



Singing Group Council

Rushee Guidebook 2015

Welcome to Yale's 2015 A Cappella Rush! You're about to set out on one of the craziest, most rewarding experiences that Yale has to offer, and we're thrilled to help you through the process. This guidebook is designed to answer the most common questions rushees like you might have, but if you don't find an answer within these pages, you can reach us directly at sgcchairlist@panlists.yale.edu.

NOTE: If you are strictly observing Rosh Hashanah and would like this to be accommodated during A Cappella Rush, please contact the SGC as soon as possible.

I. What is A Cappella Rush?

"Rush" is the name of Yale's a cappella audition process. It's a roughly three-week process of auditions, concerts, and meals, culminating in a "tap night," when groups select new members. Most importantly, Rush is designed to introduce interested singers like you to the various a cappella singing opportunities at Yale and facilitate the process by which you can hear, meet, and ultimately audition for each of the Singing Group Council's (SGC's) 15 a cappella groups.

II. What to Expect

Like all major undertakings, Rush can be stressful. The rules and timeline you'll see in this guidebook have been adopted over the years to minimize this stress and make Rush as enjoyable for you as possible. Ideally, these rules will enable you to participate in Rush without ever feeling uncomfortable or unhappy.

With that said, Rush is also a highly competitive time for many of Yale's a cappella groups. During your Rush experience, some groups may break Rush rules in order to persuade, coerce, or otherwise force you toward certain groups and away from others. This is against the spirit of Yale's A Cappella Rush, and our Rush Rules have been designed to prevent unsportsmanlike behavior and protect rushees like you. If an a cappella group has broken a rush rule, or if you ever feel uncomfortable or unsafe with your Rush experience, please contact us at sgcchairlist@panlists.yale.edu. In any such communication, we will ensure that your name and identity are kept confidential.

III. The Timeline

Rush 2015 is a roughly three-week process that begins with the **Woolsey Hall Kick-Off Jam** at **10:30PM** on **Sunday, 8/30**, and ends with **Tap Night**, the date of which is a carefully guarded secret. Below is a chronological timeline of events:

Sunday, 8/30 @ 10:30PM: Woolsey Jam

Held in **Woolsey Hall** at the beginning of Camp Yale, Woolsey Jam is the official kick-off of Rush 2015 and your chance to see all fifteen of our a cappella groups perform live just for you. It's a great time to sample the different a cappella groups, but feel free to drop in and leave whenever you want.

Monday, 8/31 @ 4:30PM: Rushee Info Session

Held in **Sudler Hall (WLH)**, this is an info session for anyone interested in auditioning for an a cappella group. Come hear all about Rush from the people who are running it (that's us!) and ask any questions you might have before auditions begin.

Wednesday, 9/2 @ 10:30PM: Dwight Hall Jam

Held in **Dwight Hall**, "Dwight" is another chance for interested singers to hear each of our fifteen groups perform live before deciding which groups to audition for. **Make sure you stay until the end: audition sign-ups occur in Dwight Hall once the final song is completed.** After sign-ups, all rush rules are in effect (see X. Relevant Rush Rules).

Friday – Sunday, 9/4 – 9/6: Auditions

Starting at **6:00PM** on Friday, a cappella groups can hold auditions! While each group handles auditions differently, they all typically include: warm-ups, sight reading, a blending exercise, and a solo. You will be assigned an audition slot for each group you sign up for after Dwight; if you encounter a conflict with your audition time(s), contact the group's rush managers to reschedule.

Monday – Friday, 9/7 – 9/11: Rush Meals and Singing Desserts

Following your audition, groups *may* choose to schedule a "**rush meal**" with you. These offer you a chance to meet and interact with members of the groups you are rushing over a meal. That said, they are by no

means necessary and do not necessarily correlate with your likelihood to get a callback. Groups schedule rush meals for several reasons; rushees who get multiple rush meals may not get a callback, and rushees who get no rush meals may get a callback. (For rules governing rush meals, see IV. Relevant Rush Rules.)

Each group also hosts a “**singing dessert**” during the week following auditions. These are full-length performances, complete with food, to which all rushees of that group are invited. Consider it a chance to hear a group’s larger repertoire before callbacks. Groups may also host parties for rushees before or after their singing dessert. (For rules governing singing desserts, invitations, and parties, see IV. Relevant Rush Rules.)

Saturday – Sunday, 9/12 – 9/13: Callbacks

If you impressed groups with your audition, you may be given a callback! Each group approaches callbacks differently, but they are typically similar to—but longer than—normal auditions. You will learn more about what to expect from individual callbacks from each group’s rush managers. (For rules governing callback notifications, see IV. Relevant Rush Rules.)

???: Tap Night

Sometime after callbacks, all fifteen a cappella groups will gather together at **High Street Gate**, decked out in group-specific attire. After a short performance by the two all-senior a cappella groups, groups will run to the entryways of rushees they intend to tap. Tap Night concludes the Rush process; all rushees will be contacted by the groups they are rushing by **12:30AM**. (For rules governing pre-tap notifications and de-rushing, see IV. Relevant Rush Rules.)

IV. Relevant Rush Rules

To facilitate a happy, safe, and fulfilling Rush process for everyone involved, the SGC has adopted several rules to govern A Cappella Rush. The following is a list of the rules most relevant to the rushee experience, organized chronologically:

- 1) Groups may not force you to sign up for an audition following Dwight Jam.
- 2) Groups may not force you to miss a class or mandatory meeting for an audition.
- 3) Once you have signed up for an audition, group members may not hold extensive conversation with you. They are not being abrasive or shy; this policy is put in place to give you room to weigh your options and consider other groups.
- 4) Non-freshman rushees may be tapped at any point following their audition. These rushees will be treated as a member of the a cappella group throughout the remainder of Rush and must abide by the complete list of Rush Rules.
- 5) All email communication between groups and rushees must have the SGC cc'ed (sgcchairlist@panlists.yale.edu).
- 6) Rush meals must occur with no more than THREE (3) members of an a cappella group and must take place within a Yale Dining Hall.
- 7) Groups may only give you informational Rush materials and one copy of their latest CD. All other gifts are forms of coercion.
- 8) Groups may never enter your room during Rush.
- 9) Groups may not provide alcohol or drugs to rushees during the Rush process.
- 10) Groups may not invite rushees to any parties or other social events outside of an official Rush Singing Dessert party and Tap Night Dinner.
- 11) Groups may not schedule rush meals that conflict with a rushee's other obligations, including the Singing Desserts of other groups the rushee is considering.
- 12) Callback notifications may be delivered in-person or via email starting at **10:00PM on Sunday, 9/6**.
- 13) Pre-tap notifications must be given after **11:59PM on Sunday, 9/13** and are not official until an email is sent to you with the SGC cc'ed (sgcchairlist@panlists.yale.edu). Pre-tap notifications act as binding agreements between the group and you; groups cannot rescind their decision to select you on Tap Night.
- 14) If you are pre-tapped by a group, you may request to meet with that group for an "Evening Walk" by emailing the SGC. Evening Walks are designed to be unstructured meetings with a few members of your requested group to facilitate candid conversations about what you want out of rush and what that group can provide. Request an

- evening walk if you are undecided and want to learn more about your fit or future in a group that has pre-tapped you. Evening Walks may only take place on-campus and must fully accommodate your schedule.
- 15)** Groups may not request an Evening Walk with you, and may not force or otherwise coerce you into requesting one with them.
 - 16)** You can officially de-rush a group you no longer wish to pursue by sending an email to that group's rush managers with the SGC cc'ed (sgcchairlist@panlists.yale.edu).
 - 17)** You can accept a pre-tap by sending an email to that group's rush managers with the SGC cc'ed (sgcchairlist@panlists.yale.edu). The SGC will then automatically de-rush all of your remaining groups unless you specifically wish to de-rush personally.
 - 18)** There are THREE (3) ways you can respond to a tap at your door on Tap Night:
 - YES: You accept the tap and officially join your chosen group. Rush is over!
 - NO: You decline the tap and the group must leave.
 - MAYBE: You are unsure at the moment and need more time to consider your options. The group must leave after your response. If you run with them following a MAYBE, you are considered to have answered YES and officially join that group. You have until the following Sunday to decide whether to join the group that tapped you at the door.
 - 19)** To summarize, there are FIVE (5) total possible meetings with an a cappella group outside of audition settings:
 - 3 rush meals (maximum)
 - 1 30-minute courtyard meeting for a pre-tap notification (optional)
 - 1 evening walk (at the request of pre-tapped rushees)