We know you've received a ton of forms, surveys, questionnaires, and information packets, and we hope you've signed up for everything and filled out what you need to! The Orientation staff decided to give you a break from all the forms by sharing some cool facts, history of the University, lists of things to do here during the next four years, and a countdown calendar to Orientation!

About our motto, Meliora...

One of Rochester’s original faculty members, Asahel Kendrick, a professor of Greek from 1850 to 1888, reportedly came up with the motto, likely taken from a phrase in Ovid’s Metamorphoses: “video meliora, proboque, deteriora sequor” which translates to “I have seen better things, but follow worse…” In 1851, the University adopted its motto, “Meliora,” Latin for “better” with the connotation of “ever better,” or a belief in the concept that the world may be made better by human effort, a meaning adopted by the University after the world may be made better by human effort. 1851, the University adopted its motto, “Meliora,” Latin for “better” with the connotation of “ever better,” or a belief in the concept that the world may be made better by human effort.

About our flower, the Dandelion...

Before Azariah Boody donated the land that became the Prince Street Campus, the field was used as a grazing pasture for his cows. The well-fertilized field was covered in dandelions, which made the flower an integral part of student life. It is rumored that after the River Campus was completed in 1930, a sentimental graduate made it his purpose to preserve the tradition by transferring a copious supply of puffball seed heads to the University’s new home beside the Genesee.

About the School Colors...

Dandelion Yellow and “Rochester” Blue are the University’s official colors, adopted in 1954. These have not always been our official colors; magenta and white, light blue and gray, goldenrod yellow have all had their time as well.

About the Class Roll...

Freshmen sign the class roll after Convocation on their first day on campus to symbolically join the University. The class roll is housed in Rush Rhees Library and is displayed at Commencement and class reunions.

Hello from the Orientation Staff!

Visit our website or social media for updates, information and sneak peaks of orientation!

rochester.edu/college/orientation
Facebook: Orientation UR
Twitter: @UROrientation
Youtube: UR Orientation
Snapchat: ur.orientation
Instagram: urorientation
To celebrate the 60 days to Orientation, here are 60 things you can do at the U of R:

1- Get lost in the tunnels.
2- Learn why "Hill Court" is called "Phase.
3- Watch a movie in Hoyt.
4- Sled down the hill behind Sue B.
5- Paint the tunnel under the academic quad.
6- Enjoy Wegmans in all its glory.
7- Eat at Jay's Diner after 1am.
8- Go to a concert at Eastman.
9- Get coffee and a sandwich at Java's or Spot.
10- Take a tour of the library tower.
11- Stay up all night in Gleason or ITS.
12- Go to Genesee Valley Park.
13- Visit the Tree of Life.
14- Tour Mt. Hope Cemetery.
15- Catch a movie at the $2 theatre.
16- Go to the Little Theatre.
17- Get fresh food at the Public Market.
18- Stargaze in the fields.
19- Bike the Canal Trail.
20- Go to an a cappella concert.
21- Watch engineering students launch pumpkins on Halloween.
22- Put a scarf or hat on the George Eastman statue.
23- Ice skate at the Genesee Valley rink.
24- Make snow angels in Fauver stadium.
25- Check out the abandoned Rochester subway system.
26- Fill Fauver for an athletic event.
27- Get lost in the medical center looking for the legendary med center cafeteria.
28- Forget your ID while switching your laundry in Sue B and get locked in the basement.
29- Take over the chairs in Hirst lounge with friends.
30- Find the crazy graffiti tunnel that connects Sue B and Spurrier.
31- Wake up early enough to get a real egg sandwich at the Pit.
32- Go to the George Eastman House.
33- Check out Lake Ontario.
34- Successfully avoid setting off the fire alarm while cooking in Sue B.
35- Explore Park Ave.
36- Find the secret elevator in Meliora Hall.
37- Study in LeChase.
38- Get a Blimpie sub at midnight.
39- Eat at Dinosaur Bar-B-Que.
40- Find Susan B. Anthony's and Frederick Douglass's graves.
41- Take a Rochester public bus.
42- Read the Campus Times.
43- See a production at Todd Theatre.
44- Have a hall dinner mid-semester.
45- Nap in the Welser-Brown Room.
46- Build a snowman on Eastman Quad.
47- Pet dogs when PAWS for Stress Relief comes to campus.
48- Write a note on Eleanor Oi's door.
49- Walk to college town.
50- Study in Robbin's library.
51- Have lunch with your advisor.
52- Wait an hour for your package in Todd.
53- Create a petition on IMPACT.
54- Order Insomnia Cookies.
55- Attend Sunday Splash.
56- Join an organization.
57- Memorize "The Genesee."