Alice Cook Active Citizen Application

Return application electronically to Martha Benninger (mjb16@cornell.edu) by 9 AM Friday, November 14, 2014.

Name: ___________________________ Room Number/Building: ___________________________

NetID: ___________________________ Class Year: ___________________________

Semesters living in Cook House: □ Fall 2014 □ Spring 2014 □ Fall 2013 □ Spring 2013 □ Fall 2012

Are you also applying to be a Student Assistant? Yes / No

Please list your current extra-curricular activities outside of Cook House:

West Campus House System Mission: A community of students and faculty gathered in a spirit of inquiry and active citizenship.

West Campus House System Program Goals:
Develop a sense of belonging to one’s house.
Create safe, healthy, and welcoming communities.
Build meaningful relationships between residents and faculty.
Create opportunities for intellectual exploration that lead to a deeper understanding of one’s discipline, exposure to a broad range of knowledge, and a desire to be a lifelong learner.
Encourage student engagement in the House System and provide opportunities for the development of student leadership skills.
Provide opportunities for students to engage as citizens in the broader community.
Help students navigate the opportunities available to them at Cornell.

Please respond to the following questions on a separate page. Your response must be limited to one page, single-spaced, 12 point font with 1” borders.

1. In what ways are you living the above stated mission and goals of the House System as a member of Cook House? Please note that your answer can include formal participation in organized House events (e.g., attendance at programs in the House Professor’s apartment, member of The Cook Collective) or informal roles that you feel were important in helping to achieve the goal of the House System. As some consideration will be placed on your involvement outside of Cook House, how are you living the above stated goal of the House System as a member of the larger Cornell and/or Ithaca community? How could you imagine bringing this outside involvement to Cook House?
2. If chosen as an Alice Cook Active Citizen, how do you anticipate being involved in the House next semester and next year? Providing specifics ideas for involvement are encouraged.

3. Are you planning on blocking with friends for the In-House Lottery? If so, please list each of your friends’ names, net IDs, and current building/rooms.

Please include a clear jpg photo of yourself in a location in or around Cook House that is meaningful to you.

Alice Cook Active Citizen FAQ

What does it mean to be an Alice Cook Active Citizen (AC2)?

Being selected as an Alice Cook Active Citizen carries two distinctions. First, you are being formally recognized as a resident who has demonstrated a discernibly high level of current participation and/or who holds tremendous potential for future participation in Cook House. Second, those chosen as Alice Cook Active Citizens will be placed at the front of the Cook House In-House Lottery in February.

How many people will be chosen to be Alice Cook Active Citizens?

We are not limiting the number of AC2s. This year we accepted 19 residents to be active citizens. We may accept more or fewer AC2s for the 2015-2016 academic year depending on the number and quality of applicants. They will be notified by December 2014.

Why are we doing this?

We believe the Active Citizen program furthers the primary goal of the House System at Cornell University, the creation of an environment that closely links the residential life of the students to the intellectual mission of the university. In an attempt to achieve this goal, Cook House emphasizes informal interaction with faculty members, self-governance, and social and cultural programming. Through these, Cook House is building an actively engaged community for upper class students – one that fosters personal discovery and growth, civic engagement, and nurtures scholarship and creativity in an environment of collegiality, civility, and responsible stewardship. Therefore Cook House has a vested interest in celebrating and retaining residents who are currently active House members. The Active Citizen program will replace some of the randomness of the In-House Lottery which previously relied exclusively on a random number generator with an intentional effort at retaining the most active members of Cook House.

What is the application process?

Applications are due Friday, November 14 at 9 am. As stated on the application, completed applications should be emailed to Martha Benninger at mjb16@cornell.edu. A selection committee will review all
applications and make recommendations to House Professor Andre Dhondt who will make final decisions. Those selected as Alice Cook Active Citizens will be notified by December. By early February, all residents who have indicated an interest in participating in the Cook In-House Lottery will be notified of their lottery number. The Alice Cook Active Citizens will be placed at the front of the lottery, followed by all other participants ordered through the use of a random number generator.

**Is there an advantage for second year Cook House members?**

Yes and no. While it is true that second year members of the House will have a much longer period of time to have been involved in Cook House, the selection committee will be aware of this fact, and will expect greater levels of participation from second year House members.

**When will I find out whether I have been selected?**

All Cook House residents who complete and submit an application by the November 14 deadline will be notified of the selection committee’s decision by early December.

**Does being selected affect my ability to block with other Cook residents for the Cook In-House Lottery?**

No. If chosen as an Alice Cook Active Citizen, you will follow the same blocking guidelines as all other residents participating in the Cook House in-house lottery. If you choose to block with other current residents, you are not limited to choosing among the other Alice Cook Active Citizens, and those in your block must have lottery numbers. You must state your blocking intentions in your application (see question #3).

**What will be expected of me next year if I am selected as an Alice Cook Active Citizen?**

You will be expected to remain an active citizen of Cook House and that your involvement will include, at a minimum, the ways you outlined in your answer to the second question on the application. Additionally, the House leadership may consult you informally in order to gain additional perspectives on ideas, issues, and programs. AC2s meet monthly over House Dinner with Assistant Dean Jen Majka.

**TIMELINE**

**Active Citizen Applications** are due Friday, November 14, 2014 by 9 AM. Active Citizens for 2015-2016 will be notified by early December.

**Continued Occupancy Lottery and Room Selection** will be held on Monday evening, February 9, 2015. In-House Lottery information will be available in November 2014.

**Questions?**

Please talk with a current AC2, your GRF/SA, or Martha Benninger in the House Office if you have further questions.