



Norwich University Corps of Cadets

FAQ for Parents of Rooks



HOUSING & ARRIVAL

Q: When will my rook learn their barracks and roommate assignments?

A: After applying for housing, most rooks can see their unit and barracks assignment on the NU Living portal after June 1. Final room and roommate assignments will be released in early August. If your rook doesn't apply by August 1, they may not know their assignment until arrival.

Visit: [NU Living portal](#)

CEREMONIAL UNITS & SPORTS

Q: My rook wants to join the Regimental Band, Cavalry Troop, or Drill Team.

A: Your rook should contact their admissions counselor or email commandant@norwich.edu.

Q: My rook is attending a ceremonial unit FTX (For Band, Cavalry, and Drill Team). What dress do they report in, and will they move into their room early?

A: Your rook may report in civilian attire on Sunday, August 10, and will move into their room early. Dress for the week will be an FTX T-shirt (provided), shorts, and sneakers. Participants will receive a packing list for the FTX. The required dress for Rook Arrival Day is needed on Saturday, August 16.

Note: If you have not received info about the FTX, email commandant@norwich.edu.

Q: My rook will be a varsity athlete arriving early for pre-season sport camp. What dress do they report in, and will they move into their assigned room early?

A: Your rook may report in civilian attire on the scheduled date the team reports, and will move into their room early. Civilian attire is approved for camp. The required dress for Rook Arrival Day is needed on Saturday, August 16. Rook athletes may bring additional sports attire/gear.

Q: Can my rook arrive early for varsity team pre-season camp tryouts?

A: Only if invited by the coach. Tryout dates for walk-ons are announced during Rook Orientation Week.

ROTC & MILITARY COMMISSIONING

Q: Does attending Norwich guarantee a military commission?

A: No. Commissioning through ROTC is competitive and based on medical, academic, and physical standards.

Q: Do cadets have to serve in the military after graduation?

A: No. All cadets must complete and pass two years (four classes) of progressive-level ROTC courses, but there's no service obligation unless they pursue a commission.

Q: My rook does not have an ROTC scholarship. Can they still commission?

A: Yes. A number of cadets earn scholarships during their first two years through ROTC or other organizations such as the Army National Guard or Marine Corps PLC. ROTC scholarships are very competitive. Key factors for consideration for one are high grade point average, strong physical fitness test scores, medical clearance, good character, and successful adaption to cadet life.

SUPPORT & MENTORSHIP

Q: What is a Company Mentor?

A: A member of the Commandant's staff who supports, advises and guides cadets. One is assigned to each company with an office in the barracks for building management, training oversight, important issues, and accessibility. The company mentor is the rook's first professional staff member in their chain of command for questions and matters of concern.

Q: What is the cadet chain of command?

A: Cadet leaders who supervise and mentor your rooks. Rooks may access their company mentor and battalion assistant commandant on the Commandant's Staff, if needed.

HEALTH & FITNESS & UNIFORMS

Q: What physical standards must my rook meet?

A: Rooks must have a recent physical within six months of arrival day, complete required medical forms, and be cleared by NU Health Services to start Rook training. The NUCC Physical Fitness Test includes timed push ups, plank, and a 2-mile run. It's essential to be truthful on all medical forms and be physically prepared .

Q: Can rooks self-administer medication?

A: Yes, but they must notify NU Health Services. For refrigerated medicines, contact the Commandant's Office for dorm size fridge approval.

Q: How should my rook break in military shoes and boots?

A: Wear them around the house and yard. Do not soak them in water.

Q: Where can we buy the required shoes and boots?

A: Visit: [Cadet Uniform Store](#) | Call: (802) 485-2506

Q: Can rooks wear their Reserve/Guard uniform?

A: Only when traveling to drill. Rooks must wear the standard cadet uniform on campus.

Q: Can rooks bring additional civilian clothes and rook athletes bring additional athletic wear?

A: Any additional civilian clothes will be placed in storage. Athletes may bring additional athletic wear/gear.

Q: Does my rook need money to wash and dry laundry?

A: No. There are laundry facilities in each of the barracks. The [Cadet Uniform Store](#) offers tailoring services for most uniform items at no charge. Dry cleaning service is available and laundry/ironing supplies are sold at the store.

MONEY, MAIL, MEALS & ESSENTIALS

Q: Do rooks need cash?

A: Small amounts for incidentals. There's an ATM on campus, and most places accept cards.

Q: How can I send money to my rook?

A: We recommend the use of credit/debit cards and consider opening a checking account with [Northfield Savings Bank](#) in town, which is convenient and helps reduce ATM fees.

Q: What if my rook runs out of something not available to purchase at the Bookstore or Uniform Store? A:

Rooks may purchase items through the Internet. Cadre make department store runs for their rooks.

Q: Do rooks need to sign up for a meal plan?

A: No. All rooks will be assigned a 19-meal (per week) plan. However, for the spring semester, your rook must sign up for a meal plan.

Q: My rook has special dietary needs. Will your food service provider accommodate?

A: Yes. [Sodexo Campus Services](#) offers an allergen free station and does their best to accommodate student needs. Your rook must inform their chain of command and well as question the dining facility food server of susceptible items being served. It's the responsibility of your rook to speak up!

Q: How do I mail items to my rook? (USPS, UPS, FedEx, and DHL services available)

A: RCT Last, First Name
Norwich University
158 Harmon Drive
Northfield, VT 05663

Note: Mailboxes are not issued. Students are notified by email to pick up mail/packages.

Q: Can I drop off items locally?

A: Yes, during business hours at the Commandant's Office, Rm 233, Jackman Hall. After business hours and weekends after 1630, visit the Cadet Guard Room in Jackman Hall, main floor.

COMMUNICATION

Q: When can I expect to hear from my rook?

A: The first official contact is on Sunday evening at the end of Rook Week for 10 minutes, continuing every Sunday night thereafter for 10 minutes as a rook. Rooks can email after Internet setup (usually within 3-4 days after arrival).

Q: Can my rook have a cell phone?

A: Not during Rook Week. Once classes start, phones are allowed for academic purposes and emergencies but restricted during certain training events and activities.

Q: How do I reach my rook in an emergency?

- A:
- **Business hours:** Call the Commandant's Office at (802) 485-2135
 - **24/7:** Call Public Safety at (802) 485-2525

Q: I have not heard from my rook in some time—what now?

A: Try emailing your rook first. If needed, contact their company mentor or the Commandant's Office.

VISITS, LEAVE & TRANSPORTATION

Q: When can I see my rook?

- A:
- *New Student Oath Ceremony: Sunday, August 24, 1 p.m.
 - *Northfield's Labor Day Parade: Monday, September 1, 10:30 a.m.
 - Family Weekend (**First interaction**) – October 3–5
 - *May spot your rook from a distance, but may not have interaction.

Q: What's the leave policy for Family Weekend?

- A:
- Friday leave: After Retreat (~5 p.m.)
 - Saturday return: By 9 a.m.
 - Saturday leave: After the football game (~4 p.m.)
 - Sunday return: By 7 p.m.

Q: Do rooks remain on campus?

A: Yes, during the Initial Entry Training period unless traveling with a sports team, during Family Weekend, academic purposes, emergencies, or approved special events, e.g., family wedding.

Q: Does Norwich provide transportation to airports, bus, or train stations?

A: No. However do visit [Trip Planning](#) on our website for information and resources. These services are available:

- [Vermont Tour & Charter](#)
- [Dartmouth Coach, NH](#)
- [Greyhound – Montpelier, VT](#)
- [Vermont Shuttle Service](#)
- [Gopher VT](#)

Note: No Uber or taxi services in Northfield.

CAMPUS LIFE

Q: Can my rook have snacks in their room?

A: Yes—healthy non-perishables stored in a sealed plastic container, shoebox size.

Q: Can rooks have a car?

A: No. For exceptions, rooks must submit an application with the Dean of Student's Office. Visit: [Dean of Student's Office](#) and click on First Year Parking Pass. If approved by the Deputy Commandant, rooks must apply for a parking permit issued with a cost.

Q: Can my rook attend religious services off campus?

A: Yes. Transportation is often available by congregation members. Contact our Chaplain Reverend Bill Wick at chaplain@norwich.edu.

Q: Are rooks required to leave campus during Thanksgiving?

A: No. They may apply for break-stay housing. Information will be published.

Q: Are rooks required to leave campus when the fall semester ends and before the spring semester begins?

A: Yes. The University shuts down December 16 – January 5. Arrangements should be made to travel home, lodge off campus, or stay with a nearby relative, family friend, or rook buddy.

CONTACT INFO:

Admissions Office: (802) 485-2001 | admissions@norwich.edu
Athletic Department: (802) 485-2230 | agratton@norwich.edu
Army ROTC: (802) 485-2480 | armyrotc@norwich.edu
Air Force (Space Force) ROTC: (802) 485-2460 | afrotc@norwich.edu
Bursar's Office: (802) 485-2055 | bursar@norwich.edu
Cadet Uniform Store: (802) 485-2506 | uniformstore@norwich.edu
Chaplain's Office: (802) 485-2128 | chaplain@norwich.edu
Commandant's Office: (802) 485-2135 | commandant@norwich.edu
Naval (Marine Corps) ROTC: (802) 485-2185 | mansfiet@norwich.edu | cbryanbr@norwich.edu
NU Health Services: (802) 485-2552 | nuhealthservices@norwich.edu
Public Safety (24/7): (802) 485-2525 | publicsafety@norwich.edu
Sodexo Food Service: (802) 485-2297 | Thomas.Blood@sodexo.com

[Campus Map](#)