.edu

DINING:

Freshmen living on-campus are automatically enrolled in the Ultimate Meal Plan. Students can change their plan to either the Gold or Silver plan during the first two weeks, a difference of **\$164** per semester. Check out msstatedining.com to explore which meal plan works best for your student. (Utilize your meal plan to the fullest and limit eating out.)

VEHICLES:

Do not bring a car. Parking permits are **\$200** for commuter students and **\$250** for students living on-campus. Parking & Transit Services offers a robust transportation system that is free and accessible, not to mention Mississippi State is a very walkable campus. Carpool home with friends.

TEXTBOOKS:

Do not buy new textbooks. Encourage your student to access Bulldog Bundle or research other options, including used, borrowed, or electronic.

COMPUTERS:

Many majors do not require you to have a personal computer. Visit its.msstate.edu/services/labs to learn about our open-access computer labs that is available to all students.

BUDGET:

Create a budget. Do not abuse credit cards. Take advantage of amenities on-campus. Study more, spend less = win, win.

AN INVOLVED STUDENT, IS A HAPPY STUDENT

MSU boasts over 300 student organizations, providing many ways for your students to get involved, meet other people, and make the most of their college experience. The best way to view these student organizations is by visiting the Cowbell Connect website at cowbellconnect.msstate.edu, which houses student organization information, involvement and service opportunities, and scheduled events. In addition to being your student's hub for getting involved, the Center for Student Activities is home to the Student Association (SA), Music Maker Productions (MMP), Lyceum Series, Involvement Ambassadors, Dance Marathon (DM), New Maroon Camp, and pageants.

Center for Student Activities | Colvard Student Union - Suite 314
662.325.2930 | union.msstate.edu

FRATERNITY & SORORITY LIFE

For over 130 years, Fraternity & Sorority Life has been one of Mississippi State's greatest traditions. Mississippi State is home to 37 fraternity and sorority chapters that are all nationally recognized organizations. The fraternities and sororities at Mississippi State promote a balance of academics, leadership, community service/philanthropy, and social events. Members of Greek organizations are expected to maintain high grades, to volunteer in the local community, and to get involved and be leaders in other campus organizations. Membership in a Greek organization is a lifetime commitment and in return, members can expect to make lasting memories and lifelong connections.

**Panhellenic Recruitment
Registration Deadline:**
July 25, 2023

**IFC Recruitment
Registration Deadline:**
August 16, 2023

**NPHC & MGC
Going Greek 101:**
August 20, 2023

Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life | Colvard Student Union - Suite 314 | 662.325.2930
grieks.msstate.edu

SERVICE DAWGS DAY

Volunteering for Service DAWGS Day = Free Food, Free T-shirt, and New Friends! Service DAWGS Day is an annual day of service that historically engages over 700 students in at least 30 community service activities within Starkville, West Point, and Columbus. Service DAWGS Day will kick-off on Saturday, August 19, at the intramural Fresh Fields at 9:00 a.m. with a block party following service activities. Volunteer slots fill up quickly so students will need to register as soon as possible. We do not want your student to miss an opportunity to make a difference and get to know the Starkville community! Students can register at mvc.msstate.edu.

