Special interest housing consists of floors that have developed out of common interests in the student body. These floors perform services to the campus community and the Eastman community at large to promote their interests.

There are two special interest floors currently active at Eastman:

**String Busters** – Our organization values contributing to individual and group success in music, through listening to and offering constructive criticism, sharing ideas and inspirations, as well as, improvising in various styles (e.g. jazz, pop, classical). Contact Charlesse Hager chager@u.Rochester.edu to join.

**Culinary Floor** – We as a floor seek to bring people together and promote diversity through culinary arts. We as a group are very diverse in our diets and want to share cultural, vegan/vegetarian, and health foods to our community. Contact Deepti Kumar dkumar6@u.Rochester.edu to join.

**Sustainability floor has decided to withdraw** from participation in special interest housing for the 2019-20 academic year. Because of lack of interest, students will not be able to reapply for a similar-themed floor/housing until Spring 2020.

Here are some examples of proposed groups:

“The Outing Floor” – A floor dedicated to getting all students to participate in group-runs, hiking, biking, canoeing, rock-climbing, tough-mudders, apple-picking and similar outdoorsy events.

“The Interfaith Floor” – A floor dedicated to exploring different faiths, religious meals, and constructive conversations on both welcoming others and how our faiths enhance our lives.”

“Theatre and Improv Interest Floor” – A floor dedicated to attending theatre programs, promoting local acts, and hosting improve and acting seminars. Enhance the SLC community by hosting a skit-comedy event.

Examples of Proposed Programs or Events:

“Minimalism – Documentary and Discussion” We will be watching a documentary in the fall, having food, and a host will lead a discussion on this topic.

“Board Game Night at the YMCA” We will be hosting a board game night at the YMCA to teach kids how to play games as our community service project this fall.

“Etiquette Dinner” This popular annual event teaches students the finer points of business etiquette and dining. Over a multi-course meal, students are joined by special alumni table hosts and are presented with tips to prepare them for upcoming internships, interviews, special events, and real world scenarios. Co-sponsored with the Institute for Music Leadership and the Office for Advancement.
Definition of proposed Meetings with Explanations of Time Commitments:

Bi-weekly Meetings with your floor – 15-30 min a week during evenings (all members)

Monthly Meetings – 30 min meetings once a month with your floor’s advisor (president only)

Presidents’ Council Meeting – 2 hour meeting (includes breakfast or lunch) with all other Special Interest Housing Presidents (president only)

Planning Programs – for a group of eight students, a reasonable amount of time will need to be dedicated to brainstorming programs for both the floor and the building, scheduling, advertising, facilitating, and cleaning up after events. If pairs of students completed one program per semester and each piece above took 30 min, then the time commitment for each program would be approximately 2 hours and 30 min each semester. We believe you can accomplish these goals – we are here to support you.

Directions to submit an application for Special Interest Housing

The application must include the following:

1. A cover sheet noting the proposed group name, the mission of your group, and the names/titles/date of the officers submitting the report (example included).

2. A review of how the group will meet and/or exceeded the Office for Residential Life’s Special Interest Housing Expectations (example included).

3. The names and class years of six to eight (6-8) persons interested in this kind of special interest housing. These persons would make up a floor community. The minimum amount of students required to form a group for the 2019-20 academic year would be six (6) persons. The following year, it would be expected that your group would have eight or more persons to maintain your special interest housing assigned floor.

To write the application:

To submit an application to the Office of Student Affairs, open a word document and start by listing the five criteria listed as the Special Interest Housing Expectations. For each criterion, write a brief explanation of what goals you have as a group and how you will meet those goals. Bullet points are acceptable, so long as the points make sense to the readers (example included).

For the programming criterion LIST potential events that your club has proposed for next Fall semester.

Process/Information:

The Application for Special Interest Housing will be due to the Office for Residential Life Office (located at 100 Gibbs Street, Suite 103) by Monday, April 15th by 12pm. If you have any questions, please stop down to the office to speak with Dr. Bones. He can give you great advice and tips about the vision of Special Interest Housing. If you can’t stop down or as questions arise, please email rbones@esm.rochester.edu
The Office for Residential Life’s Special Interest Housing Expectations

Expectations for Special Interest Housing groups:

1. Quality, original programming is expected of each Special Interest Housing group. These programs and events need to be directed toward the community in which you live; should be welcoming to all class years (including potential first-year floor-mates); and should not be solely focused on activities just for group members. Groups are expected to complete three (3) programs by the end of fall semester and at least one (1) program between the start of spring semester and the Annual Review (mid-February).

2. Establish and maintain monthly contact with your advisor, the Office for Student Activities, or the Office for Residential Life. These persons can best help you interpret the Expectations for Excellence and related expectations for your Special Interest Housing group.

3. Groups are required to participate in Special Interest Housing training at the start of the academic year; to participate in one president’s council meeting each semester; and to participate in the additional meetings and trainings as needed (expected time commitment of eight (8) hours each semester).

4. Groups are required to provide an active, voting representative (one representative) to the Eastman Students’ Association. Eastman Students’ Association funds are generally available to Special Interest Housing groups to use toward programming. Distribution of these funds is typically tied to attendance and involvement in group activities.

5. Groups are allocated a specific number of spaces for the next academic year. This means that the group agrees that they have enough members to keep the allotted spaces filled for both the fall and spring semesters of the academic year. The designated executive member of the group (ex. President or Housing Manager) is required to maintain contact with the Office for Residential Life throughout the year to help facilitate room changes and to manage spaces that may occur during the year.

Note: Many ESM students may feel they are unable to dedicate the time to these programs, remember that it is a team planned event – one person may be involved in picking up snacks, while another is responsible for being at the event or advertising, and still another responsible for clean-up.

Groups must be recognized by the Students’ Association, the Office for Student Activities, or the Office for Residential Life to receive a budget towards their programming. There will be no additional costs to residential students for affiliating or living on Special Interest Housing floors.

Of these four programs, ONE program must be focused on, or connected to the mission of your group and be open to all the residents of Student Living Center. Look to your advisor, the Office for Student Activities, or the Office for Residential Life for suggestions on these programs and programming partnership opportunities.

Of these four programs, ONE program must be focused on “giving back” to the community in which you live through one of your events. This can be accomplished through community service project in the Rochester community (ex. food drive), a service project to enhance or beautify the SLC (ex. adopt-a-stairwell) or a program that directly benefits the residents of the SLC (ex. spirit week). Look to your advisor, the Office for Student Activities, or the Office for Residential Life for suggestions on projects or programming events.
Proposed Special Interest Housing Group Name:

Mission Statement:

(please print)

Submitted by:  ____________________________  President
(name and class year)

______________________________  Treasurer
(name and class year)

______________________________  Member
(name and class year)

______________________________  Member
(name and class year)

______________________________  Member
(name and class year)

______________________________  Member
(name and class year)

______________________________  Member
(name and class year)

______________________________  Member
(name and class year)

Date:
Proposed Special Interest Housing Group Name: “Inter-Class Living Community”

Mission Statement: Our floor is dedicated to establishing friendships and mentoring among all the class years. We seek to promote programs for the broad improvement of class year relations. Eastman students will benefit from shared stories, experiences, and opportunities.

1. Original Programming Proposals and Examples
   a. “Generation Start Up” Documentary viewing, food, and discussion
   b. “Vietnam Veterans Clothing Drive” Community Service project
   c. “Food for Thought” Professor Doe will speak about Jazz and Gender
   d. “Tea and Cookies” Come have tea and cookies as a study break during midterms

2. Jane Smith (president) will meet with our advisor, Austin Curtis monthly.

3. Members will attend the 2 hour training in the fall before Upperclass move-in. We realize that our group has the privilege of moving in early to assist with first-year move in and attend these meetings. We will send our president or representative to the president’s council meeting in the fall and spring semester.

4. We have a rotating representative to attend the Students’ Association meeting every other week who will take notes, report back, and represent our group when voting.

5. We would like to be placed on the 4th floor of C house. Katie Keystone (housing manager) will connect with Residential Life about room changes on our floor.