

# DeSmet Constitution

We, the residents of DeSmet Hall, have deemed this Constitution essential in upholding the DeSmet spirit and tradition. The following was created in collaboration with Gonzaga University as a product of the proud and resilient DeSmet community and as a means to uphold its legacy.

DeSmet residents agree to:

1. Uphold the constitution and charter.
2. Support the DeSmet Floor Captains, staff, and other leaders decided upon in their responsibilities and their roles.
3. Participate in a panel of peers to respond to DeSmet residents' behaviors, as we hold each other accountable to the DeSmet Charter and Constitution, and determine appropriate consequences with cases as referred by a Gonzaga University official.
  - The panel of peers consists of five rotating students and two alternates selected at random.
    - Of the five, there must be one floor captain and at least one first-year and one second-year.
    - Of the two alternates, one must be a first-year and one must be a second-year.
    - Residence Director, or appointed designee, will be available as a resource during the panel's proceedings, but will not be present during the final voting process.
  - The respondent is afforded the opportunity to appeal to a designated Residence Life professional within one week of a decision.
  - The conclusions reached by this panel are binding and DeSmet residents are expected to comply. Appeals may be directed to the designated Residence Life professional.

4. Take personal action to ensure the DeSmet facilities are respected and fully operational, for this is our home.
5. Actively engage in one or more of the following to demonstrate active leadership within and beyond the hall:
  - DeSmet Interest Group (DIG)
  - DeSmet Block Council Member
  - Coordinate one program per semester, with your floor mates, designed for the entire DeSmet community.
  - Serving as a Gonzaga Student Body Association Representative
  - Act Six Scholar
  - Other engagement with written permission from DeSmet's Residence Director
6. Refrain from consuming or possessing illegal substances while on the premises of DeSmet, in accordance with Gonzaga University's Student Code of Conduct.
7. Report to the RA or Floor Captain upon witnessing actions that reflect poorly upon a DeSmet resident, for "we are the change we want to see in the world."
8. Elect one Floor Captain per floor in accordance with DeSmet's traditions.
  - Floor Captains are selected from rising sophomores who apply and are elected in the spring prior to their year of service. Their responsibilities are as follows:
    - Held to a higher level of accountability through their actions. If a conduct issue arises, floor captains will meet with the RD and all four RAs, as opposed to the panel of peers.
    - Undergo training throughout the final months of their elected year and will attend training the week prior to the start of the following school year.
    - Attend regular meetings with RAs, the RD, and fellow floor captains.
    - Serve as a student resource to promote events such as DeSmet retreats, block council events, and more.
    - Accompany the RA for the purpose of social rounds to develop greater inter-floor community and building-wide accountability.
    - Support residents in the planning and coordinating of at least one event on their designated floor per semester.

- Plan the closing barbeque and cordially invite DeSmet alumni to connect with current residents and continue DeSmet traditions.
- The election format is determined by the Residence Director or appointed designee.

DeSmet residents may submit an amendment to the DeSmet Constitution or Charter if the petition is signed by a two-thirds majority of current DeSmet residents. The Resident Assistants, Floor Captains, and Residence Director may edit the amendment and assess the request's compatibility with Gonzaga's mission statement, ethos, university guidelines, and housing policies. If approved by the RAs, Floor Captains, and RD, the amendment will be added to the DeSmet Constitution or Charter and returned to the students who, by two-thirds majority, may ratify the document.

If the amendment is deemed incompatible with Gonzaga's mission statement, ethos, university guidelines, and housing policies, the RD may veto the amendment and return the request to the residents. The residents may submit an appeal to the DeSmet CAT (Charter Advisory Team), comprised of professionals and students across campus, who will assess the request and serve as a means of checks and balances to the process.