

UVM Hillel Fresh Fest 2025

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Fresh Fest?

For the first time, UVM Hillel is offering an immersive, pre-orientation early move in experience exclusively for first year students (class of 2029) moving on campus at UVM. Many Hillels offer a similar Fresh Fest experience on their different college campuses across the country. Fresh Fest will occur a couple of days before the typical UVM move in period begins and will be jam packed with exciting summertime activities, all-inclusive Kosher-style meals, and Jewish community building with other first year students at Hillel. Fresh Fest is the first opportunity for incoming students to get to know Jewish life on campus at UVM.

When is Fresh Fest?

Fresh Fest 2025 will take place from **Tuesday, August 19th at 3:00 pm to Thursday, August 21st at 1:30 pm**. Your early move-in window will take place in the morning to early afternoon of Tuesday, August 19th. UVM's required first year orientation begins at 3:00 pm on Thursday, August 21st.

Who is UVM Hillel Fresh Fest designed for?

Our Fresh Fest experience is tailored exclusively for incoming first year students, class of 2029. UVM Hillel is a proud pluralistic Jewish organization on campus, and we invite any student who identifies as Jewish to join us at Fresh Fest, as well as any student who is comfortable in Jewish community spaces.

Where will Fresh Fest be?

Fresh Fest will take place at our Hillel building on campus (439 College St, Burlington VT). Some activities will take place both on campus and off campus in Burlington. Burlington is very walkable in the summertime and that will be our mode of transportation to and from activities. Our Hillel student leaders and Hillel staff will accompany our Fresh Fest students at all times.

How much does Fresh Fest cost?

Our Fresh Fest fee of \$300 is all-inclusive and covers UVM's early move in fees and dorm, all meals and snacks, activities, and swag. If our Fresh Fest fee is a hardship, please reach out to Michala Katz at michala@uvmhillel.org and we will work to accommodate your situation. It is our priority to ensure that all incoming first year students who want to participate in Fresh Fest with us are able to do so.

What is included in Fresh Fest?

UVM Hillel Fresh Fest offers many perks for you AND your parents!

Fresh Fest gives you the opportunity to...

- Move into your own dorm room on campus earlier than most students! (The only other students who get to move into their dorm rooms early are the students participating in one of UVM's five other pre-orientation programs)
- Beat the majority of the travel traffic and on campus crowding that occurs during the normal move in period
- Attend Hillel drop in hours for parents to meet Hillel staff on Tuesday, August 19th until 2 pm
- Have more time to settle into your dorm and familiarize yourself with UVM's campus
- Enjoy all meals and snacks provided by Hillel (kosher-style)
- Build a close-knit Jewish community with other first year students through fun activities at Hillel, on campus, and in Burlington
- Enjoy activities such as kayaking on Lake Champlain, t-shirt tie dyeing, creemee social (Vermont maple soft serve ice-cream), make your own pizza night and more!
- Receive exclusive UVM Hillel swag
- Make friends with other first years living in the same dorm as you
- Meet and get to know our Hillel staff
- Create connections with our experienced Hillel student leaders
- Learn about our Hillel events and opportunities throughout the academic year
- And so much more!!

What is on the itinerary? Where can I find the itinerary?

The Fresh Fest schedule is as follows:

Tuesday, August 19th -- 3:00 pm-9:00 pm

Wednesday, August 20th -- 9:00 am-9:00 pm

Thursday, August 21st -- 9:00 am-1:30 pm (UVM's *required* first year orientation begins at 3:00 pm)

We are actively putting together a fun, exciting, and inclusive activity itinerary with our experienced Hillel student leaders. Fresh Fest's complete itinerary and schedule will be available and distributed to all of our registered participants closer to the program date.

When do I need to fill out this form by?

We ask that you fill out this form to reserve your spot at UVM Hillel Fresh Fest 2025 by June 1, 2025. This provides us enough time to appropriately plan the best possible Fresh Fest experience for you.

What happens next?

After submitting our interest form, our Director of Student and Community Engagement, Michala Katz, will contact your parent for next steps to officially reserve your spot for Fresh Fest 2025 and send your payment. You can find our interest form on our website, uvmhillel.org, and Instagram linktree, [@uvmhillel](https://www.instagram.com/uvmhillel). Please reach out to Michala at michala@uvmhillel.org with any questions or concerns.