

# **Gonzaga Off-Campus Theme House Application 2018-2019**



**Applications due October 27th at  
4:30pm**

## Theme House Information (2018-2019)

### What is a Theme House?

The Off-Campus Theme House program is an intentional way of having students live together with a common goal, purpose, hobby, or cause. Groups of student leaders, club leaders, club members or friends who want to live together in a house are strongly encouraged to apply for a theme house.

Theme house members are committed to doing three events a year; one of those required to be a service event. These events will be funded by the Housing Department.

The Housing and Residence Life Department operates under a Gonzaga Residential Experience Model that is not solely about events that happen in our communities but is to be viewed as a comprehensive approach that guides our “way of being” in community together.

Our Gonzaga Residential Experience is built around five foci: Jesuit engagement, Academic success, Belonging, Interculturality, and Personal Growth. Students who live in University housing – regardless of class standing, building location, or type of residence – will find these foci evident in their hall environment, community events, and relationships with each other and the residence life staff.

1. Jesuit Engagement: Engaging in opportunities to learn, reflect, and act in accordance with our Jesuit traditions and values
2. Academic Success: Providing opportunities that encourage academic pursuits, finding vocation, engaging with academic resources, and the sharing of knowledge with their peers.
3. Belonging: Creating meaningful relationships, feeling valued within the GU community, and feeling there's an atmosphere for open communication, respect, and an understanding of difference.
4. Interculturality: Being in community with others from diverse cultural backgrounds, developing a sense of belonging, and engaging in solidarity with those who are marginalized.
5. Personal Growth: Learning to live in community with others, developing a balance between interdependence and autonomy, and establishing healthy living habits.

The Gonzaga Residential Experience will shape the types of events that theme houses are expected to complete.

Examples of past events:

- The Passion to Serve house responded to a request at the Logan Neighborhood Association and painted the Logan Neighborhood sign that is in Mission Park.
- The Love Does house held a Galentine's event where they engaged participants through reflection, sharing, and food. The focus of the event was on empowering women.

### Theme House Requirements?

- Each theme house will complete three programs each year.
  - One program each semester and one service project total.
- Each theme house will have at least one representative present at the Logan Neighborhood Association meetings (September-April).
- Each member of each house will respond to prompts and provide a brief reflection on their experience living in their house each semester. This will be turned in no later than December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018, and May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

## **Who is Responsible for Theme Housing?**

Theme houses are managed by GU Housing and Residence Life. Plant Services supports the maintenance of the facilities.

## **Where are the houses located?**

All houses are in close proximity to Gonzaga campus. Theme houses are 3-7 resident capacity, most of which are 3-7 bedrooms.

- North / South: Gonzaga Campus to Mission (predominately on Sinto and south toward main campus)
- East / West: Lidgerwood to North Superior (surrounding Marian hall)

## Housing Agreement Contract Details for 2017-2018

- Projected rent for houses: \$385 per bedroom per month. If a house is not completely filled then tenants will make up additional bedroom rent.  
 Note: This is an estimated cost as the University determines rent costs in the spring (Housing and Residence Life does not determine rent costs). University has the right to raise the listed rent rate, but resident has right to withdraw from this Agreement, prior to Agreement start date, without penalty, if any increase is greater than 3%. If there is a decrease in rent rates, the university will honor them and adjust rent costs accordingly. Additionally, rent may vary according to house occupancy and number of residents.
- Rent is due on the first (1<sup>st</sup>) of every month.
- Contract dates for new residents: **August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018 to May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019.** (Changes may occur)
- Contract dates for renewing off-campus residents: **June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018 to May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019.** (Changes may occur)
- The contract *may* be renewable for the next year if property continues to be used as student housing. Students will have to reapply for the house.
- Gonzaga pays for water, sewer and garbage.
- Residents are responsible for utilities, cable, and internet.
- Houses are unfurnished.

**Note:** You will sign a rental agreement with the Resident Director in person. Although you will sign as a group, each member will be held individually responsible to the rental agreement. This is a legally binding contract and is final if you are offered a house, you accept a theme house, and submit a \$200 deposit/person. The rental agreement includes all contract details. Please read the contract carefully and ask if you have any questions.

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Who can live in a theme house?** Theme houses are available for any students meeting our on-campus residency requirement (i.e. have lived on-campus for 4 semesters OR are 21 years of age).

**Is the application process easy?** Yes! All residents, living on-campus or off-campus, have to sign a Housing Agreement or lease, which is the Zag Living portion of our application process. To apply as a theme house, you also have to complete the theme house group application and present your proposal to a Selection Committee. However, if accepted you have the perks to live in a house owned/managed by Gonzaga.

**How many houses will be dedicated to the theme house program?** In an attempt to create an off-campus community, the goal is to have all GU off-campus rental properties as theme houses. There is an ability to have up to 9 theme houses next year.

**What is a Theme House Selection Committee?** The Theme House Selection Committee is a small group of staff and students, including the Off-Campus Residence Director, who will review all theme house applications, sit on the panel where each group presents their theme proposals, determine which group will be selected as theme houses for next year, and assign themes to properties.

**What is the selection committee looking for in a theme house proposal?** The Theme House Selection Committee is looking for students who are dedicated and passionate to the theme they choose. The committee looks for creativity, enthusiasm, and dedication to Gonzaga and the Logan neighborhood. Finally, it is important for residents of Gonzaga houses to be good neighbors and demonstrate maturity and respect for the house, property, and neighborhood. Students we can trust and be proud of in the neighborhood make great candidates!

**What advice can you give me on my application and presentation that will help our theme stand out?** The Theme House Selection Committee will be reading many applications and interviewing numerous groups – your application and presentation should be thoughtful and memorable. Be creative, energetic and enthusiastic about your theme. Pictures and props are always welcome and encouraged!

**What should I expect during the presentation for the theme house proposal?** You should prepare a 5-7 minute presentation for your theme house proposal. Be prepared to quickly demonstrate why you chose the theme, what your plans are for next year if you are selected as a theme house, and why we should select your theme over others. Finally, there will be a 3-5-minute question and answer period to allow the committee to learn more.

**Will I be able to choose which house I want to live in?** No, the Selection Committee will assign each group to a property that correlates with the size of the group and where the Selection Committee believes each theme should be located. That house is the only location a group is offered.

**What happens if we apply for a theme house but do not like the house we are assigned?** You will be allowed to tour the house you are assigned to before you are committed to a rental agreement. If you take a tour and decide not to accept the house, you need to notify Housing of this decision and are free to sign a lease with a private landlord or wait for the on-campus housing process.

**Why should I live in a GU house rather than with a private landlord?** Gonzaga housing provides students competitive off-campus rates with maintenance upkeep, the same as on-campus maintenance. The houses are also located close or on campus.

**Who can I talk with to learn more about the theme house program?** You can contact current Community Advocates Sophie Anton ([santon@zagmail.gonzaga.edu](mailto:santon@zagmail.gonzaga.edu)), Elly Zykan ([elyzykan@zagmail.gonzaga.edu](mailto:elyzykan@zagmail.gonzaga.edu)), and Sarah Godbehere ([sgodbehere@zagmail.gonzaga.edu](mailto:sgodbehere@zagmail.gonzaga.edu)), Northeast Block Residence Director (Quinton Geis) at [geis@gonzaga.edu](mailto:geis@gonzaga.edu), and/or send an email to [offcampushousing@gonzaga.edu](mailto:offcampushousing@gonzaga.edu). You could also seek out participants of any current theme house who would be willing to talk more about the program.

## Theme House Application Process

1. Receive the Theme House Application. Applications will be available online on the Housing and Residence Life webpage, on the Gonzaga website. Applications will be available 10/4/17.
3. Prepare your Theme House Application by answering the application questions. Pictures are welcome.
4. Submit Theme House Application, one per theme house group.
  - Submit your application in electronic form to Quint Geis at [geis@gonzaga.edu](mailto:geis@gonzaga.edu). Due no later than October 27<sup>th</sup> at 4:30pm.
  - Don't forget your Statement of Understanding!
5. Sign up for a 15-minute interview to propose your theme to the Selection Committee.
  - After applications are submitted you will be contacted about setting up a time to interview. Sign up not later than 10/30/17.
6. Present your Theme House Proposal between October 31<sup>st</sup> and November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Location determined when you sign up.
  - In 5-7 minutes, present your theme proposal. There will be a 3-5 minute question and answer period to allow the committee to learn more.
7. Each group will be notified if they are selected to be in a theme house and of their housing assignment on 11/4/16.
  - All groups will be notified of their status via email.
8. Tour assigned house between Nov 13<sup>th</sup> – Nov 21<sup>st</sup>.
  - Students will have the opportunity to tour their housing assignment. Tour instructions will be given to those offered a theme house assignment. If students do not like the house, they have the right to decline the housing offer and drop out of the theme house process.
  - The University reserves the right to not offer the group a second assignment if group declines the first house.
9. Each participant must submit a \$200.00 Off-Campus Housing Deposit no later than Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> at 12 pm. An on-campus housing deposit will not suffice. You must make a separate deposit!
10. Theme House Group must submit a written form accepting the theme house assignment. You will be provided a form to complete with theme house assignment.

## **Theme House Application**

**Due October 27th at 4:30pm**

Applicants must be exempt from the University Residency Requirement to live in a house owned by the University. Any group wishing to apply for the theme houses should create a proposal, which includes the following:

- Provide the full name of each occupant, including current address, contact phone number and email address.
- Propose a theme idea that all members of the house agree upon and support.
- Describe the activities your group or individuals would accomplish that would be in keeping with the idea behind your proposed theme. Please remember, theme houses will be doing a service project and putting together an activity once a semester relating to their theme.
- Describe how your group would “add” in positive ways to the Logan Neighborhood.
- Draft and provide a potential mission statement your group will use to accomplish the proposed theme. This should encompass your group’s unique thoughts about the role the theme plays on house community as well as local community.
- Each member must sign the attached Statement of Understanding document.

Each theme house will present their theme house proposal to a Selection Committee. The Application will also be reviewed by a committee at the sole discretion of the Northeast Block Residence Director. This committee will recommend specific groups to become theme houses and there will be no appeal of the decision the Residence Director makes.

## Statement of Understanding

To be submitted with Theme House Application

We, the undersigned, agree that we are aware that the University Code of Student Conduct applies to all university owned residential property. As such, we specifically understand that:

- a. Unless each resident of the theme house or off campus apartment unit is at least 21 years of age, the entire living unit is considered “dry” and may not have any alcoholic beverages or empty containers of such on the premises.
- b. If the house is occupied by residents of legal age, we understand it is against State Law and the University Student Conduct Code to provide alcoholic beverages to minors.
- c. The university does not allow co-habitation but an exception can be made if the proper rental addendum is signed by all residents. Overnight guests are not allowed, nor are non-rent paying GU students or non-students allowed to live in the unit.

### Signatures:

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