



Why You Can Commute! By Savi Clark

I get it. FOMO is a real thing!

We have all been there. The one day you missed school, it seems as if you missed the arrival of a celebrity that day, and now everyone is talking about it. That urge to be a part of a conversation, event, or group is normal and makes us human.

Heck, I had this urge, too, and many others when we first came to Loyola last year. But it takes a leap of faith to overcome it. This leap can be scary when you know nobody and want a good first impression.

But I had to ask myself a bigger question before coming here. Do I commute, or do I live on campus? I am here to tell you commuting won't leave you with FOMO. While most people may immediately say that living on campus is the obvious choice, it wasn't for me. I had these two warring parts of my mind clashing against each other—one argued that I could help my family and save money, while the other said to spread my wings and fly. Eventually, the second side won the war, and I moved into Thea Bowman on Aug 28th.

FALL IMMERSION

Little did I know that I missed several grand opportunities that you don't need to live on campus to get involved with.

A week before move-in day, Loyola offers a couple [fall immersion programs](#) where incoming students could meet other freshmen. The most interesting of these was a hike on the Appalachian Trail. This weeklong adventure led to robust and well-connected groups before I had even started. When I heard about this, I could only imagine how I could've gone on that trip. Later in the year, I met my friend Mark McAllister, who went on the hike and told me how much he loved it. Mark's experience is one of many people here at Loyola where they got involved, and their social life grew as a result of these programs that Loyola offers. His social life was not dictated by his residency but rather his readiness to be involved with a group.



After the first month of school, I was getting acclimated to both school and social life here. But I still felt like I was missing something integral to my life here at Loyola. The solution came around the corner.

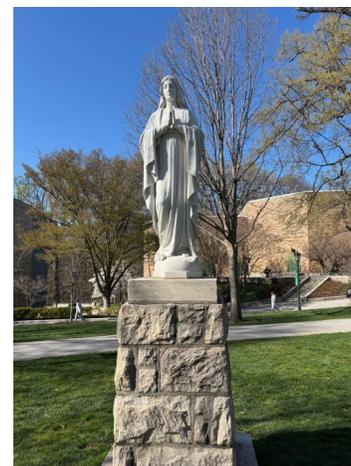
GET INVOLVED!

Are you an introvert or extrovert? How do you like to spend your free time? These question seems arbitrary, but I want you to think long and hard about them. Are you more of a loner, or do you like to be surrounded by people? I ask these questions of you because they will define your experience.

Ultimately, whether you are introvert or extrovert I will give you some ideas of how to get involved that could save you money at the same time. First, there are so many important opportunities available here at Loyola, and so many people want to get involved, which creates a warm campfire atmosphere. The emails we get on the weekends let us know what events are going on and they are open to everyone—and they are free.

CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES FAIR DAY!

I can't stress enough the importance of the Activities Fair. Although it may sound cliché, if you want to be involved, the Activities Fair is your first stepping stone. For some, they can sign up for Peer Ministry or the different language clubs. Others might sign up for club rugby or lacrosse. During that two-hour window, nothing brought a brighter smile than seeing my Evergreen at the head of the Renaissance table. Michael Berger is a senior and my Evergreen. Berger acknowledged the challenges to developing a social life at Loyola. He told me, "I found myself getting more involved around things on campus [happens] just by taking the next step when meeting people, right? Because I think the nice thing with a small campus is if you don't know someone, you probably know someone who knows someone." Berger's actions are ones we should all strive to emulate because he meets people through his clubs, activities, and everyday interactions. That way, more people know him and reach out to him for events on campus. As a commuter, these actions can help you grow your connections on campus even if you're not here 24/7.



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FROM THE SOURCE!

I have come to the conclusion that it is better for my pocketbook to commute next year. I decided this because I won't have any FOMO, and I will still be able to participate in any events on or off campus that I want to. If you live nearby, I recommend you commute so you can save money but still take full advantage of Loyola.

It isn't just me who has come to this conclusion. My friend Raminder '26, whom I met this semester in Art History, also comes to campus twice a week and works a job. Raminder told me: "So being a commuter at Loyola Maryland and working on the weekends is pretty challenging but manageable. To efficiently be able to do this I tend to use a planner in which I can track down what assignments are due on what day and make sure that all assignments are done in a timely manner." Raminder's strategy is great for all of us so we can get our work done efficiently and have other time for our responsibilities and spending time with our friends, even though we'll spend some extra time on the road.

Another friend is Mathias, who is a freshman along with me. He commutes every day, but I still see him on campus until late at night. Mathias notes, "you get to school, you find your friends and I think it's definitely helped through the Sellinger Scholar program." Mathias and I are first-years in the Sellinger Scholars Program, and it has been a tremendous benefit for us. Because of the structure the program brings, it can help create and reinforce friendships. You can definitely make friends in your classes.

For other things to do, reach out by texting your friends about what the plan is for the day or read the emails your club leader send—these small actions will help you make sure you don't get FOMO just because you're commuting.

I have made my decision for the following year! There are plenty of opportunities on campus and organizations I can't wait to join. My journey is just beginning, and I can't wait for you to start yours. I wish you the best of luck next year and can't wait to see you on campus.



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