Welcome to Virtual AURORA!

We wanted to take a moment to welcome you to AURORA! We are living in challenging times and with so many things up in the air in the coming weeks and months, AURORA’s mission rings truer than ever. We are here to aid in your transition to college life, help forge relationships, and empower incoming students. AURORA will provide a unique opportunity to build a strong and supportive community of peers and leaders for your time at Penn State and beyond.

To best prepare for your AURORA experience, please read this Essential Information Packet carefully and completely. It contains important details and knowledge regarding our program and should answer many of your questions. After you’ve finished reading, complete the checklist to ensure your preparation and reach out with any remaining questions!

- Review Gear List and acquire what is needed
- Visit findAURORA.psu.edu for more info and FAQs
- Follow AURORA on social media for updates
  - @pennstateAURORA
  - fb.com/pennstateAURORA
- Prepare to embark on your journey!

What does Virtual AURORA look like?

Your day-to-day experience will consist of virtual hikes, outdoor experiences, Zoom sessions, and complimentary short assignments. During virtual hikes, you’ll explore beautiful locations across the United States from your device. For outdoor experiences, you’ll engage the wilderness of your own backyard. Throughout AURORA, you’ll get together with your fellow students and leaders via Zoom to reflect on your experiences, as well as your transition to college. Additional assignments will examine wellness, healthy eating, and community service.

Contact Us

We’d love to answer your questions.

- AURORA@psu.edu
- program questions: (814) 865-3890
- registration questions: (814) 865-3880
Additional Info

Cell Phone Policy
Since we’re using technology for our class meetings, camp-craft education, and virtual hikes, you very well may be using your phone for significant portions of class. Though, like any class, usage of your phone in a manner that does not support or engage the class will be prohibited.

Early Move-in
A special window of time for early move-in is offered to AURORA students at University Park for the Fall semester. Visit arrival.psu.edu and check the “Special Programs” section for information about early move-in.

To make early move-in arrangements, or to ask any questions, please contact the assignment office by writing to: assignmentoffice@psu.edu or by calling: (814) 865-7501

AURORA Gear List
To best prepare for AURORA, please obtain the items listed below. Our expert staff has meticulously assembled this list throughout AURORA’s history to ensure that all essentials are covered. Visit your local outdoor retailer for your shopping, or visit Appalachian Outdoors (appoutdoors.com) in State College. Through our partnership, you will receive a 10% discount on your entire purchase at Appalachian Outdoors with the code: 20AURORA.

TECHNOLOGY

☐ Reliable Internet Access
To be used with an internet-ready device like a phone, tablet, or computer. If this is an issue, visit the AURORA FAQ to learn how to get technological support.

☐ Headphones/Earbuds

☐ Access to These Programs:
Zoom (free with your PSU access account)
Flipgrid (free for students)
Youtube

OUTDOOR EXPERIENCE

☐ Water

☐ Food

☐ Proper Clothing
Rain gear, synthetic garments, insulating layers, etc.

☐ Proper Footwear
Supportive hiking/walking shoes or boots

No Drugs, Alcohol, Tobacco, and Weapons!