

**REED COLLEGE
COMMUNITY SAFETY
DEPARTMENTAL DIRECTIVE**

NIGHT OWL & COMMUNITY SAFETY JOINT OPERATIONS

SOURCE: Community Safety Directive issued by the Community Safety Director in collaboration with the Health & Counseling Center Director.

Original publication: 2011

Latest review & revision: February, 2021

In light of public health restrictions resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, the Night Owl Program has been suspended for the 2020-2021 academic year.

QUICK REFERENCE

- ☐ The Night Owl program is intended to enhance student safety through early detection of potential medical or psychological emergencies, including alcohol and other drug overuse, interpersonal conflicts, and environmental hazards
- ☐ Night Owls are confidential resources for students who may have experienced sexual harassment and other potential violations of Title IX or the DHSM and are prohibited from sharing information about such situations without the written consent of the victim (as defined in [ORS 40.264](#)). Night Owls are mandatory reporters to the [Oregon Department of Human Services](#) of child abuse and neglect.
- ☐ Night Owls have the following primary responsibilities:
 - ☐ Visit areas on-campus where students congregate
 - ☐ Engage and interact with individuals in a friendly, non-judgmental manner, providing water, snacks, and ear plugs as requested
 - ☐ Observe individuals and environmental conditions for signs of safety issues
 - ☐ Provide support for students who appear to be in distress or need assistance
 - ☐ Contact Community Safety for observed or reported personal or environmental safety and security issues
- ☐ Night Owls are employed by the Sexual Health, Advocacy, and Response program
- ☐ Night Owls always work in teams of two trained students
- ☐ Night Owls have no role in providing security or enforcing college policy
- ☐ Night Owls will notify Community Safety dispatch when they begin and end a shift

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- ❑ Night Owls may report environmental safety hazards (e.g., burned out lights, broken doors, injury hazards, etc.) and individuals who need assistance or evaluation to Community Safety, and monitor the situation until Community Safety arrives

PURPOSE

The Night Owl program is intended to increase the safety of Reed students and campus visitors during weekend evenings by providing friendly, sober outreach and support, intervening as bystanders when safe and appropriate, and contacting Community Safety to assist in situations that may require more extensive assessment and intervention.

HISTORY

The Night Owl program was established jointly by the Community Safety Department and the Health & Counseling Center in 2011, and loosely based on the traditional student-led safety and wellbeing patrols originally conceived for the annual Renn Fayre celebration. The “karma” and “bagel” patrol were names used historically. The impetus for the Night Owl program was an emerging belief that students would be better able to circulate among and engage with their peers than CSOs, or other professional staff, during student events and times typically active for informal social gatherings. The collaboration between Community Safety and Health & Counseling was designed to maximize the training and oversight for Night Owls, while preserving their ability as students to interact with their peers. Ultimately an agreement was reached where Night Owls are hired and overseen principally by the HCC, with CS providing additional training, and support in the field.

In 2018, the program was moved to the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response program, and increased its focus on safe bystander intervention. In 2019, as part of the reorganization of the SAPR program into the SHARE (Sexual Health, Advocacy, and Relationship Education) program, the SAPR Steward program was merged into the Night Owl program. Night Owls continue to conduct watches across campus as well as provide friendly, sober support and bystander intervention support at student-run events in the Student Union and Pool Hall.

OVERVIEW

The College recognizes that the likelihood of students using alcohol and other drugs (AOD) increases during certain social events, both ad hoc and planned, and that increased use of AOD may also increase the likelihood of students becoming at risk

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physically and psychologically. The Night Owl program collaborates with student and administration programs, including Community Safety, to lower barriers to safe bystander intervention and help-seeking. The purpose of the Night Owl teams is to visit areas of campus where students are most likely to gather, observe and interact with students and campus visitors, offer non-judgmental engagement, assess their immediate well-being and safety, and provide linkage to resources as needed. Resources may include information, referral, or contacting Community Safety for assistance in situations in which well-being or safety is at risk. Night Owls do not have professional training in assessing physical or mental health or well-being, and are trained to contact Community Safety Officers (CSOs) when they believe that further assessment is necessary.

SUPERVISION

Night Owls are employed and supervised by the Sexual Health And Relationship Education (SHARE) Program Director.

The Community Safety Department provides support to Night Owls during their shifts, including furnishing key cards for dorms and assistance when the Night Owls request it. During emergencies, Night Owls are expected to follow the directions of the CSOs and/or EMS staff on scene.

OPERATION GUIDELINES

Patrols

Night Owls work in trained pairs (trainees may accompany them). Night Owls will not conduct watches without a partner.

Night Owls reporting for a shift will check in with the Community Safety Dispatcher so that they can be logged into the Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system. The dispatcher will issue the Night Owl swipe card(s) to the team(s).

Night Owls will use a program-assigned locker in the GCC to store program materials. Night Owls should check in with Community Safety staff on duty for the shift before going on patrol, either face-to-face or over the phone, so that they can discuss campus activities during the shift.

Night Owls will visit areas on-campus where students typically congregate, both in ad hoc or informal settings, and at scheduled events and celebrations. Areas where Night Owls may typically visit include, but are not necessarily limited to, the following:

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- ☐ Common use student areas (e.g., pool hall, student union, sally port, cafes, quad, etc.)
- ☐ Restrooms associated with common use areas
- ☐ Residence hall common rooms and other areas used for gatherings

Night Owls will not enter the following areas without an invitation or obvious need to enter to evaluate someone:

- ☐ Offices and office suites, including student offices (except SHARE offices)
- ☐ Administrative and instructional areas, except when those areas are used for a student event (e.g., Chapel use for a concert, Vollum Lecture Hall use for Hum Play, etc.)
- ☐ Individual student residences (rooms or apartments)

Night Owls are not permitted to patrol or respond off-campus. If Night Owls observe or become aware of a concern off-campus, Community Safety Dispatch should be notified immediately for follow up.

During these visits the Night Owls' role is to observe and interact with students and campus visitors in ways that are appropriate to the setting, and to be alert for situations of environmental or personal risk. Night Owls will engage with any person who appears to be in distress or who is in a situation that appears to contain a potential hazard in order to determine whether or not further resources should be offered, including assessment as necessary by a Community Safety Officer (CSO). Night Owls may provide safe bystander intervention if appropriate, but are not trained, nor are they permitted to provide medical or psychological evaluations or enforce any rules, policies, or laws.

Night Owls will check in with their Captain at the beginning of each shift and create a general plan for the evening's watch. If there are events in the Student Union or Pool Hall, Night Owls will spend at least half of their shift providing support in those areas. Night Owls may visit other areas of campus where student activities are occurring.

Night Owls will engage with Community Safety staff when they cross paths, but will not patrol or monitor areas together as this dilutes the amount of campus areas that can be monitored, and it may lead to false perceptions about the role of the Night Owls.

Night Owl Reporting Requirements

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- ☐ Night Owls are required to report immediately to Community Safety any situation where a student MAY require assessment for a medical or psychological crisis
- ☐ Night Owls will use the evaluation guidelines on the Yellow Card: “*Signs of Alcohol or other Drug Overdose Emergencies*” (AOD Emergency) to determine whether or not a student has symptoms of an overdose
- ☐ If a student exhibits any of the symptoms listed as “emergent” or “urgent,” the Night Owl is required to immediately contact Community Safety and take the following steps/actions:
 - ☐ Report the situation via cell or campus phone
 - ☐ Provide the location of the student
 - ☐ Provide the student’s name, if known
 - ☐ Describe the nature of the incident
 - ☐ Remain with the student until the arrival of a CSO
 - ☐ When two Night Owls are present, send one Night Owl, if necessary, to guide the responding CSO to the specific location

Night Owl Duty Restrictions

The Night Owls’ sole purpose is to enhance the safety of Reed students and campus visitors on weekend evenings. Night Owls are not trained, nor are they permitted to perform security functions or enforce College policy. Night Owls may provide first aid, including administering naloxone, only if they have received training and any applicable certification, and only if Community Safety has been concurrently notified of the emergency.

Equipment & Supplies

Night Owls will carry the following equipment and supplies for use during their shifts:

- ☐ Night Owl swipe card for residence hall entry (1 per team; picked up at 28 West when checking in and dropped off at the end of the shift)
- ☐ Belt bag
- ☐ Personal cell phone (charged, with emergency numbers in contacts)
- ☐ AOD Emergency card
- ☐ Water, snacks, and ear plugs to be distributed to students and campus visitors on request

Communications

Night Owls are expected to use campus telephones, campus emergency call stations/phones, or cell phones to communicate during their shifts.

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