

RUSH2021

We are excited to once again be going to Daytona Beach for RUSH 2021 and believe it will be a fantastic week for your student! We realize the importance of this event in the lives of students. At the same time, we are committed to taking every precaution to promote the safety and well-being of every participant as we continue to navigate through the COVID-19 pandemic.

As a parent, we want you to be as informed as possible. Therefore, we have put together the following plan and guidelines for the week. We ask that you look over this document to better understand our plan for RUSH 2021 before you choose to sign up your student for this event.

SOCIAL DISTANCING

We are committed to abiding by the Social Distancing recommendations from the CDC and local government. Therefore, we are structuring the week of RUSH to do our best to keep students socially distanced. To do this in a way that protects every student and leader while understanding this is a large gathering of hundreds of students and leaders, we are taking the following measures:

- Social distancing will happen by Small Group. All week long, students spend time in close contact with those in their Small Group. This is how hotel rooms will be configured, meal times, seating for sessions, etc.
- Each Small Group will be comprised of less than ten students and 1-2 leaders. Students will not be required to social distance from others in their Small Group, but each Small Group will be asked to Social Distance from other Small Groups as much as possible.
- Throughout the week, we will consistently communicate with leaders and students that social distancing guidelines should be followed.
- Signage will be posted throughout the event with social distancing guidelines for each Small Group.
- Because of the difficulty in maintaining social distancing guidelines with an event this large, we ask that each person do their part and adhere to the guidelines in place to make this a safe and healthy event for everyone.

SMALL GROUPS

Small Groups at RUSH are a vital part of what we do each year, and we see so much growth relationally and spiritually through these Small Groups. Because we are restructuring RUSH to maintain Social Distancing outside of each Small Group, we realize that the Small Group becomes even more critical. Therefore, we will let each student know who will be in their Small Group in the weeks leading up to RUSH. Please note, the release of this is for informational purposes ONLY so that parents and students can plan accordingly. It takes a lot of time and effort to put students and leaders into Groups, and we CANNOT make changes to these Groups after they are completed unless a student's safety is at risk. ***We ask that you not request changes to a Small Group once they are released.***

BUSES & TRANSPORTATION

Due to budget constraints, buses down and back to Daytona Beach will need to be near full capacity, with a maximum of 55 people. To minimize risk, we are taking the following precautions:

- At Check-In on the day of the event, Parents will be asked to sign a form that says their student has not shown any COVID-19 symptoms over the previous 48 hours, nor have they been in close contact with anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19 or that they believe had COVID-19 within the past 14 days. *Please note: if your student or any family members at home have been deemed high risk by health officials, we ask that they not attend RUSH out of an abundance of caution.
- Each student/leader will have their temperature checked before entering the bus on Monday, May 31st. If they show a temperature of 100.4 or higher, they will not be allowed to attend RUSH.
- We will work with the bus company to have CDC-approved cleaning supplies on the bus to wipe down seats, frequently-touched areas, etc. during transportation.
- Students will be asked to sit with their Small Group on the bus ride to Daytona and back home.
- Each bus will be thoroughly sanitized and cleaned before the trip home.
- Each student/leader will have their temperature checked before loading the bus on Friday, June 4th, and will not be allowed to enter if they show a temperature of 100.4 or higher. If that is the case, parents will be contacted, and we will provide alternate transportation back home for their student.
- For the safety and well-being of all RUSH participants, we are requiring masks to be worn on the bus ride to and from Daytona. We know this is not desirable for many people, but due to the lack of social distancing and the desire to minimize the spread of COVID-19 during the week, this is necessary.
- All buses will stop for lunch on the way to Daytona Beach. Students should bring money for lunch and will be required to wear a mask at the restaurant they dine in. This also applies to the ride home from RUSH.
- If parents want to drive their student to/from RUSH separately from the bus, they are able to do so this year. They will need to mark that option at registration, and understand that the price of RUSH will not change. Adult leaders will be required to ride the bus down and back to ensure we have enough adult supervision for all of our students.

HOTEL GUIDELINES

The Hilton has given us their detailed safety and sanitization measures while we are at RUSH. Click here: [Hilton Daytona Beach Oceanfront Resort Covid19 Protocol.pdf](#)

We will also have a Guest Services team at RUSH that will work with the hotel to help sanitize after meals and areas that our group frequently uses. We have included PPE items (Hand Sanitizer, Cleaning Wipes, face mask, etc.) on the WHAT TO BRING list for all RUSH participants.

The City of Daytona and Hilton do require masks to be worn indoors at all times except when in your hotel room. We will do our best to enforce the current local guidelines that are in place at the time of the event. If any of these guidelines change, we will adjust accordingly.

SESSIONS/SERVICES

All of our Large Group Sessions/Services throughout the week will be organized based on the overall RUSH attendance and the Hilton's max capacity guidelines in their meeting spaces. In addition, the meeting room will be set up to maintain social distancing between each Small Group/Family. Students will be asked to sit only with their Small Group/Family during the sessions and maintain distance from other Groups as much as possible.

BEACH & FREE TIME

We will follow all of the local and beach guidelines during free time. Students will be required to stay with their Small Group during Free Time (this is no different than in past years at RUSH). Currently, beach guidelines request that each Group social distance from other people in groups of less than ten if at all possible. Students will be free to go to other local places that are open for business (entertainment venues, stores, hotel pools, etc.) as long as they are with their Small Group and adhere to local guidelines for those businesses.

MEALS

All breakfasts and dinners are covered while at RUSH. We have worked with the Hilton to provide multiple seating areas for these meals. We will take the following measures:

- The group will be divided into several meal times to limit any mass gatherings of people.
- Students will be asked to sit with their Small Group and to maintain Social Distancing from other Groups.
- All meals will be pre-packaged, and students/leaders will come through the line to simply take their meal. There will be no buffet-style serving, and no students touching the same utensils, plates, cups, etc.
- All tables, chairs, etc. will be sanitized and cleaned after each meal group.
- Our Guest Services team will wear masks and gloves as they are setting up and serving the food, based on local guidelines.
- Students are on their own for lunches during the week. All local restaurants are open for business, and many of them offer take-out. Students must stay with their Small Group and eat lunch together at the place of their choosing. Leaders will work to ensure Social Distancing Guidelines are followed for their Group.
- We are working with the Hilton to provide on-site lunch options if students don't want to visit local restaurants to eat.

HOTEL ROOMS

Because of budget constraints, we cannot plan to put less than four students in a room. Each student can expect to be in a room with 3-4 other students from the same Small Group. We request that students do not go into hotel rooms that are not part of their Small Group to ensure that social distancing guidelines are being followed.

Leaders will be placed in a room by themselves or with one other leader based on Small Group breakdown. This will be done to minimize the potential spread of COVID-19 among multiple groups.

WHAT HAPPENS IF SOMEONE SHOWS COVID-19 SYMPTOMS OR TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19 AT RUSH?

We will have a Medical Team with us at RUSH. They will have the necessary PPE masks, sanitizers, thermometers, etc. Students and Leaders will be subject to daily temperature checks. If a student or leader has a temperature over 100.4 or shows any other COVID-19 symptoms, our Medical Team will take them to a local testing clinic. Parent(s) of that student will be notified if that happens.

If a person tests positive for COVID-19, we will immediately quarantine all members of that Small Group/Family. At that point, parents of all impacted students will be notified and we will make arrangements to bring all members of that group home from RUSH. We will also send out a communication to all parents should an event like this occur.

WHAT ARE WE ASKING PARENTS TO DO?

We are committed to doing everything we can to protect the students and adults who participate at RUSH. Your student's safety is our top priority. At the same time, we cannot fully guarantee your student's safety from COVID-19. We ask that you agree to the following if you choose to send your student to RUSH:

- Attend the RUSH Parent Meeting on Sunday, April 25th at 2:00pm in the Worship Center. At this parent meeting, we will cover details of the week and provide a “What-To-Bring” List, Medical Release Form, and COVID-19 waiver.
- When registering your student for RUSH, you are acknowledging that our team will do our best to put your student with some of the friends they requested, but we cannot guarantee that everyone’s request will be met. All rooming and family group assignments are ultimately at the student staff's discretion.

WHAT IS OUR RUSH REFUND POLICY?

If a student tests positive for COVID-19 in the days leading up to RUSH and is unable to attend, they will be given a full refund. Refunds will not be given if parents or students change their mind about attending RUSH for any other reasons.

If a student tests positive for COVID-19 while at RUSH, they will be given a refund of 20% of their registration cost for each full day that they are unable to fully participate at RUSH. For example, if a student tests positive for COVID-19 on Wednesday, they and the members of their Small Group will each be entitled to a refund of 40% of their registration cost to cover Thursday & Friday of RUSH week.

Please be aware that these guidelines can change based on the current situation. If health officials update guidelines that allow us to make changes to how we structure RUSH, we will communicate any changes that are made at that time.

We believe that these guidelines will help us keep every student and leader safe. We also believe God is going to move at RUSH in a powerful way, and we are so excited that RUSH is back this summer! We are praying great things for your student at RUSH and hope you will make plans for him/her to attend!

If you have any questions or we can help you in any way as you prepare for RUSH, please contact us at rush@westridge.com.

West Ridge Student Staff