

# Connections Retreat Weekend

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## About the Weekend

Connections is a three-day, two-night retreat for incoming freshmen that will be held during the summer at Villanova University June 26–28, 2015. It is an opportunity for first-year students to make “connections” with other first-year students, a team of Sophomore, Junior, and Senior leaders, the campus of Villanova, and with our Catholic, Augustinian heritage. Students of all faith traditions, or none at all, are encouraged to join us.

## Schedule

Check-in time for the retreat will be 2–4PM Friday, June 26. Our team will be unable to receive you before 2PM unless you make other arrangements with us in advance.

The weekend will conclude at approximately 2PM on Sunday, June 28, so please plan your travel arrangements accordingly. We will conclude with a Mass in the St. Thomas of Villanova Church at 1:15PM. Any family picking up their students are most welcome to join us for this closing liturgy.

## What to Bring?

Because you will be staying in a dorm room, there are a few things that you should bring: toiletries, a pillow, a blanket, and sheets or a sleeping bag, as well as a towel. You will be staying in an air-conditioned residence hall on campus so it will be cooler at night. You will also be using community bathrooms, so bring your flip flops for the shower. The dress for the weekend is very casual. There are many outdoor activities. Be prepared to be in the sun. The University Shop on campus takes credit cards and cash if you want to stock up on Villanova T shirts, etc. You may want to bring one nicer outfit for Mass on Sunday. All retreatants are staying on South Campus in double rooms. We



will be using Katharine Hall (#32 on the [campus map](#)) and Good Counsel Hall (#25 on the [campus map](#)).

If you have questions, please contact John Edwards at [john.p.edwards@villanova.edu](mailto:john.p.edwards@villanova.edu) or [610] 519–3507.

## Arrival Information

Please plan on arriving between 2 & 4PM. If you will be earlier than 2PM due to train/plane schedules, please email Steven Spirk, one of the student chairs at [sspirk@villanova.edu](mailto:sspirk@villanova.edu). You can hang out on campus before registration starts, but your rooms might not be available until 2PM.

Check-in will take place in front of Katharine Hall (#32 on the campus map). From Lancaster, head south on Ithan Avenue, away from Main Campus (if you are coming from 476, this will be a right turn). Go under the bridge. You will then see the





entrance to South Campus on the left. Turn right into South Campus and Connections leaders will direct you to check-in.

**Flying into Philadelphia?** If you would like a flight pick up, let us know when you are arriving and we will send a van. Once we know the schedules, we will let you know WHERE and WHEN the van will pick up. Our airport shuttle will run from 1-3:30PM on Friday and 1:30-3PM on Sunday. If you require a shuttle outside of those hours we will do our best to accommodate you if you give us your flight itinerary in advance. Send all flight information to Steven Spirk at [sspirk@villanova.edu](mailto:sspirk@villanova.edu).

**Taking the Train from Philadelphia's 30<sup>th</sup> Street Station?** Trains run at least every half hour, and take about 25 minutes. Cost is about \$7.00. Take the SEPTA Thorndale/Paoli line from Center City Philadelphia to Thorndale/Malvern/Paoli. Get off at the Villanova Station. (Train schedule can be found [here](#).) When you arrive at the Villanova stop, you will cross back under the tracks and you will be on our Main Campus. Continue walking under the arch of the building in front of you and follow the signs throughout campus. Once you reach the end of Main Campus near Bartley Hall, cross the street and continue walking toward South Campus. Connections Retreat leaders will be there to welcome you. We are also happy to have a leader meet you at the Villanova train station when you arrive and guide you to the check-in.

**Parking** – There will be FREE PARKING for the weekend of Connections in the Parking Lots on South Campus. Please do NOT park in the STAFF spaces. You will get a parking pass when you check-in and deposit your keys. Connections staff will hold your keys for the weekend and return them at check-out on Sunday. Parking on Main campus is not allowed and will result in ticketing.