

First-Year Commuter Newsletter

Welcome to CSU, Rams!

Welcome to the First-Year Commuter Newsletter! This newsletter contains resources, important information, fun events, and more to help you navigate your first year at CSU. Be sure to check your email every month for the latest edition.



Free Coffee and donuts!



Come into our office during the first week of classes and get free coffee and donuts from 9 AM-11 AM. We are in room 281 in LSC. We would love to see you and get to know you!

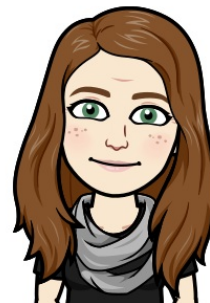
Meet the Team

Hey there! We are glad you are here, and we are always here to help. Here is a little about our staff so you can get to know us! Please stop in anytime; we are open from 9-5 Monday-Friday and would like to get to know you too. We have a new office space, room 281, in Lory Student Center! Come check it out!

Lindsay Mason, Director

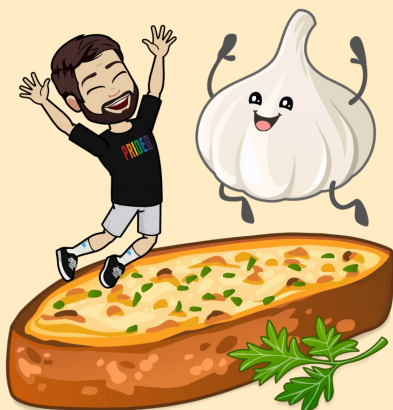
Lindsay is a first-generation college student and a proud alumna of Colorado State University. She came to the university as a graduate student in 2011 and joined the Off-Campus Life team in 2013. She earned her Bachelor's degree in Sociology from California State University San Marcos, Master's degree in Student Affairs in Higher Education from CSU, and Ph.D. in Higher Education and Student Affairs Leadership from the University of

you matter.



Northern Colorado. She serves on leadership boards supporting commuter students and safe ride programs nationally. Lindsay loves soccer, woodworking, cooking, reading, stand-up comedy, sitcoms, and spending time outside with her two pups, Neville and Luna, and partner, Jason.

Justin Schwendeman-Curtis, Assistant Director



Justin joined the Ram family in 2016 as a Residence Director with University Housing and most recently worked within the Student Resolution Center and the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life. Prior to CSU, Justin attended Kent State University, earning his Master's degree in Higher Education Administration and Student Personnel. He earned his bachelor's degree in Integrated Elementary and Special Education from Towson University in 2014. Outside of work, Justin enjoys spending time with his partner Wyatt, doggo Finch, and cats Winston and Tigger. He is an avid cooker, foodie and has fallen in love with the many dining options that Fort Collins has to offer.

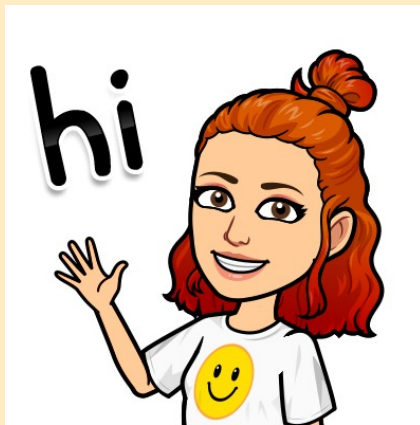
Nancy Rhodes, Administrative Assistant

Nancy became an honorary Ram when she joined Off-Campus Life in July 2009. As OCL's Office Manager, she enjoys trying to help everyone else stay organized. Along with the ongoing operations, she supports big events like the Ram Welcome, Fall Cleanup, and the Housing Fair. Her move to Colorado (after a year-long RV trip around the country with her family) fulfilled her life-long dream of leaving Florida and living somewhere where she could wear sweaters and shovel snow. While she



misses visiting her alma mater for burritos and football games (Go Gators!), she loves being involved in CSU and the ever-changing college atmosphere. Nancy has a Political Science undergrad, a master's in Musicology, and a Paralegal Certificate – so if you're looking for the ultimate Trivial Pursuit partner let her know.

Stevie Jorgensen, Property Manager Liaison



Stevie is a CSU alum, graduating with a bachelor's degree in Political Science in 2020. During their undergrad and post-graduation, she worked as a Senior Leasing Agent and Leasing Manager in the local student housing market. They joined the Off-Campus Life team in January 2021. In their free time, Stevie enjoys Dungeons and Dragons, playing the bass, working with the local theatre community, and participating in film festivals.

Topazio Aranda, Program Coordinator

Topazio is a first-generation college student and a proud CSU Alum, graduating with two Bachelor's degrees in Sociology and Psychology. She is a returning face to Off-Campus Life and RamRide and is excited about the work she can contribute to CSU's mission to becoming a catalyst for change. Topazio enjoys being a foodie with her partner, going hiking, practicing yoga, and venturing into her new love for plants!



Greg Over, Community Liaison Specialist

Greg is a Colorado native and proud CSU alumnus, graduating from the Warner College of Natural Resources in



2014. Since then, he has worked for Colorado Parks & Wildlife, the City of Boulder, and City of Fort Collins, and most recently as a Director for the Boys and Girls Club of Larimer County. Fort Collins has always been his favorite place to call home, and he is excited to be a member of Off-Campus Life to further the “town and gown” relationship between the city, residents, and students alike. In his free time, Greg enjoys tinkering on cars, photography, going for a hike in the Poudre Canyon, or dominating “The Office” trivia nights with friends.

Haley McAveney, Graduate Assistant

Haley, a New Jersey native, graduated from the University of Delaware in 2021 with her B.A. in English and Human Development & Family Sciences. As she pursues her Master’s in Student Affairs in Higher Education at CSU, she helps operate RamRide. Beyond work and school, Haley enjoys going on long runs, listening to podcasts, and is a coffee lover.



Olivia Mayer, Program Assistant



Olivia graduated with a BS in general psychology this past fall. Olivia loves working with others and contributing to a welcoming environment. She grew up on a farm in Oregon with many adventures before she moved to Colorado. Being outdoors is a true love of hers, including traveling, backpacking, cooking, fly fishing, and design! Olivia has a wonderful dog with her at CSU who is very big and fluffy. She is so happy to be working with Off-Campus Life and is so excited for all the future has to offer!

Malia Berry, Graphic Designer, RamRide Food-Ops Coordinator

Malia is a recent CSU graduate from Fort Collins who majored in graphic design and French. She loves anything that allows her to be creative and some of her hobbies include painting, drawing, and crocheting. Her biggest interests are in comics, illustration, and character design, and hopes someday to make art for video games and movies.



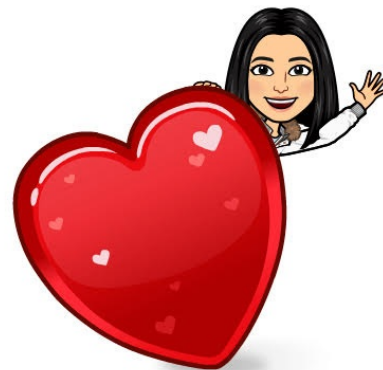
Sophie Emerson – Marketing Manager



Sophie is a third-year student majoring in Journalism and Media Communications with a minor in Global Environmental Sustainability. She is from Wisconsin but came to school in Colorado after taking a gap year to work at Copper Mountain as a lift operator. In her free time, she loves to spend time outside skiing, hiking, or swimming.

Bertha Mendoza, RamRide Volunteer Coordinator

Bertha is from Denver, CO. She is studying biochemistry. In her free time, she likes to watch shows, read, or try new restaurants.



Brock Deal, Program Assistant

Brock is a third-year student from Fort Collins. Brock is born and raised in Colorado. He is also a first-generation student. He is majoring in business



administration with a double concentration in Accounting and OIM. Brock is pursuing a minor in entrepreneurship and a certificate in music business. He is also taking part in the University Honors Program. Outside of work, he enjoys biking, skiing, and anything that has to do with cars.

Sammy Trout, RamRide Nightly Operations Coordinator

Sammy is a 5th year studying Sociology with a Criminal Justice Concentration and a Minor in Political Science and Colorado Native. He is active on campus serving as an ASCSU Senator for the College of Liberal Arts and as chair for the ASCSU Senate's University Affairs Committee. He is a former barista and still holds a strong passion for anything related to coffee and espresso drinks. He also holds a strong passion for the arts, having performed in theater performances as well as multiple choir programs, including here at CSU!



Katie Taylor, Web Designer, RamRide Nightly Operations Coordinator



Katie is a second bachelor's candidate studying Computer Science. She hopes to pursue a career in Software Engineering post-graduation. She lives with her partner, daughter, and 2 cats in Loveland. In her free time, she enjoys reading, playing Dungeons and Dragons, hanging with friends, and enjoying nature. She loves discussing books and at any given time you can guarantee she's reading at least 3 different books.

Mae Tice, Nightly Operations Coordinator

Mae is a 4th year studying Ecosystem Science and Sustainability. She enjoys being active and spending time outdoors, whether it is going for a run or hanging out in a hammock. Her favorite things to do are read books, hang out with friends, and eat food. She aspires to save the earth and be happy!



Leti Madrigal, RamRide Community Outreach Coordinator



Leti is a third-year student majoring in Political Science with a minor in Business Administration and Interdisciplinary Legal Studies. She enjoys outdoor activities such as going on hikes, swimming, and running. She also loves to travel and be by the beach.

Allie Leslie, Graphic Designer

Allie is a Wisconsin Native, making this year 6 in the Rockies for her! She spent 4 years living in Summit County prior to moving to Fort Collins. This is her third semester here at CSU, as a first-generation student! Her educational pursuit at CSU consists of graduating with a BFA concentration in Graphic Design. Her favorite enjoyments consist of exploring, taking photos/building her personal photo business Corke & Route Photography, sipping an oat milk latte at a new or local cafe, and planning new adventures to embark on. In the future she hopes to help small businesses curate ways to market themselves successfully!



Peyton Anderson, Graphic Designer



Peyton is a senior studying Graphic Design and Business. She is part of CSU's Special Olympics Program. Peyton loves bingeing shows with friends, backpacking, country line dancing, and playing with her bunny in her free time. Her career goal is to be a commercial animator one day. Sko'Rams!

Off-Campus First-Year Student Welcome



If you're a first-year student living off campus, we highly recommend attending Ram Welcome. This CSU tradition welcomes new students with various activities, including information sessions, a carnival, picnics, class tours, and convocation. You can enhance your Ram Orientation experience by exploring academic programs, meeting faculty and staff, connecting with other commuter students, and learning about the many services available to support your college experience. We want you to take advantage of this opportunity to discover what it means to be a CSU Ram!

A session for first-year commuter students will be held on Thursday, August 17th, in Engineering Auditorium 100, organized by Off-Campus Life in partnership with Orientation and Transition Programs. The session will start at 1:00 pm, and check-in begins at 12:30 pm. We recommend that students stay on campus for dinner at one of the dining halls after the session and participate in Night at the Rec and the Carnival. For more information and a complete schedule, please click [here](#)



Get Involved!

The Involvement Expo is one of CSU's best opportunities to get involved in campus life. By connecting with Registered Student Organizations (RSOs), University departments, and community agencies offering volunteer opportunities, students can leave their mark at CSU through various involvement opportunities

while discovering resources and services. RSOs, University departments, and agencies set up displays and have members or staff on site to talk to visitors one-on-one about their organizations.

This fall, the Expo will occur on August 29th and 30th from 10 AM-4 PM on the LSC plaza, with different daily organizations. More info is available [here](#).

Student Advisory Board

The Off-Campus Life office supports students successfully moving/living off campus and into the Fort Collins community. It offers various information, services, and educational programs that benefit the entire student body, university, and surrounding community. The Student Advisory Board serves as a sounding board for overall policies, services, and programs for OCL. The Board provides input on long-range goals and objectives, reviews current services, programs, and budgets, and makes recommendations to the Director of OCL in an advisory capacity. As a first-year student living off campus, your input is particularly relevant to what our office does. Commitment is only 1-2 meetings per semester. Click [here](#) to apply.



RamRide!



Our RamRide program will have four elements this semester. You can download the RamRide app from both the Apple and Google stores. You can visit our website [here](#).

1. **RamRide Night Ops**, our safe-ride program, offers student organizations opportunities to volunteer and fundraise. Free rides will be available to the campus community from 10:00 pm to 3:00 am on Friday and Saturday nights. Download the CSU RamRide app to request your free ride around Fort Collins. **Volunteer**, our RamRide program offers CSU clubs and organizations an opportunity to raise money for their organization while helping RamRide run smoothly. If a club/organization has participants that want to volunteer with RamRide, they will be given up to \$1000 from RamRide to use towards their club/organization's needs.
2. **RamRide Food Ops**, our food delivery program, will return in partnership with Rams Against Hunger to offer food deliveries to folks experiencing food insecurity and needing that service. Please visit our website for updates to this program.
3. **RamRide x Lyft**, our partnership with Lyft, will continue this year, offering Lyft codes for money off your ride. Be on the lookout for these codes, which will be

announced on our Instagram various nights throughout the semester!

4. **RamRide Secure**, our transportation security program, will continue this year, offering Lyft credits to students who submit applications and are approved after committee review as funds remain. Look at our website for further updates.

We continue to update our website with details about using and volunteering for these programs, so check [here](#).

You can also follow us on Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter for the latest news.



On-Campus Job Opportunity



Getting an on-campus job is a great way for commuter students to meet new people and get more involved with life at CSU. It's also a great way to get valuable job experience.

Off-Campus Life is hiring; take it from me; it's a great workplace! We have one position open:

- Our RamRide Nightly Operations Coordinator and Program Assistant are responsible for co-leading one Night Operation each week, three weekends a month, and general administrative duties during weekly office hours.

Stop by our office in the LSC for information on how to apply, or click [here](#) for more information.

Upcoming CSU Events

August

- August 15-20: Ram Welcome
- August 21: First Day of Classes
- August 23: Community Welcome
- August 20: Soccer vs. Louisiana Tech
- August 25: Volleyball vs. Kentucky
- August 26: Volleyball vs. Stanford
- August 29-30: Involvement Expo
- August 31: Soccer vs. UMKC

September

- September 2: Football vs. Washington State
- September 5: Labor Day holiday, offices closed & no classes
- September 6-7: Men's Golf: Ram Masters Invitational
- September 7: Volleyball vs. Bowling Green
- September 8: Volleyball vs. Baylor
- September 9: Volleyball vs. Pacific
- September 14: Soccer vs. Utah Tech

- September 15: Volleyball vs. CU
- September 17: Soccer vs. Utah
- September 21: Soccer vs. Nevada
- September 24: Soccer vs. UNLV
- September 22: Volleyball vs. UNLV
- September 25-26: Women's Golf: Colonel Wollenberg Ptarmigan Ram Classic
- September 28: Volleyball vs. San Diego State
- September 29-30: Women's Tennis: Jon Messick Invitational
- September 30: Volleyball vs. UNLV
- September 30: Football vs Utah Tech

Locker Rentals

RENT LOCKERS

IN THE LORY STUDENT CENTER

RENT ONLINE AT: OFFCAMPUSLIFE.COLOSTATE.EDU

RENT BY THE SEMESTER

QUARTER \$20	HALF \$35	FULL \$50
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Off-Campus Life | rm. 274 LSC | 970.491.2248 | oci@colostate.edu

Lockers are a convenient way to stash books, supplies, lunch, and even your coat, hat, and gloves in the winter. Off-Campus Life rents lockers in three sizes and is available the first week of classes. Click [here](#) for more information and to rent.

More Useful Resources



Bike Registration

Protect your bicycle by registering it with the CSU Police Department. It's \$10 for CSU students and increases the return rate of stolen bikes. Click [here](#) for more information and to register your bike.



Counseling

As a CSU student, you are allotted five free counseling sessions. Check out the new CSU hospital and handle your mental health while experiencing college. Click [here](#) for more information.



Textbook Pre-Ordering

Avoid the stress of purchasing books by pre-ordering them online. Choose between new, used, or rental textbooks, and bookstore staff will gather them for you to pick up. Click [here](#) for more information and to order.



Reserving a Study Room

The phenomenal Morgan Library provides study rooms for individuals or groups who study independently. Contact the front desk of the Library to reserve a room. More information is available [here](#).



CSU Recreation Center

Try one of the many fitness classes available at the "Rec," such as Yoga, Boxing, and Zumba. Or, work out on your own, enjoy the aquatic center, and try the climbing wall. Check out their website [here](#) for all the relevant info.

TILT

Every semester, The Institute for Learning and Teaching offers workshops, academic sessions, tutoring and other resources for academic achievement. Check it out [here](#).

