



Seminole Send-Off Handbook

A GUIDE TO WELCOMING NEW STUDENTS TO
FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY



ALUMNI
ASSOCIATION



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY
STUDENT
ALUMNI
association

TABLE OF CONTENTS

How to use this packet page 2

Suggestions for your best Seminole Send-Off page 3

SPIRIT: Building the Seminole Community page 4

Student Sign-in Sheet • page 5

Parent Sign-in Sheet • page 7

Icebreaker Activities and Instructions page 9

PRIDE: Getting Involved at Florida State page 10

SAA Membership Pitch page 11

TRADITION: What it Means to be a Seminole page 12

Trivia Game Questions page 13

FSU Lingo •• page 14

Top 50 Things to do as an FSU Freshman •• page 15

FSU Fight Song •• page 16

Q&A Session/Panel of Current Students page 17

Wrapping Up page 18

• *Intended to be printed, filled out and returned to the FSU Alumni Association.*

•• *Intended to be copied and distributed to students at event.*

HOW TO USE THIS PACKET



ALUMNI
ASSOCIATION

Greetings, and thank you for hosting a Seminole Send-Off! We're excited to restructure this program to appeal to incoming students and get current Seminoles more involved. We hope you're just as excited about getting more students and parents involved with your local Seminole Club®.

This handbook offers guidelines for you to consider when planning your Seminole Send-Off as well as ideas for activities, instructions for collecting student and parent information, and handouts for the students who attend the reception. These handouts are designated with a ●● in the Table of Contents.

We have outlined the program structure and activities that we have found to work best in getting students engaged and excited about their future at FSU. You will find a list of suggestions to help you facilitate a successful Seminole Send-Off on page three.

The different components of the event are structured around the three values that the FSU Student Alumni Association seeks to create in all our members: **Spirit, Pride** and **Tradition.**

In the end, how you structure your event is up to you. However, we do ask that you collect student and parent data from those who attend your Seminole Send-Off. The forms on pages five and seven were created for you to print, pass around to attendees and then return to the FSU Alumni Association. These handouts are designated with a ● in the Table of Contents.

FOR YOUR BEST EVENT...

- Make this reception a separate event from your monthly meetings. If you do need to combine the events due to time or space constraints, we recommend that you save the business portion of your meeting until after the reception is over.
- The ideal time for Seminole Clubs® to host Seminole Send-Offs is between May-July.
- Invite current Florida State students from your area to be a part of the send-off. They can help answer the new Seminoles' questions during Q&A time as well as network with local alumni. Welcoming fellow Seminoles to an event is also a great way to expand your club's audience.
- Plan for time to mingle before or after the informational part of the event in addition to the activities suggested below. It will be beneficial for the incoming students to speak to and network with each other, the current students, recent graduates and other alumni.
- Meet at a venue with a screen or empty wall space for projection and try to get access to a computer and projector. You can show a slideshow during other parts of the event displaying pictures on campus to get the incoming students excited about heading to FSU.
- When selecting a venue, we encourage you to avoid a bar or venue where there might not be access for the students attending. Your best venue should be welcoming, open, casual and fun. It should also be able to accommodate seating for the incoming students, their parents, current students and the members of your Seminole Club®.

SPiRiT

BUILDING THE SEMINOLE COMMUNITY

Florida State University alumni and friends are part of a community steeped in tradition and excellence. This network of Seminoles stretches across the nation and around the world. We hope that you use your Seminole Send-Off to introduce incoming students and their parents to this far-reaching community and to foster your own Florida State pride and spirit at a local level.

Here are a few ways to welcome the incoming students into your local Seminole community:

1 Use nametags.

Don't forget this important tool to start your event off right. Have the students list their class year (to differentiate between incoming and current students), and ask alumni who are present to list their class year as well. If your Seminole Club® covers a large area, have everyone list their hometown also.

2 Break the ice.

In addition to time for mingling, give the students an opportunity to get to know each other through one or more icebreaker activities (we recommend three activities on page eight). Limit the activities to 10 or 15 minutes to keep the event running smoothly and the students engaged.

3 Collect data from all students and parents in attendance.

As parents and students arrive at the event, ask them to sign in on their respective sheets (located on pages five and seven). The information you gather allows the FSU Alumni Association to follow up with both the students and their parents. Additionally, you can use the information to encourage attendees to get involved in their local Seminole Club®.

✓ Print off pages five and seven prior to your event.

We recommend printing off more than you think you'll need.

✓ Place the sign-in sheet at the first table the participants will visit or with an event greeter.

Keep the sheets out so that any latecomers will still be able to sign in.

✓ Return the completed sign-in sheets to Dia Combas at dcombas@fsu.edu or by fax at 850.644.8847 within five business days.

Utilizing Facebook and Twitter is also a great way to reach out to your participants. At events with Internet access, set up a laptop computer next to the sign-in sheets and pull up Facebook and or Twitter. Invite participants to "like" the Student Alumni Association (www.facebook.com/fsusaa) and "follow" SAA on Twitter (www.Twitter.com/FSUSAA). By doing this, they'll receive updates throughout the year on events and giveaways.

ICEBREAKER ACTIVITIES AND INSTRUCTIONS



ALUMNI
ASSOCIATION

The Adjective Name Game

Have students stand in a circle. Ask one student to say his or her name and an adjective that describes him- or herself and starts with the first letter of his or her first name. (For example, “My name is Emily, and I’m excited!”) Ask the next student in the circle to do the same and then repeat the previous student’s name and adjective. (For instance, “I’m Caleb, and I’m crafty. This is excited Emily.”) Continue the process of each student introducing him- or herself and all of the previous students. The final student in the circle should attempt to name everyone.

Silent Birthday Game

This is a test of communication skills. Instruct all of the students to put themselves in a line in chronological order of their birthday without talking. They are allowed to hold up numbers, point and move each other around, but they are not allowed to speak. At the end, ask them to take turns saying their birthday to see if they got the order right.

Impulse Contest

This is a good game if many students attend your Seminole Send-Off.

Split the students evenly into two teams. Have them sit in chairs in single-file lines, side-by-side with their teammates but with their backs to the other team. Place a facilitator at one end of the lines and a table with an object (preferably something soft and easy-to-grab like a stuffed animal or a bean bag) at the other end. Have all of the students close their eyes and hold hands with the person next to them. The facilitator should tap the students closest to him or her on the shoulder. Each student should squeeze the hand of the person next to him or her after feeling his or her hand being squeezed. When the last person feels the impulse, he or she should open his or her eyes and try to grab the object. Whoever grabs it first wins. If you play multiple rounds, have the grabber walk to the other end of the line to start the impulse, and have all the students move down one seat.

PRIDE

GETTING INVOLVED AT FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

When asking alumni how they made the most of their time at Florida State, one answer comes up more than any: **they got involved on campus.** Florida State University has many amazing opportunities for students to become campus leaders, and we want incoming students to know the value of getting involved. Take some time during your Seminole Send-Off to give the students information on how they can do this.

One of the best ways to get involved on campus is with the FSU Student Alumni Association. SAA has over 3,000 members and offers many opportunities throughout the year for students to socialize, act as leaders and serve their community. We want to make the opportunity to get involved with SAA available to as many incoming students as possible, but we need your help!

1 There may be current students in your area who are involved with SAA.

If possible, we encourage you to have SAA students participate in your Seminole Send-Off to answer any questions that the incoming students may have about the organization or about campus life in general. If you need help identifying students in your area, contact Austin Moser at amoser@fsu.edu or 850.644.1484.

2 Even if you can't get in touch with a local student who is a member of SAA, take a few minutes to talk about the organization.

Page 11 of this packet explains more about the organization and the membership package.

3 Show the SAA recruitment video to learn more information about SAA.

Visit [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com) and search "2015 FSU AA Recruitment Video." If your event's location does not have the technological means to play a video, SAA can send the video in a follow-up email to the students.

4 Encourage students to sign up for an SAA membership online as soon as possible!

Visit alumni.fsu.edu/saa to sign up. If they sign up before the school year starts, they will be able to take advantage of discounts once they get to campus and pick up their membership card at the FSU Bookstore.

SAA MEMBERSHIP PITCH

The Student Alumni Association, one of the largest and most active student organizations on campus, enhances the student experience by providing opportunities that strengthen members' lifelong loyalty to Florida State University. We do this by offering chances for students to get involved on campus while facilitating interaction between students and alumni.

SAA students plan and facilitate a number of exciting events and programs throughout the year, including:

- ☑ A fall involvement fair
- ☑ The President's Welcome Reception—a chance to meet FSU President John E. Thrasher
- ☑ Networking events and luncheons
- ☑ Various intramural teams
- ☑ Bowling nights
- ☑ An annual baseball tailgate in the spring
- ☑ The FSU Homecoming Parade
and more!

The member fee (\$20 annual/\$60 for all four years) includes:

- ☑ **10% discount off of textbooks and merchandise at the FSU Bookstore**
- ☑ SAA T-shirt
- ☑ Monthly e-newsletter
- ☑ SAA membership card, which can be presented at Tallahassee businesses to get discounts
- ☑ Networking and career advancement opportunities
- ☑ Community service opportunities
- ☑ Invitations to monthly membership socials, programs and more!

Frequently Asked Questions

Can I sign up for more than one year? YES! If you sign up for a four-year membership, you not only save money, but you don't have to renew your membership every year.

How can I pay? We take cash, checks or credit cards.

Can I sign up online? Yes, visit alumni.fsu.edu/saa.

TRADITION

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A SEMINOLE

From day one of their college experience, freshmen will be immersed in the deep **tradition** of Florida State University. Teaching them a little bit about these traditions before they step onto campus can be a helpful and fun way to get them excited to be Seminoles.



ALUMNI
ASSOCIATION

These are a few ways you can incorporate tradition into your Seminole Send-Off:

1 Play an FSU trivia game.

Leading a brief trivia game with your participants is an easy way to get them talking and to teach them a little more about FSU. You can even ask parents a few questions. *See page 13 for some of our trivia questions, or come up with your own.*

2 Distribute student-created tips and tricks.

SAA created pages 14 and 15 from a student's perspective. These sheets explain some common campus lingo and list out the top 50 things to do as a freshman on campus. *We encourage you to print these out for your participants to take home with them.*

3 Sing the FSU Fight Song.

We encourage you to teach your Seminole Send-Off participants the lyrics of the FSU Fight Song. *Print page 16 and give to participants to help them learn the words.*

TRIVIA GAME QUESTIONS

What are our school colors? Garnet and gold

What is Tallahassee's area code? 850

What was the name of our school before it became Florida State University?

Florida State College for Women

What is the name of our school symbol—the person and the horse he rides? Osceola and Renegade

What movie star was a football player while at FSU and has a residence hall named after him?

Burt Reynolds

What is the name of FSU's marching band? The Marching Chiefs

What is the nickname given to the Marching Chiefs by *Sports Illustrated*?

“The band that never lost a halftime”

Who was Florida State University's first president? Doak S. Campbell

What do the three figures on the Integration Statue represent?

The first African American graduate, athlete and homecoming queen at FSU

To what athletic conference does Florida State belong? Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC)

Who is FSU's main rival? The University of Florida

Who is Florida State's current football coach? Jimbo Fisher

What two campus landmarks are located on Landis Green? Landis Fountain and the Kissing Bench

FSU is one of the only two schools in the country to have a _____, and the only school whose _____ is completely student-run. Circus

What is the name of the campus newspaper? *The FSView & Florida Flambeau*

FSU LINGO

THE CENTER:

The Center for Leadership and Civic Education, a department of FSU that offers opportunities for students to learn leadership and get involved on campus and in the community through volunteering, service, programs and more

DOAK:

Doak S. Campbell Stadium, FSU's football stadium; the buildings around the field also house the offices for different campus departments and academic colleges

HCB:

The largest classroom building on campus

LANDIS GREEN:

One of the largest green spaces on campus and a popular place for relaxation for students; it includes Landis Fountain, a well-known landmark

THE LEACH:

Dr. Bobby E. Leach Student Recreation Center, the main workout facility on campus

NIGHT NOLE:

A free bus service that operates from 10:30 p.m. to 3:30 a.m. Tuesday through Saturday during the fall and spring semesters; it travels on- and off-campus and services over 32 apartment complexes

PEARL:

Pearl Tyner House, the former president's home and part of the FSU Alumni Association complex

THE REZ:

Florida State University Reservation, a 73-acre facility located on beautiful Lake Bradford where you can enjoy canoeing, kayaking, picnicking, swimming and many other activities

SAA: The FSU Student Alumni Association

STROZ:

Robert Manning Strozier Library

SLC:

FSU's Student Life Cinema features movies selected by all-student committees. Movies are FREE for FSU students with a valid FSUID

THE UNION:

Oglesby Union, FSU's student union; the space encompasses dining facilities (including a Chili's and an Einstein Bros. Bagels), lounges, offices, meeting rooms, a computer lab, a bowling alley, the headquarters for student government and more

WARCHANT:

The annual concert held to kick off Homecoming Week in the fall; past artists have included Ludacris, Pitbull, Gym Class Heroes and Lupe Fiasco

TOP 50 THINGS TO DO AS AN FSU FRESHMAN

1. *Get involved!*

2. Buy your textbooks from the FSU Bookstore (and get a 10% discount with your SAA membership)
3. Sit on Landis Green and read a book for leisure
4. Buy a hot dog and lemonade from Mom and Pop's
5. Take a free workout class at the Leach
6. Beat the Spirit Drum on gameday
7. Join an intramural sports team (with SAA)
8. Go to your teacher's office hours and introduce yourself
9. Go to Downtown GetDown for food and music Fridays before home games
10. Ask lots of questions and don't be afraid to ask for advice—everyone at FSU wants you to succeed
11. Jump in Landis Fountain on a hot day
12. Order a large MoMo's Pizza for you and all of your friends
13. Sit front row at a football game
14. Get Breakfast for a Buck at the Union
15. Go running or feed the ducks around Lake Ella
16. Volunteer on campus or in the community (SAA provides lots of opportunities)
17. Study in Strozier Library, and get Jimmy Johns delivered to you there
18. Take a picture with the Garnet and Gold Glitter Guys on gameday
19. Eat the delicious breakfast at the Suwannee Room
20. Enjoy a sunny day of sand volleyball or kayaking at the Rez
21. Go see a movie for free at the Student Life Cinema on campus
22. Pull an all-nighter to study
23. Make a late-night food run to the 24-hour Denny's on campus
24. Buy something crafty during Market Wednesday at the Union
25. Watch a few fraternities and sororities stroll at noon on Market Wednesday
26. Watch the fly-over at a football game (get there early)
27. Meet FSU President John E. Thrasher at the President's Welcome Reception in the fall
28. Buy a pair of rain boots and an umbrella—you'll need them!
29. See a show at Club Downunder
30. Throw your friends in and get thrown into Westcott Fountain on your birthday
31. Take a picture on the bench with Francis Eppes, the founder of FSU
32. Go bowling at Crenshaw Lanes
33. Get to know your R.A.
34. Paint something at Paint-a-Pot
35. Attend a FREE Flying High Circus show
36. Watch the FSU Homecoming Parade in the fall
37. Paint your face for a football game
38. See an orchestra performance at Ruby Diamond
39. Watch the flame burn at the Unconquered Statue the night before a game
40. Attend the SAA Baseball Tailgate in the spring and watch the Seminoles play ball at Dick Howser Stadium
41. Wear your SAA T-shirt every Wednesday to get free giveaways
42. Go on a photo scavenger hunt for the statues of all the FSU presidents all over campus
43. See a famous performer at Warchant during Homecoming (We've had Ludacris, Gym Class Heroes and more!)
44. Buy yourself a \$5 pizza from Fresh Foods
45. Do laundry and get to know your neighbors at your residence hall
46. Attend Jimbo's 'True Seminole Tailgate' with SAA
47. Take a random beach roadtrip with your friends—Tallahassee is only an hour and a half from the ocean!
48. Participate in Dance Marathon to learn some great line dances and raise money for the Children's Miracle Network
49. Attend a football game against UF or Miami at Doak

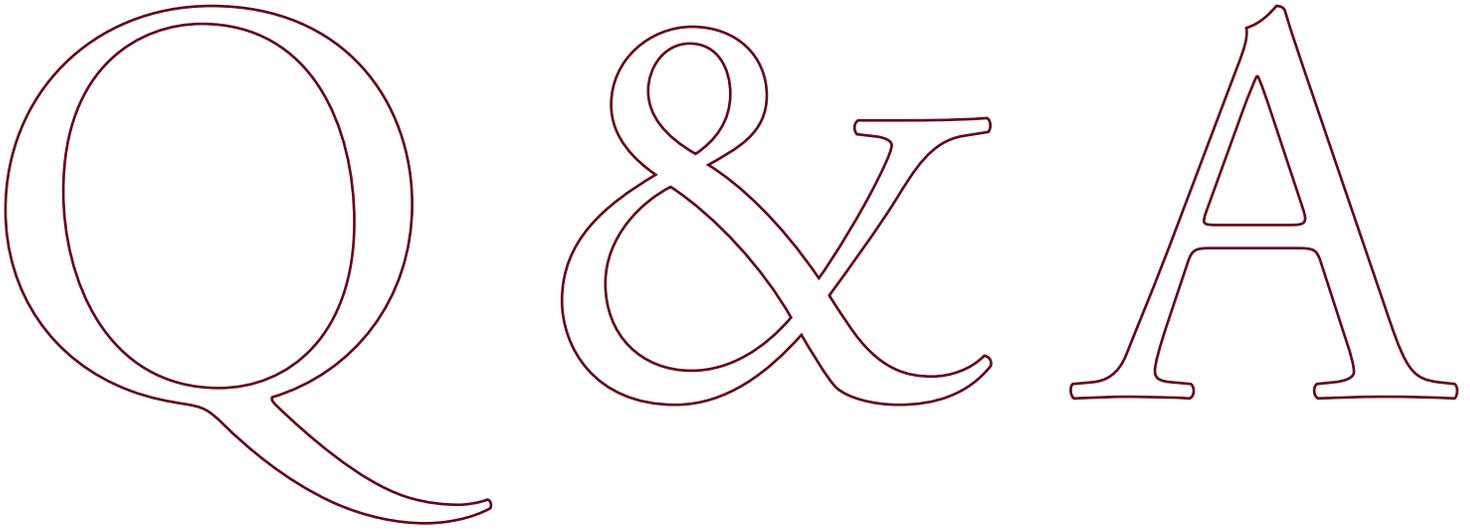
50. *Join the Student Alumni Association!*

**YOU GOT TO FIGHT, FIGHT, FIGHT FOR F.S.U.
YOU GOT TO SCALP 'EM SEMINOLES
YOU GOT TO WIN, WIN, WIN, WIN, WIN THIS GAME AND
Roll on down and make those goals!
FOR FSU IS ON THE WAR PATH NOW,
AND AT THE BATTLE'S END SHE'S GREAT.
So fight, fight, fight, fight to victory,
OUR SEMINOLES FROM FLORIDA STATE!**

**F-L-O-R-I-D-A
S-T-A-T-E**



**FLORIDA STATE!! FLORIDA STATE!! FLORIDA STATE!!
WOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO!!!!**



QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION/ PANEL OF CURRENT STUDENTS

Starting the college journey can be an overwhelming experience for incoming students. There are so many questions to be asked and concerns that both parents and students might have. In order to alleviate some of this, we recommend that you set aside time—at least 10 minutes—for a **question and answer session**.

The current students you have invited to the Seminole Send-Off can go to the front of the room and act as a panel, or you can set up a “roundtable” atmosphere and have attendees sit in a circle so that everyone can see who is asking and answering the questions. If no current students attend, we recommend that you try to get recent graduates to answer questions. The more recently they attended Florida State, the better they will be able to answer the students’ questions. **Additionally, you may want to seek out current students’ parents to attend the event so that they can answer other parents’ questions.**

How attendees ask their questions is flexible as well. You can have them write questions on slips of paper for you to read aloud, or you can utilize the panel or roundtable structure described above. We recommend having a few questions prepared in advance to get the ball rolling.

WRAPPING UP

Thank you for hosting a Seminole Send-Off.

These events provide a unique opportunity to get incoming students excited about their time at Florida State and to get local Seminole parents and alumni involved in your Seminole Club®.

We hope that your club enjoys hosting this new and improved student reception and that the students who attend are eager to start their journey at Florida State University!

By receiving the information you give them, students will start feeling Seminole pride before they set foot on campus. Plus, they will already have a few tips and tricks for making the most out of their first year at FSU.

FSU University Alumni Association

1030 West Tennessee Street
Tallahassee, FL 32304
850.644.2761 phone
850.644.8847 fax
fsualum@alumni.fsu.edu
alumni.fsu.edu

Student Alumni Association

Austin Moser
850.644.1484
amoser@fsu.edu
alumni.fsu.edu/saa

New Student & Family Programs

A4320 University Center
Tallahassee, FL 32306-2443
Eddie Higginbotham
850.644.2785
ehigginbotham@fsu.edu
nsfp.fsu.edu

Seminole Club® Staff

Aimee Wirth
850.644.1148
awirth@fsu.edu

Dia Combas
850.645.9530
dcombas@fsu.edu

Michael McFadden
850.645.8133
momcfadden@fsu.edu

Jessica Tanca
850.645.0213
jtanca@fsu.edu

The creators of this packet are deeply indebted to Indiana University and to their *Destination: IU!* program for ideas and structure.