

THE PRINCETON CHARTER CLUB
79 Prospect Avenue, Princeton, NJ 08540



PRINCETON PROSPECT FOUNDATION REPORT

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Club Life

Following incredible attendance at our recruitment events during Street Week, we are thrilled to announce that Charter has welcomed 101 new sophomores into the club - all of whom ranked us as their first choice club in the ICC portal. Over 800 students ranked Charter overall, and over 350 demonstrated interest in the club by attending our events. Our selective sign-in process ensured that our new members chose us and are enthusiastic about being the Charter, which fostered enthusiasm and spirit without competition.

Our new members are a wonderfully diverse group - drawing from not only different backgrounds, but broad academic and extracurricular interests, and will continue to allow Charter to grow as a welcoming place for all students. The officers formally introduced themselves and gave a general overview of the club to our new members last Sunday, and we followed up the meeting with an all-club dinner to welcome the sophomores and a superbowl watch party. It was wonderful to see the new class making friends, exploring our beautiful clubhouse, and getting to know existing members..

The new class will be formally welcomed to Charter next Saturday for our traditional Prohibition Night dinner. Furthermore, sophomore meals will start that following week to ensure regular access and integration into the club. We hope this will create automatic connections and forge strong friendships across the classes. Additionally, we've made immediate efforts to ensure new members are comfortable hanging out in our clubhouse even before sophomore meals begin. Charter has held a movie night, chess tournament, and we have plans for more such activities in the works!

During the Street Week period, Charter held two social nights out which helped introduce sophomores not already familiar with Charter nightlife to that side of the club, despite not being official recruitment events. Additionally, we had 'pickups' for the new members last Friday (the

day Street Week placements were released), immediately welcoming them into the Charter community for an evening of fun and an opportunity to meet some of the juniors and seniors in the club. A focus of our social events - whether membership-only or open to the entire University community - is inclusion, comfort, and safety. While Charter does run the vast majority of our open social events via a list (every member has a number of list spots they can use to get friends into the event), we seek out ways to ensure younger students, and those who may not know members, can attend. For example, a block of list spots are reserved for Instagram, where students message the official Charter account to ask for a spot. Charter also always makes a point to have officers “on-duty:” easily identifiable in bright orange safety vests if a student has a question or concern, and as fellow students, hopefully unimposing resources should anything come up. This is especially important given our new sophomore members, so identifying the officers on duty with special, blue safety vests and sharing their headshots via all-club email before the event hopefully creates an atmosphere of comfort and safety to ensure that everyone is able to have a good time. Additionally, we require all attendees at events to read and understand our community safety guidelines in regards to sexual harassment and consent. The goal of our events is to allow students to mingle and have a good time, while preserving an open and safe environment for all.

Our officers are currently working with our graduate board to hold several alumni speaker events this spring. I personally plan on leading this charge, in order to strengthen the relationship between our undergraduate members and alumni. We hope to invite several former members to return to the club (in-person or virtually, dependent on availability and logistics) to share their career paths and experiences. I also hope to start a tradition of summer meet-ups for Charter members and alumni, to establish more personal connections and encourage continued communication and relationships, beyond all-club events.

Finally, Charter is looking forward to working with other eating clubs to create a stronger, more spirited Street Week culture, as well as foster Princeton Tiger pride overall. Ideas include sharing the schedules and events for Charter members who participate in athletics, performing arts, and other extracurricular activities with the club and organizing groups of members going to the games, matches, plays, and performances. Additionally, we want to further utilize the Club’s beautiful backyard to encourage alumni to return for Princeton home games and mingle with current members, and in general increase the participation of Charter members in our friends’ sports and other extracurricular activities.

Technology

Charter’s website is currently undergoing development, both for updates to the information currently provided (e.g., officers, graduate board, weekly menu, schedule of events) and to expand the current pages to include, among other things, more detailed summaries of our Code of Conduct, SHARE initiatives, community service, and share additional photos of the club and membership. Furthermore, a gear store open to alumni, friends, and families (beyond just the

undergraduate members) is in the works and will be accessible via the website in the next few weeks.

Our Computer Cluster is up-to-date with multiple monitors (and requisite cords and adapters) and standing desks for students to use, and the club is looking to purchase shared chargers for members to borrow in the near future. Our current and former House Managers have ensured there are fun and engaging video games in the TV room for members to play, as well as board and card games throughout the club. There are even chess and video game leagues and movie/TV show watch parties being organized by non-officer members.

Service and Sustainability

Service, in a variety of forms, is important to Charter. This is partly why we have reinstated the position of Community Service Chair as an officer of the club - this Chair is currently organizing a 'Thesis Fairies' program, where sophomore and junior members give snacks and support to thesis-writing seniors, and the seniors share wisdom and advice with the younger members. There are also inter-club and other external service projects in the works. Additionally, we'd like to highlight our membership's general commitment to service - several Charter members are fellows with the Carl A. Fields Center for Equity and Cultural Understanding, SHARE peers, and lead other initiatives on campus. Members will frequently head up smaller community service and fundraising projects; most recently, a former officer organized a Super Bowl betting competition during Sunday's game, with the winner's proceeds split between the member and a local charity of the winner's choice.

In regards to sustainability, our new Sustainability Chair is working on finding ways to divert food waste from landfills and increase recycling capabilities around the club. This will be a team effort between this Chair, the Kitchen Managers, the House Manager, and others to oversee environmental and sustainability initiatives around the Club.

We look forward to the year ahead - thank you! Please reach out with any questions or comments!

Respectfully submitted,

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Undergraduate Vice President

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