

# Getting Involved on Campus and in the Community



**The first year at HSU is a vital time for students to connect with one another, and to get involved on campus and in the community. Some of those connections come naturally—there are new roommates, classmates, and professors, as well as orientations, activities, and more. Others take more initiative by the students.**

It's important for students to seek out opportunities and activities that interest them. These will provide social connections to help them enjoy school, and to succeed now and after graduation.

A 2013 report in the *Journal of College Student Development* found that when students "actively participate in curricular and co-curricular events, they make friends, become oriented to campus quickly, get to know faculty members, and make important gains in critical thinking." Another study found that getting involved in a variety of activities during college "significantly contributed to cumulative GPA and students' perception of the overall academic experience."

[more ►](#)

## Top Tips for Students

Attend the Clubs Fair to find a group to join.

Take part in club or intramural sports for exercise and camaraderie.

Find events and activities on the HSU Events Calendar.

Connect with one of the Cultural Centers for Academic Excellence.

Seek volunteer opportunities to meet people, gain experience, and make a difference.

## Clubs and Publications

Humboldt has nearly 200 student-run clubs ranging from Quidditch to lacrosse, anthropology to zoology, waste-reduction to anime, photography to Catholicism. Clubs connect students with similar interests, help establish friendships, and connect students to a broader network for jobs and other opportunities. HSU's Clubs Office hosts a fair on the quad every semester and a list of clubs is available online.

The school also has numerous student-run media outlets, including The Lumberjack and El Leñador newspapers, The Osprey magazine, KRFH radio, the Toyon literary magazine, and more. These offer students a chance to earn academic credit while getting real-world experience.

## Cultural Centers

Humboldt State is home to five Cultural Centers for Academic Excellence — the African American Center for Academic Excellence, Latinx Center for Academic Excellence, MultiCultural Center, Native American Center for Academic Excellence, and Scholars Without Borders. These centers help students connect with a community, and provide social, cultural, and academic support. They also offer volunteer opportunities to help students become involved at HSU.

## Volunteering

Humboldt State students have a long tradition of volunteering in the community.

One great way to get started is through Youth Education Services (YES), which has empowered students to get involved with the community for nearly 50 years. The program pairs students with year-long projects that benefit around 1,500 children and adults, as well as community organizations and schools.

There are many campus organizations that are focused on social and environmental responsibility. They include the Campus Center for Appropriate Technology, Humboldt Energy Independence Fund, Waste Reduction and Resource Awareness Program, Power Save Green Campus, and many others.

Clubs and Cultural Centers offer volunteer opportunities as well, and many more can be found by talking with teachers, advisors, and other students. Volunteering doesn't just help those in need—it's also an opportunity for students to meet people, build a resume, and explore career paths.

Another way students can connect with the broader campus is by getting involved with Associated Students. It is the officially recognized voice of the student body that provides student perspectives in University decision-making.

## Sports

HSU offers club sports and intramural sports leagues for people of a variety of skill levels. Unlike intercollegiate sports, intramural sports don't require tryouts or previous experience. Students and community members can form their own teams or be placed on a team as an individual. The sports offered vary by season, but typically include soccer, basketball, softball, and more. Drop-in games are also available.

## Entertainment

Students can also attend many events on campus. There are plays, music, and art exhibits produced by fellow students, as well as performances by traveling musicians, guest speakers, and authors. CenterArts and AS Presents are great resources for on-campus entertainment, as is Housing & Residential Life, which hosts events for students living on campus. The University's Event calendar has up-to-date listings of campus events. Events in the community can be found in local media calendars such as the *North Coast Journal*, and the region's visitor bureau has an extensive listing of events and activities in the area.

## The Outdoors

Humboldt is famous for its outdoor opportunities and the community of people who work to make our forests, rivers, mountains, and ocean accessible for everyone. Please see the guide on "The Great Outdoors."

## Resources

Associated Students: [associatedstudents.humboldt.edu](http://associatedstudents.humboldt.edu)

Clubs: [humboldt.edu/recsports](http://humboldt.edu/recsports)

Cultural Centers for Academic Excellence: [caae.humboldt.edu](http://caae.humboldt.edu)

YES House: [yes.humboldt.edu](http://yes.humboldt.edu)

Intramural Sports: [humboldt.edu/recsports](http://humboldt.edu/recsports)

HSU Events Calendar: [humboldt.edu/events](http://humboldt.edu/events)

North Coast Journal Calendar: [northcoastjournal.com](http://northcoastjournal.com)

Visitor Bureau: [visitredwoods.com](http://visitredwoods.com)