



THE ATHENS CHEAT SHEET





Welcome

Welcome to Athens! You've just stepped into four of the most exciting and transformative years of your life. And there's no better place to spend them than in Athens!

Few of us leave this town the same way we arrived—because it's a place of deep community, curious minds, and a willingness to grow.

We put our heads together and wanted to share some of our Athens favorites in the hope that they become the places where you connect with others, explore your faith, and fall in love with this town!

Weekly UGA RUF Events

Large Group — Wednesdays at 7:30 PM in Downtown Athens (165 Pulaski Street) Worship, teaching, fellowship, post-RUF hangs.

Freshmen Fellowship — Tuesdays at 8 PM in Downtown Athens (165 Pulaski Street) Games, music, teaching, community, snacks.

Community Groups — Weeknights, locations and schedule are available at uga.ruf.org/community.



@ugaruf



@RUF at UGA



@RUF at UGA



uga.ruf.org

First Year Musts

Sports

Go to at least one of every sporting event. Most are free to students, and even if you know nothing about the sport, it's an easy way to get people together.

Plus, there's tons of free stuff!



Tubing

Tube down the Middle Oconee River in \$5 Walmart tubes, and end at the Botanical Gardens. It's an absolute blast, and you'll have a story or two by the end.



Etc.

Plan a trip with the new friends you've made. It doesn't matter where, just plan something out with a group of people and do it!

Travel

Take a picture on the first and last day of classes. Hang by the side door of the Georgia Theater, and meet your favorite bands. Go to the GA/FL game. Play a giant game of capture the flag on North Campus.

The Best



Breakfast

Mama's Boy – Chocolate cake for breakfast!

Biscuits and homemade jam!

Big City Bread – Creative and delicious options.

A great idea when family visits!

Also Worth a Visit – Ideal Bagel, Cafe Racer, Bread Basket, J. Christopher's \$5 Friday skillet

Music Venue

Georgia Theater – Hands down.

This place is magical.

40 Watt – Smaller and more chill.

Also Cool – Flicker, Farm 255, Hodgson Hall



Study Spot

On Campus Indoor – MLC or SLC for easy seating, bean bag chairs in the Science Library, Reading Room in the Main Library

On Campus Outdoor – North Campus Lawn, Founder's Memorial Garden, Rutherford Hall's porch

Off Campus – Botanical Gardens (indoor and outdoor seating), Athens-Clarke County Library on Baxter, Carnegie Library on Health Sciences Campus, Walker's (downtown)

The Best

Athens Food

Kelly's Jamaican Foods, Maepole, Clocked, Taqueria del Sol, Cali N Tito's, Trapeze, The Place, Shokitini, Tlalo Mexican Restaurant, Hi-Lo, Automatic Pizza, Blazer's (in Hull), Mediterranean Cafe. Don't forget the 4 Chick-fil-A's!



Place to Run

Ramsey — Inside track with AC!

Lake Herrick — A loop around the lake with several safe trails through the woods.

Etc. — Botanical Gardens, Whitehall Forest, Dudley Park, Athens Firefly Trail

Coffee Shop

Jittery Joe's — An Athens classic with many locations.

Hendershots — Good coffee and lots of events!

Etc. — 1000 Faces, Choco Pronto, Buvez, Walker's, Iron Works, Franklin House, Sips

Dessert

#1 Dessert — Last Resort's white chocolate cheesecake

#1 Dessert Spot — Last Resort or Big City Bread

Etc. — UGA Creamery, Condor Chocolates, Alumni Cookie Dough, Depalma's Italian Cafe

Underrated



Ice Dawgs

UGA has a club hockey team! Games are only \$5 and loads of fun. You may even get to see them win another Conference Championship!

The Rook & Pawn

It's a board game cafe in downtown. Pay \$7, and you can play board games all night while enjoying some coffee and tea.



Etc.

The State Botanical Gardens, Sandy Creek Park, Special Collections Library, Foxglove PlantBar (free events including yoga, music, and more), 3 Porch Farm (flower farm 30 minutes from Athens), Washington Farms (strawberry picking and corn mazes)

Twilight

Twilight is a late night, international pro-am bike race downtown in late April. It's also a street festival with music, food trucks, and a 5k.

Hidden Gems

Bear Hollow Zoo

A free mini zoo in Memorial Park! Lots of shade, the quiet atmosphere, and the chance to see bears make this a treasure. A great first date spot!



America's Thrift

Great selection of clothes and home goods. Walk in and trust the thrift process! Take a group of new friends and make good memories!

Etc.

A small park on the Middle Oconee River, where you can walk the trail, have a picnic, wade in the water, and climb some old ruins to relax in the sun.

Ben Burton Park

The Tree Room, Hunter-Holmes Building's second floor balcony, Watson Mill Bridge State Park, Project Safe Thrift Store, Georgia Museum of Art, Firefly Trail, Athens Farmers Market

First Year Advice

From former freshmen!

Talk.

“Actually talk to people in your classes, especially in large lecture halls. Befriend upperclassmen, and try to build a relationship with one of your professors. Most are great?” **“Feeling clueless?”**

Even when you feel like you have no clue what you’re doing, chances are neither do most of the people around you, so just have fun figuring it out together!”

Don’t compare.

“Don’t compare yourself to other people. They may have a group of friends and their life figured out in September. You don’t have to, it’s okay! Things will fall into place, but it may not happen for you until later on.”

Get out and move.

“Don’t let yourself stay in the dorm. Try to get involved. It’ll be so worth it. And your sophomore self will thank you!”



First Year Advice

From former freshmen!

Don't be afraid of mealtime.

"You're not a loser if you eat alone in the dining hall. Everyone does it. If you want, figure out when other people are eating. For instance, a ton of RUF people eat lunch together in the hearth room of Bolton every day. If you're looking for a familiar face during busy lunch hours, try there."

Relax and explore.

"Don't take UGA and its classes as seriously as they take themselves. Freshman year is about more than grades. Plus, UGA will take every minute you give it; so draw your boundaries and don't give it all it demands. Remember, you're laying the foundation of your social and spiritual life for the next four years, which is exciting stuff!"



Why RUF?

From current RUFers!



Sincerity

"REAL people, REAL fellowship, and REAL answers for your hard questions! None of that surface-level, "everything is good," "I'm okay" crap that we are bombarded with."

Growth

"I have grown so much in faith in my time in RUF. This ministry provides many ways to make your faith your own. It's so good at equipping you for life in college and after."



Leadership

"I love that RUF has leaders that are willing to take the time to really get to know you and pour into your spiritual life."



Why RUF?

From current RUFers!

Community

"The people! I found my roommates and best friends at RUF freshman year. It's such a wonderful community. The campus minister and interns are always happy to meet with you and chat about life."



Authenticity

"It's the first place where people saw me as I actually am and still wanted to be my friend. I learned to be honest with God and others here."

Local Churches

Redeemer

165 Pulaski Street, Sundays @ 10:30 AM

Good Shepherd

890 Boulevard, Sundays @ 10:30 AM

Faith Presbyterian

2191 Mars Hill Road, Sundays @ 10 AM

Christ Community

765 Chase Street, Sundays @ 10 AM

Resurrection

185 Ben Burton Road, Sundays @ 10:30 AM

Freshmen Fellowship

Statistically speaking, the loneliest people in America are college freshmen. How's this true when you eat, live, and sit in class *together*? How can it feel like you're all on your own? Often we're surrounded by acquaintances (those who know our name but not our story) but few close friends (those who know how the pieces of our life form our story.) We want that to change!

What is it?

RUF Freshmen Fellowship is an easy place to slip into any time of the semester. What is it? A place specifically built for freshmen to connect with each other, take a break from the books, deepen friendships, hear thought-provoking teaching, and share the ups and downs of the week with people who genuinely care.

**Come check it out on Tuesdays
at 8 PM in downtown Athens!
(165 Pulaski Street)**





Why does it matter?

From rising Sophomores.

Foundations

"Freshmen Fellowship is an amazing opportunity to connect with people you'll be spending the next four years with. I was able to strengthen my friendships while learning about God in ways I'd never experienced before."

Connections

"The transition into college was difficult, and it was great to really connect with people in the same shoes as me. I didn't go first semester because I didn't think I would have time, but it's something you need to make time for."

Consistency

"Tuesdays were always the highlight of my week. Freshmen Fellowship was a regular, familiar place to rest and grow with people I became fast friends with. As inconsistent as freshman year can be, this quickly became a community I could trust!"

About RUF

Reformed University Fellowship (RUF) is a campus ministry here to meet every student at UGA and UNG with the life changing grace of Jesus Christ. At RUF you get to bring the real you, encounter a real God, experience real change, and make a real impact during your college years and beyond. No matter who you are or where you're at, there's a place in RUF for you. Come see for yourself why hundreds of students find their home in UGA RUF every year. We look forward to getting to know you!

If you have any questions or just want to say hi, reach out to us!

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