



Friday, August 28 – Monday, August 31

Welcome to Simpson College! The entire Simpson Community is excited to finally have you on campus. Below is the schedule for Welcome Week, along with a key indicating which sessions and activities are mandatory (though we would love to see you at everything).

Have a wonderful week and academic year!

Pillars of the First-Year Experience

These pillars help us to connect all of the exciting Welcome Week activities with the Why?! You will see these symbols throughout Welcome Week 2026!

Academic – The Academic Pillar includes components of the First-Year Experience in the classroom/ Foundations sections. This pillar also includes events and programming that help students prepare for success in the classroom.

Social – The Social Pillar is specifically for individual peer interaction and relationship building.

Connections – The Connections Pillar includes connections that students are developing on campus (campus departments/clubs/organizations, etc.) & off campus (jobs, internships, service).

Development – The Development Pillar is specific for events and programming that helps the student in the area of personal development.

4 PILLARS

FIRST-YEAR EXPERIENCE



ACADEMIC



SOCIAL



CONNECTIONS



DEVELOPMENT

Friday, August 28

Schedule Key: Events in **red** are **required** for first-year students
Mandatory events for transfer students are indicated by ★

Dining Venues	Hours of Operation – Friday, August 28	
	Millies Coffee Shop: 7:15am-3pm	
	Sub Connection: 8:30am-8:30pm	
	Tyler's Grill: 11:00am-11:00pm	
	Pfeiffer Dining Hall: 7:00am-9:00pm	
8:00am – 12:00pm	Welcome Home, Storm! <i>Detailed move-in information:</i> https://www.simpson.edu/life-at-simpson/housing-dining/	Barker/Kresge
10:00am – 4:00pm	A Simpson Tradition: The Simpson Couch! <i>Take a picture with your family/guests to mark your start at SC</i>	Pedestrian Plaza Sculpture
8:30am – 4:30pm	Mailroom Open	Kent Campus Center
11:30am – 1:00pm	Alumni Legacy Luncheon – By Invite Only <i>Contact Elyse Morris with questions: elyse.morris@simpson.edu</i>	Kent Campus Center Principal Black Box
11:45am – 1:00pm	Softball Family Meeting	Kent Campus Center Hubbell II
1:00pm – 1:15pm	Transfer Student & First-Year Commuter Student Check-In <i>Transfer students and incoming students who are living off campus, should check in here.</i>	Kent Campus Center Atrium

1:15pm



★ **Meet your SC Leader (SCL) |** *It is time to meet your SC Leader and your Foundations class! Student participation is required. Look for your SCL or Foundations professor's name to find your meeting location! If you need assistance, staff will be in the Kent Atrium to assist you. A campus map can be found at: <https://www.simpson.edu/life-at-simpson/indianola-campus/>*

Professor	SC Leader (SCL) & Meeting Location
Angeroth-Franks	SCL Tzar: Kent Campus Center west entrance (outside – doors that face Buxton/Picken)
Bardwell	SCL Rowen: Kent Campus Center east entrance (outside – doors that face Kresge)
Brittingham	SCL Kenny: Pedestrian Plaza by sculpture
Brodie	SCL Drew: Kresge courtyard – grass area between Kresge & Mary Berry
Brownen	SCL Goldie: Dunn Library outdoor seating area
Butts	SCL Sophia: Fire Pit between Barker & Kresge
Clinger	SCL Gracie B.: Grass area between Buxton Park and Kresge
Ditzler	SCL Harley: Barker Basketball Court (library side)
Doling	SCL Amanda: Kresge circle drive
Keairnes	SCL Nissa: Buxton Park Fountain
Leifker	SCL Makynna: Buxton Stadium ticket booth (by weight room)
Pinkstone	SCL Elian: Grass area by Carse Hall/Hopper Gym
Points	SCL Noah: Buxton Park Gazebo
Rehmeier	SCL Ximena: Dunn Library – space between library and Mary Berry
Saadat	SCL Jalayna: Buxton Park Playground
Siebert	SCL Jalynn: Barker Basketball Court (Buxton Park side)
Timm	SCL Kenzie: Buxton Stadium ticket booth (by weight room)
Vazquez	SCL Brandon: Pedestrian Plaza (by sculpture)
Walden	SCL Mason: Pedestrian Plaza (by sculpture)
Woldt	SCL Virginia: Kent Campus Center Atrium

Friday, August 28 - continued

1:45pm 	★ Welcome to the Red & Gold Join the Simpson College community as we officially welcome you into the Simpson family! <i>This special tradition marks your entrance into college life, as new students walk through the campus gates for the first time. You'll walk through them again at graduation - this time as Simpson graduates. All new students are expected to attend.</i>	Smith Chapel Outdoor Steps <i>Families are encouraged to join and witness this memorable moment.</i>
2:00pm	See You Soon, Storm Parents! As Welcome Week kicks off, it's time to say goodbye - for now! Join fellow students and their families for a casual send-off with lemonade and cookies. Take a moment to say farewell and get ready for an exciting week ahead!	Tent by Mary Berry Hall
3:00pm – 4:00pm 	Residence Hall Floor Meetings Connect with your Residence Hall floor and Community Advisor (CA) to talk about what it means to live in a first-year community. Commuter and transfer students can join current students on the Smith Chapel Patio!	
4:00pm – 5:00pm	Settle in, Storm! Use this time to get comfortable in your new room – you've got an exciting evening ahead! Already unpacked? Head over to the Intramural Games between Barker and Kresge and hang out with the SC Leaders (SCLs)! Red & Gold Connections Celebrate the start of the semester by making your very own Simpson-themed friendship bracelet! Set your phone down, take a moment to relax, and make new friends while you make your bracelets! <i>Location: Fire Pit by Barker/Kresge</i>	
5:00pm – 7:15pm  	★ The Big Welcome Dinner Pull up a chair and join one of Simpson's newest Welcome Week traditions! Share pizza, meet classmates, connect with faculty and staff, and enjoy meaningful conversations - including with President Stuebner. <u>At 5pm meet your SCL – they will provide you with the location</u> Red Group: Angeroth-Franks, Bardwell, Brittingham, Brodie, Brownen, Butts, Clinger, Walden, Timm, Transfers 5:00pm – 6:00pm: Pizza from our favorite Indianola pizza places 6:15pm – 7:15pm: Break / Games with your Foundations class Gold Group: Ditzler, Doling, Keairnes, Pinkstone, Points, Rehmeier, Saadat, Siebert, Leifker, Vazquez, Woldt 5:00pm – 6:00pm Break / Games with your Foundations class 6:15pm – 7:15pm: Pizza from our favorite Indianola pizza places	
7:00pm	Women's Soccer Alumni Game	Buxton Stadium
8:00pm 	S'mores with the Greek Community Join our fraternity and sorority members at the firepit between Barker and Kresge to celebrate the start of a new school year by making s'mores.	Fire Pit between Barker and Kresge
9:00 pm 	Karaoke Hosted by Campus Activities Board (CAB)	Kent Campus Center Black Box

Offices Open on Friday, August 28 – 8:00am-4:30pm

Admissions – College Hall
Business Office – Hillman Hall
Office of Financial Aid – College Hall
IT – McNeill Hall, lower level
Spirit Shop – Kent Campus Center

Registrar's Office – Hillman Hall
Student Development – Kent Campus Center
Holy Grounds – Dirlam Lounge, Smith Chapel
Mailroom – Kent Campus Center

Saturday, August 29

Dining Venue Hours

Millie's: 9:30am – 2:30pm | Pfeiffer Dining Hall: 7:00am – 9:00pm | Sub Connection: 12:00pm – 6:00pm

9:00am – 2:00pm		Mailroom Open	Kent Campus Center
9:15 am – 9:50am		SCL Meeting <i>Meet with your Foundations class and SCL to learn the essentials of student life at Simpson. This is your chance to ask questions, get helpful tips, and start building connections that will support you throughout your college journey.</i>	Connect with your SCL to find out your meeting location
10:00am – 1:30pm	 	★Building Community <i>Start your morning by connecting with your classmates and learning what it truly means to be part of the Simpson community. Together, we'll explore our shared values, traditions, and the importance of building a strong, supportive campus culture.</i>	
Group 1: Angeroth-Franks, Bardwell, Brittingham, Brodie, Brownen, Butts			
10:00am – 11:00am: Community Dialogue			
11:00am – 12:00pm: Lunch			
12:00pm – 1:00pm: Storming through Simpson - Scavenger Hunt			
Group 2: Clinger, Ditzler, Doling, Keairnes, Pinkstone, Points			
10:00am – 11:00am: Community Dialogue			
11:00am – 12:00pm: Storming through Simpson - Scavenger Hunt			
12:00pm – 1:00pm: Lunch			
Group 3: Rehmeier, Saadat, Siebert, Starman, Timm, Vazquez, Walden, Woldt, Transfers			
10:00am – 11:00am: Storming through Simpson - Scavenger Hunt			
11:20am – 12:20pm: Community Dialogue			
12:20pm – 1:00pm: Lunch			
Locations:			
Dialogue: Hubbell Hall Lunch: Dining venues Scavenger Hunt: around campus			
1:00pm – 2:45pm		Break <i>Take time to reset, meet new friends, or set up your room!</i>	
2:45pm		Meet your CA <i>It is required that you meet your CA at this time in order to attend the following required event.</i>	Connect with your CA
3:00pm	 	★Playfair <i>It's time for the ultimate icebreaker! Join us for this one-of-a-kind opportunity to meet your fellow classmates. Meet your CA at the location where you had your floor meeting. CAs will help make sure you get to the right place!</i>	College Hall Gates
4:15pm		Class Photo <i>Be part of Simpson history! For the first time ever, the entire first-year class will gather for a drone photo in Buxton Stadium. The Class of 2030 is ready to make its mark!</i>	Buxton Stadium
4:00pm – 8:00pm		Auditions!	
		Choral and Little Red Riding Hood Auditions: Duncan Hall – Amy Robertson Music Center	
		https://tinyurl.com/SimpsonChoir	
		Questions about choral auditions? Contact Dr. Arnold, jon.arnold@simpson.edu.	
		Questions about <i>Little Red Riding Hood</i> ? Contact Dr. Stevens, damon.stevens@simpson.edu or Prof. Woldt, ann.woldt@simpson.edu	

5:00pm – 7:00pm Dinner & Activities | Join SCLs and your fellow classmates at any of the following activities!

-  **5pm: Sorority Round Tables** – Black Box | *During the Sorority Round Table, you will get to talk to current members of our national sororities, Tri-Delta, Kappa Kappa Gamma, and Pi Beta Phi. You will learn more about sorority recruitment, leadership opportunities as a sorority member, academic support each sorority offers, etc. Bring any questions you have for our sorority members; potential topics can include benefits, financial obligations, balancing being a member with other commitments, and any other things that you are curious about.*
- Ice Cream with RLC!** – Smith Chapel Patio | *Drop in to meet student leaders in the Religious Life Community and learn about our programs for the year. Enjoy an ice cream sundae and pick up this year's free t-shirt!*
- Intramural (IM) Games** | 9 Square & Crossnet: Lawn between Barker and Kresge | Sand Volleyball: Next to the baseball field (by 907 North E Street)

6:00pm – 8:00pm Storm the [Theme] Houses! | *Check out the Simpson College Theme Houses by stopping by to learn more, get free food, and play games!*

Victory Voices (903 North E Street): Chip & dip bar + yard games + sand volleyball 

Victory Voices is focused on female athlete empowerment. Our goal is to create a more collaborative space for the female athletes to come together in groups that are broader/different from just their initial team groups. We want to give females a voice on campus as well as a space to be heard and talk about challenges. Come join us for chips, dips, and games!

Youth, Leadership & Community (901 North E Street): Pizza and yard games

Let's start the school year with some fun at the Storm The [Theme] House event! As a house, we are focusing on bringing Simpson students and the youth in the Indianola community together. We'll have activities including cornhole, giant cup pong, and spike ball, along with plenty of pizza for everyone to enjoy. As student-athletes, we hope to use our platform and leadership to create a welcoming that encourages young people to get involved and have a great time with the community. We're excited to kick off the school year by connecting, competing, and making lasting memories together!

Haven House (907 North E Street): Chalk & Talk

Take a break, grab a snack, and connect with others at Chalk & Talk with Haven House! Join us outside Haven House for a relaxing evening of creativity and conversation as we transform the sidewalks with colorful chalk art. Whether you're an artist or just want to hang out and meet new people, everyone is welcome. Enjoy puppy chow & dirty sodas!

La Casita (707 N D Street): Latin drinks & snacks + Regional music & dancing + House tour

La Casita is centered around Simpson College's student organization Latinos Unidos. Our goal is to create a welcoming and safe space for students of all backgrounds and identities. Although our organization may focus on a specific group of people, our house includes individuals from various cultures, which we hope encourages many students to participate in this fun event. We will be handing out familiar Latin drinks, snacks, playing music, and, if the evening allows, teaching each other regional dances. We can't wait to see you there!

Women's & Gender Resource Center - WGRC (705 North D Street): music, snacks & drinks!

The Women's & Gender Resource Center House is dedicated to fostering empowerment, community, and support for students of all identities. Our goal is to create a welcoming space where individuals can celebrate the accomplishments of women leaders, connect with one another, and engage in meaningful conversations about leadership, confidence, and advocacy. Guests will enjoy female empowerment music, drinks inspired by influential women leaders, and a variety of snacks while learning more about our community we want to foster. Through interactive activities and a fun, inclusive atmosphere, we hope to encourage students to build connections, celebrate one another's strengths, and leave feeling inspired. We look forward to welcoming you to our home!

8:00pm



BINGO – a Simpson tradition! | Hosted by CAB

Black Box

Sunday, August 30

If you are interested in area worship services, contact Chaplain Mara Bailey at mara.bailey@simpson.edu

Dining Venues Pfeiffer 7:00am-9:00pm | Millies 9:30am-2:30pm

9:30am – 2:30pm

Kent Campus Center

10:00am – 11:00am

SCL Meeting | Meet up with your Foundations class and map out where all your classes are located.

Classrooms – check with your SCL for your meeting location



10:30am – 5:00pm ★

Transfer Orientation | Meet fellow transfer students and learn about Simpson resources. Required for transfer students only.

Great Hall



11:00am – 12:00pm

Lunch

Campus Dining Venues

12:00pm – 4:15pm

Shopping Trips

During the break time for each group, SCLs will be providing a shuttle to Wal-Mart, Goodwill & Dollar Tree. Final trip back to campus returns at 4:15pm. Vans will depart campus at: 12:00, 1:30, and 3:00pm. Shuttle will leave from the Kresge circle drive.

MVP and IT Training | Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP) aims to inspire leadership by empowering bystanders to confront and challenge norms that support abusive, bullying, and discriminatory behaviors. Help us create a culture of respect at Simpson! This session is required.

Check with your CA to learn where your floor will meet for Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP) Training.

Group 1:

12:00-1:15pm: MVP – Location: ask your CA!

1:30-2:00pm: IT Training – Location: Hubbell Hall

Group 2:

12:30-1:00pm: IT Training – Location: Hubbell Hall

1:30-2:45pm: MVP – Location: ask your CA!

5:00pm

Mass

Smith Chapel

4:00pm – 8:00pm

Auditions!

Duncan Hall – Amy

Choral and Little Red Riding Hood Auditions

Robertson Music Center

<https://tinyurl.com/SimpsonChoir>

Questions about choral auditions? Contact Dr. Arnold, jon.arnold@simpson.edu.

Questions about *Little Red Riding Hood*? Contact Dr. Stevens, damon.stevens@simpson.edu or Prof. Woldt, ann.woldt@simpson.edu

5:30 pm – 7:00pm

Stormin' Back Block Party | Join returning students, staff, and faculty as we host our first kick-off event for the 2026-2027 school year! Games, prizes, and food!

Pedestrian Plaza

All dining locations are closed for dinner.



8:00pm

Stand Around | Stand Around is a campus-wide celebration at the start of the school year hosted by Campus Activities Board (CAB).

Pedestrian Plaza



Monday, August 31

8:30am – 4:30pm	Mailroom Open	Kent Campus Center
9:45am – 10:20am	Foundations Class <i>Meet your SCL & Foundations Professor!</i>	
10:30am – 12:00pm	  ★ Keynote Speaker – Ken Nwadike Jr. <i>Ken E. Nwadike Jr. is a peace activist, motivational speaker, and video journalist known as the Free Hugs Guy. He is one of the nation's top motivational speakers for colleges and universities. We are thrilled to have Ken spend time at Simpson College to inspire our students, faculty, and staff.</i> <i>Co-hosted by TRIO and New Student Programs</i>	Pote Theater  
12:15pm – 2:00pm	TRIO Orientation All TRIO students are required to attend orientation. Lunch will be provided.	Great Hall
1:30pm – 2:00pm	Campus Work-Study/Student Employment Required Training For all first-time students hired this fall for on-campus employment (first-year students or returners), we'll complete required paperwork and cover expectations. You can also complete the necessary payroll forms. Please check your email regarding the identification you need to bring for payroll.	Hubbell Hall I
Voter Registration Details	Student Ambassadors with the Culver Public Policy Center's nonpartisan Voter Engagement Team will be tabling throughout the day across campus to help students with voter registration and address updates.	Keep an eye out for the big red Culver Center pop-up tent outdoors and tables inside Kent.
2:00pm – 2:30pm	Fraternity House Tours – Leaving from Kent Atrium <i>Come and learn more about our Fraternities on campus as we tour the houses, meet members, and answer any questions you have for them about being in a Fraternity. They will give a short overview of their organization and values. The tours will meet in the Kent Atrium at 5pm, then we will head to Kappa Theta Psi, our local gender inclusive fraternity, then heading to Alpha Tau Omega, Sigma Alpha Epsilon, and ending with Lambda Chi Alpha.</i>	Kent Atrium
2:30pm – 4:30pm	Faculty Office Hours <i>Need to change your class schedule? Stop by your advisor's office (your advisor is your Foundations professor)!</i>	Faculty Offices
8:00pm	Blessing of the Athletes <i>Meet on the track at 7:30pm – required for student athletes</i>	Outside Smith Chapel

Tuesday, September 1

9:00am – 2:00pm	First Day Photos <i>Take your first day of school photos!</i>	Kent Atrium
9:00am – 2:00pm	I Belong at Simpson Because... <i>Stop by Kent atrium to sign the belonging poster and share why you belong at Simpson!</i>	Kent Atrium
4:30pm – 6:00pm	Speech, Debate & Mock Trial Meeting Come learn more about Speech, Debate, and Mock Trial at Simpson! We welcome all students, regardless of experience levels, who are interested in public speaking, argumentation, and advocacy. Join us for a chance to learn more about our program and meet other team members!	McNeill Hall Pioneer Room
5:00pm	Women's Soccer vs. Illinois Wesleyan	Buxton Stadium
6:00pm – 8:00pm	Audition! <i>The Two Gentlemen of Verona</i> Sign Up → https://tinyurl.com/2s4f8yb7 Questions about <i>The Two Gentlemen of Verona</i> ? Contact Prof. Nostrala, jennifer.nostrala@simpson.edu	Room 202, Blank Performing Arts Center

Wednesday, September 2

7:30am – 9:30am	CAB: Granola Bars to start your day!	Outside College Hall
12:45pm	Convocation Join us for Simpson College's ceremonial beginning to the academic year. All-College Convocation includes welcomes from the college president and the student body president as well as the formal processional of the college faculty. Meet at 12:30 p.m. to attend with your SCL/Foundations section.	Smith Chapel
		
6:00pm – 7:00pm	SGA Information Meeting Learn more about being involved in Student Government Association!	Senate Room
7:00pm	Custom License Plate Decorations CAB	Black Box

Thursday, September 3

4:30pm – 6:00pm	First Generation Student, Staff and Faculty Reception <i>Celebrating first-generation students! Join us as we build community, offer support, and connect you with first-generation staff and faculty.</i>	Great Hall
5:30pm – 6:30pm	Culver Fellows Opening Picnic - Culver Fellows only	Culver Center Backyard
7:00pm	Comedian Lafayette Wright Hosted by Campus Activities Board (CAB)	Black Box

Friday, September 4

12:30pm-2:30pm	★ Org Fest Excited to get involved? Drop by to browse various student organizations that Simpson has to offer!	Hubbell Hall
		
5:30pm	Men's & Women's Cross Country – Bill Buxton Invitational	Pickard Park – Indianola
7:00pm	Women's Soccer vs. Grinnell	Bill Buxton Stadium
9:30pm – 11:00pm	Skate South Des Moines Hosted by Campus Activities Board (CAB)	Skate South – Des Moines

Saturday, September 5

9:00pm

Movie Night (limited to first 50 students)

Black Box

Hosted by Campus Activities Board (CAB)

Sunday, September 6

1:00pm

Women's Soccer vs. Washington

Bill Buxton Stadium

Required Trainings

As part of your transition to Simpson College life, **all new students are required to complete important online training modules**. As a new Simpson student, you will have five total trainings. Please complete the following trainings before coming to campus in the Fall. These must be completed by September 18th, 2026. Failure to complete these trainings will result in a hold on registration for Spring 2027 classes.

Vector Trainings

1. Go to <https://simpsonstudent-ia.safecolleges.com/login>
2. Username: firstname.lastname
 1. This should match up with your Simpson email address.
3. Click on 'My Assignments' on the left-hand side
 1. It may take up to a week after your SOAR date for courses to show up here.
4. Complete the following courses
 1. RespectEdu for College
 2. Title IX Rights and Protections
 3. Hazing Awareness and Prevention for Students
 4. Active Shooter: Run, Hide, Fight for Students

Please be sure to complete all training components by September 18

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to Student Development at 515-961-1306 or by emailing studevworkstudy@mysimpson.onmicrosoft.com.

Immunization Records – Health Services

All students are required to complete the electronic health form and provide proof of immunizations through the electronic health records, Mediat. Log in to the patient portal at simpson.medicatconnect.com using your Simpson username and password (you can also log in through OneLogin). Documentation of religious and medical exemptions will be accepted and should be uploaded to the immunizations form section. Students will need a copy of their immunization records to input the information and upload a picture.

Announcements

Fraternity Primary Recruitment: September 7th to September 28th

Sign up for more information by following the QR code!

Participate in the Fraternity House Tours on August 29th at 5pm – meet in Kent Atrium for tours.



Sorority Primary Recruitment: September 8th to September 20th

Sign up for more information by following the QR code!

Attend the Sorority Recruitment Roundtable on August 29th at 5pm in Black Box!



Student Government Association (SGA)

Check your email for a link to be placed on the ballot to serve as Student Government Association first-year class president or senator for 2026-2027. An optional information session will be held Wednesday, September 2 at 6pm in the Senate Meeting Room in Kent Campus Center. Sign-ups end on September 3 and voting runs September 4 @ Noon through September 8 @ 8am. The person receiving the most votes will be named class president and the next four highest vote getters will be named class senators. Candidates will be notified of results the afternoon of September 8 and those elected will be sworn in and begin serving in their role at the September 9 SGA meeting.

Campus Activities Board (CAB)

CAB partners with Swank Residence Life Cinema to provide a free streaming service to students, faculty, and staff. Our library includes hundreds of recent releases, timeless classics and much more. New movies are added each month. The service is geofenced, so to stream from this site you must be on campus and connected to the College network. <https://streaming.swankmp.net/simpsonrlc>

Want discounts? Check out the discounts offered to Simpson students!

<https://www.indianolachamber.com/simpson-college-discount-program> or scan the QR Code →

