

Helpful Hints for Living in Philadelphia

A Guide for Penn Nursing Students

2009-2010

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PEER ADVISING PROGRAM.....	3
GOALS	
ACTIVITIES	
OFFICERS	
GETTING AROUND PHILADELPHIA.....	4-5
INFORMATIVE PHILLY WEBSITES.....	5-6
PHILADELPHIA NEIGHBORHOODS.....	6-8
UNIVERSITY CITY	
FITLER SQUARE	
RITTENHOUSE SQUARE	
WASHINGTON SQUARE	
OLD CITY	
ART MUSEUM	
MANAYUNK	
PETS.....	8-9
DECIDING WHERE TO LIVE.....	9-10
HOUSING.....	10-12
HOUSING RESOURCES	
PREPARING FOR YOUR MOVE.....	12-13
TRANSPORTATION.....	13-16
KEEPING A CAR IN THE CITY	
PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION	
EMPLOYMENT.....	16-17
FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN.....	17-19
SCHOOLS	
CHILDCARE	
PARENT RESOURCES	
PHILADELPHIA LIVING.....	19-24
ANNUAL CALENDAR OF FESTIVALS AND EVENTS	
DAY TRIPS	

NURSING SCHOOL PEER ADVISING PROGRAM

The Peer Advising Program for Second-degree students is an organization that was established to help ease the transition into nursing school at the University of Pennsylvania. We work in cooperation with both the Office of Student Services and the Student Nurses at Penn (SNAP).

The Peer Advising Program for Second-degree Students is a great way to meet other nursing students and to hear about their experiences. It is also a wonderful way to get to know each other and most importantly, have fun! We do our best to help you adjust to your new life as part of the Nursing community and provide you with resources to help make your move a smooth transition. You may also find the Peer Advising Program to be a helpful networking facility for resources, job searches and faculty contacts

Peer Advising Contacts:

Aileen Thai (athai@nursing.upenn.edu)

Annie Shields (shieldse@nursing.upenn.edu)

Faculty Advising Contact:

Emily Ford (epapir@nursing.upenn.edu)

SNAP (Student Nurses at Penn) Organization advisor:

Diane Spatz (spatz@nursing.upenn.edu)

Original author of the guide: Nika Federoff

GETTING AROUND THE CITY

City Design:

Although Philadelphia is the nation's 5th largest U.S. city (with a population of 1.5 million, 6 million in the surrounding metro region) it is a relatively easy city to get around.

The city is arranged in a grid, with Broad and Market Street centrally intersecting at City Hall.

- East-West streets to the south of Market Street include Chestnut, Walnut, Locust, Spruce, Pine, Lombard, and South Streets.
- Streets to the North include Arch, Race, Vine, Callowhill and Spring Garden Streets.
- Numbered streets run North - South, starting with Front Street, running along the Delaware River in Old City and ending with 69th Street in West Philly.
- Broad Street is actually 14th Street.

Finding a particular address is not difficult if you remember the following simple rules:

- If you are trying to find an address located on a street with a name, the number will indicate where to go as it corresponds with the cross streets. For example, 1850 Walnut Street is Walnut Street between 18th and 19th Streets.
- If you are trying to find an address on a numbered street, remember the numbers start from zero at Market Street and increase by 100 with each block. For example, 250 South 17th Street is on 17th Street between Walnut and Locust Streets (the second and third streets south of Market).

Also, there are a couple of major highways that you will become familiar with. Rte 76 is referred to as the Schuylkill (pronounced "skoo-gill") and runs east and west. The 95 runs along the south and east side of the city, going north and south. The 676 (the Vine St. Expressway) runs the length of Center City east and west. Rte 476 is referred to as The Blue Route.

Transportation (Getting Around Town):

Within Philly:

Walking. Most areas of downtown are easily accessible on foot. From City Hall to the waterfront is only 15 blocks. Many areas of the city are best and most easily seen on foot.

Driving. As in any big city, while it might be easy to find where you want to go, it's not always easy to find a place to park. Free parking in the city is limited. There is a lot of metered parking (\$1.00/~25 min) but you are generally limited to 2 hrs per space and you cannot just keep putting quarters in the meter every two hours. The parking authority is very efficient and swift - you will be ticketed. Nonetheless, if you plan to keep your car, always keep a stash of quarters for this purpose or buy a "Smart Card" which is a prepaid meter card that can be purchased through the Philadelphia Parking Authority. www.philapark.org. Businesses are reluctant to give out change because they get asked so often. If you are willing to pay more (\$\$), parking garages and pay lots are plentiful in the city. Many garages offer early-bird specials if you are in by 10:00 am and out by 6:00 pm but are nonetheless quite pricey (\$10-20/day).

SEPTA bus, city subway, or trolleys. This city's bus and subway system are extensive. You can virtually go anywhere on these forms of public transportation and they are safe and generally clean. You can buy daily, weekly, monthly, or semester passes. The buses and trolleys are \$2 or you can purchase tokens for \$1.80 at various stations and businesses. (There are a variety of places on campus to buy tokens, and also in West Philly, the grocery store on 40th and Walnut Streets, Fresh Grocer, sells them.) www.septa.com

Penn Transit includes LUCY (nickname for "Loop through University City") a shuttle bus that circles from 30th and Market to 38th to Woodland and University Ave and back. Leaves every 5 minutes between 6:30 and 9 AM and between 3 and 8 PM; leaves every 10 minutes at other times- Free for students and employees of HUP (Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania), CHOP (Children's Hospital of Philadelphia) and Presbyterian hospitals. You must have your Penn ID to board. Penn bus has several routes and also offers a walking escort service (215-898-9255) and an after hours van service that picks up at certain places around campus and will take you to your doorstep. They will also pick up anywhere within University City (215-898-7433). You will also need your Penn ID to ride. www.upenn.edu/transportation

PHLASH is Philadelphia's downtown visitors' shuttle, offering service to many of Philadelphia's attractions, including the museums on Benjamin Franklin Parkway, City Hall, the Convention Center and Penn's Landing. Look for the purple bus 7 days a week, with service every ten minutes. The hours of operation are 10am - 6pm March 1 to September 30. The cost is \$6 for an all-day, unlimited ride pass; \$2 for a single ride (exact change required) and \$10 for an all day family pass. Web site: www.gophila.com/phlash

Taxis in Philadelphia tend to be a bit more expensive than in other Northeast cities but they are widely available (tolls start at about \$2.70). Because of the increase in the price of gas, taxi fares may increase slightly as well. They offer flat rates from the airport to any Center City location. (However, the regional rail train to the airport is only about \$5!)

For the bold at heart you can **bicycle** through the city, although traffic can be heavy and many drivers have little regard for cyclists. West River Drive and Kelly Drive run along the Schuylkill River and offer nice bicycling paths.

To/From Suburbs or Surrounding States:

SEPTA regional rail line. This is the best way to get to/from the suburbs for those who choose not to drive. With stops at 30th Street, 15th (Broad) Street and Market East (Convention Ctr) you can access almost anywhere in Center City with ease (and visa versa, if you choose to live in the city but work in the suburbs or other states close by like Delaware). An added benefit is that weekly, monthly, and semester passes are available at a discount.

PATCO Hi-speed line. If you are traveling from Southern New Jersey, this train makes several stops in Center City. PATCO also has bus lines which travel to Philadelphia from Southern New Jersey.

River Link Ferry. This is a great option if you would like to visit the attractions on the Camden Waterfront. The ride is only about 20 minutes and you get a whole different view of the city from the water.

LOCAL WEBSITES

In this domain, you will find links to all of the below local URLs:

Life in Philadelphia:

www.gophila.com Official guide for Philadelphia travel and tourism information including vacation packages, itineraries, tours, hotels, restaurants, museums, and historic sites. You can sign up to get weekly e-mails on what is going on in Philly.

<http://philadelphia.citysearch.com/> Great website for Philadelphia that includes information about jobs, events and attractions, hotels, movies, restaurants and nightlife and lots more. It is great for finding places to eat.

www.libertynet.org, the Web site of the Philadelphia Convention and Visitors Bureau, has general information about the city, current events, and links to dozens of tour operations and local attractions.

<http://philadelphia.craigslist.org/>, is an online "bulletin board" with everything from jobs and apartments to personal ads.

Helpful Information:

www.phl.org is the site of Philadelphia International Airport and provides up to the minute departure and arrival information. You can also get this information by calling 1-800-PHL-GATE

www.septa.com, the site for the transportation agency SEPTA, provides schedules, detailed maps and fares for its bus, train, and subway routes, and news about changes on the lines due to construction. Fare is \$2 cash or buy tokens @ \$2.90 for 2 (token machines NOT available at most SEPTA stops).

<http://philadelphia.areaguides.net/> Philadelphia Area Guide provides travel and business information for Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on lodging, dining, hotels, real estate, maps and weather.

Newspapers:

www.phillynews.com contains an electronic version of the Philadelphia Inquirer (Philadelphia's main newspaper).

<http://www.philly.com/> A gateway to Philadelphia on the Web, including news from the Philadelphia Inquirer and Daily News.

www.phillymag.com News, weather, event listings and our personalized dining guides ... Philadelphia Magazine online! Search for "Best of Philadelphia" restaurants, beauty salons, bars, etc.

<http://www.philaweekly.com/> Philly Weekly Online magazine, news, arts & entertainments, classifieds and personals.

<http://www.epgn.com/> This is the website for the Philadelphia Gay News, a popular newspaper that can also be obtained in hard copy.

Social:

<http://www.phillysinglesconnection.com/> For those of you singles, or the singles at heart, this is great website of activities going on for singles around the city. Feel free to sign up for their newsletters of events. They make great study breaks. Be careful though once you go to these events, as you might start seeing your fellow nursing classmates' pictures online.

<http://www.youngprofessionalevents.com/> Another great website of organized social events within the city and a fun way to meet other people.

<http://www.socialphilly.com/> This is another site that provides information about social events in the city.

PHILADELPHIA NEIGHBORHOODS

UNIVERSITY CITY is situated within the area known as West Philadelphia. It extends from the Schuylkill River west to 45th Street and encompasses the campuses of the University of Pennsylvania and Drexel University. The people living in University City come from diverse

racial, ethnic, cultural and economic backgrounds. This is a popular area for nursing students to live because of its convenience to the nursing education building (NEB) and the hospital (where you have many of your clinicals). Housing options in University City range from large Victorian homes on tree-lined streets with large back yards and porches, two and three story row homes, to medium and large size apartment complexes. Prices are moderate, especially for the knowledgeable prospective tenant who has cared to explore the area a little farther west of campus, beyond 43rd Street, where beauty, space, comfort and affordability come together. In the area very close to Campus, prices tend to be higher, due to high demand especially for undergraduate housing. Many good housing options are available in this area but some of the places for rent can be expensive and in less than perfect condition. We advise students to carefully inspect properties and request needed repairs in writing at the time of lease signing. University City has many advantages when you are trying to decide on a place to rent: affordable prices, large apartments, wonderful restaurants, lots of green space, parks where you can jog and walk your dog, plenty of places that allow you to have pets, street parking, walking distance to campus, and public transportation.

CENTER CITY (includes the following areas described below, east of the Schuylkill River and extending all the way to the Delaware River):

Housing is comprised of modern luxury apartment complexes and condos, brownstones or townhouses, row homes and warehouse apartment buildings. Prices for apartments in Center City have been on the rise for the last five years, with dramatic increases in the last two years. Center City is a popular choice for graduate students, and several thousand of them choose to live there, especially in the area west of Broad Street. While many of the students who choose to live in Center City cite the existence of shops, cafes, movie theaters, and fitness facilities as the main attraction, others have indicated that they find Center City extremely overpriced for the value it offers. While street parking is not easily available, some apartment complexes offer indoor parking at additional cost. Many students who choose to live in Center City use public transportation or bike to and from Campus, or walk. Between 6:00 P.M. and 3:00 A.M. transportation to/from Center City (east, up to 20th Street) is available to Penn affiliates through the Penn Transit Service. Dial 898-RIDE to access the service. The Art Museum area has more reasonably priced apartments and a better rent/value ratio. The area is not as easily accessible from the Penn Campus. There is no direct public transportation so you can either bike, use a car or plan to spend extra time going back and forth every day.

FITLER SQUARE is the section of Center City from 23rd Street to the River and from Locust to South Street. This area includes Locust Point, and Locust on the Park, two large apartment buildings, but Brownstones, small apartment buildings, and Row houses make up the majority of the neighborhood. The off-leash dog park is located here as well as several small, but well regarded restaurants. Aside from Center City West, this area provides the shortest walk to campus from Center City. Many consider Fidler Square to be a subsection of the larger Rittenhouse Square area. This area is often referred to as part of Rittenhouse Square, but the locals will tell you it is called Fidler Square. The general boundaries are Locust Street to the North, South Street to the South, 22^{3rd} Street to the East and the River to the west. Primarily residents of Philadelphia populate this area, although there are a good number of graduate students from all the different schools at Penn as well. The rents here vary depending on the landlord. The walk to campus is about 20 minutes over either the South Street or the Walnut Street Bridge. Street parking requires a permit.

RITTENHOUSE SQUARE, situated between 18th and 19th streets on Walnut Street, is one of five original squares laid out by William Penn. Exclusive boutiques and several restaurants surround this square, a 20-minute walk from campus. On sunny days you can find several kids riding tricycles and playing ball within its confines. Most of the popular student high rises are within a 5-minute walk from the square. This location is great, but prices are more expensive.

WASHINGTON SQUARE is bordered by Market Street to the north, 6th Street to the east, South Street to the south and Broad Street (14th) to the west. Antique Row is near the middle of Washington Square. Antique Row is the area around Locust, Spruce, Pine, and Lombard bordered by 12th Street on the west and 6th Street on the east. While this area is slightly further from campus, Antique Row is an appealing option for students who seek a charming neighborhood setting with small shops and cafes. This area is mostly brownstones and row homes. Prices in this area may be lower than those in surrounding areas.

OLD CITY, INDEPENDENCE PARK and SOCIETY HILL make up the oldest neighborhoods in Philadelphia. Over the past 10 years, Old City has become the center of Philadelphia's art world. Browse in more than fifty museums and galleries, all within an easy walking distance of your home. Old City is the far mideastern section of Philadelphia along the Delaware River and confined within Walnut and Vine Sts and Front and 6th Sts. It's a far hike if you plan on walking to Penn (30 minute bus ride to campus), but it's a fun place to live.

The **ART MUSEUM AREA** extends along the Benjamin Franklin Parkway, which begins near City Hall and ends at the Philadelphia Art Museum. This is an up and coming neighborhood where you can find some great deals on housing. The area's proximity to Fairmount Park, the largest landscaped city park in the world, makes it a great area for families with small children and those that enjoy being close to the city life, but having the freedom to bike or run in the park. It is about a 15-minute bike ride to campus, via bus and subway takes longer because there is no direct public transportation to the campus.

MANAYUNK

Some students may choose to live here because of the housing options, access to the city, and lots of great bars and restaurants. Manayunk has been transformed from a run down industrial center into one of Philadelphia's most popular and desirable neighborhoods. From the many townhomes and apartments in Manayunk, you'll enjoy walking to the upscale bars, restaurants and shops along Main Street. Biking enthusiasts will enjoy riding the bike trail that connects Manayunk's towpath to Valley Forge Park. Manayunk's residents include old timers whose families have lived here for generations as well as young new comers who want to be where the action is. Manayunk is convenient to Center City and the Main Line via 76 and City Line Avenue. If you prefer, just walk to the R6 and take the regional rail line into town.

Like any big city, you must use good judgment and caution when out and about. Neighborhoods in Philadelphia can change character very quickly, often within the span of a few blocks. Some simple rules to follow: always be aware of your surroundings, never walk alone at night and always walk in well-lit, well-traveled areas. Use PENN RIDE and PENN WALK!

PETS

Cats. Although landlords would ideally like to ban all pets, cats historically have not been an issue. The VCA Cat Hospital on 21st Street at Locust can recommend several cat-sitters while you are out of town.

Dogs. Having a dog definitely makes the house hunting task more challenging. The old Victorian Homes in University City and West Philly are more likely to allow dogs than the larger apartments. You might even get lucky and find a house with a backyard in West Philly. The only two apt buildings known in Center City that will take big dogs are Locust Point (Fidler Square area) and The Versailles (Rittenhouse Square area). Finding a place with a small dog < 25 lbs is much easier. When calling around for a place, you may want to consider emphasizing the small size and house training of your dog.

Philadelphia Dog Licensing. You can download the *Animal License Application* on-line at the City of Philadelphia website or call (215) 683-LOST(5678).

Park Options

Clark Park. This is an open park located at 43rd and Baltimore. There are no fenced areas, but there is a large dip in the park on the other side of Chester Ave. Many dog owners will meet to let their dogs play and interact. The park is not officially a dog park.

The dog park in Center City is located in the Schuylkill River Park located at 25th and Spruce (just in front of Locust on the Park). This park has an off leash area and dogs from all over Center City come to this park several times a day. Another dog park area is Rittenhouse Square, but there is no off leash area. You will always see people walking their dogs throughout the city, just be sure to clean up after them. It is maintained by the **Schuylkill River Dog Owners Association.** (*Website: www.phillyfido.net*) There is a donation of \$20 requested. Visit the website for pictures and detailed information about the park

Chester Avenue Dog Club. (*Contact Linda and Buster 215-748-3440 for more information*) This is a private dog park located at Chester Ave. and 48th. This park is fenced and locked for members only. Membership is \$50 per year. The cost helps maintain waste disposal, water availability, dog toys, and flowers and grass care around the park. Dogs are legally allowed off their leash. Safety is also controlled since all dog members must have their shots and be well behaved to interact at the park.

Eastern State Dog Pen. This dog park is located near the Eastern State Penitentiary in the Art Museum Area. It is located at Brown and Corinthian Streets. See website for more information and dog park rules. (www.fairmountdog.org)

Seeger Park. This dog park is located on 11th street between Lombard and South Streets in Philadelphia. There is a fenced in dog park for small and large dogs. (www.segerdogrun.org)

Horses. On the off chance you have a horse, they can be stabled in Fairmount Park. There are several barns to choose from, and each has its own atmosphere.

DECIDING WHERE TO LIVE

The greatest piece of advice we can give you is to allow yourself ample time in looking for a place to live. You will find it well worth the trouble during your years here.

The majority of the students and their families choose to live right in town to be close to campus and to experience this major urban center right up close, while the others may choose to live in the suburbs.

Living in the City:

As you begin your quest to find housing, you will become familiar with Philadelphia area neighborhoods. The areas most popular to the nursing students are also those that have the closest proximity to campus and the hospital. They are University City (near to campus, aka West Philly), Center City (which encompasses neighborhoods like Rittenhouse Square, Fitler Square, and Old City) and the Art Museum Area (refer to descriptions above). Most Nursing students live in University City because of its close proximity to campus and the hospital.

Advantages: During nursing school, a lot of your clinicals will be at The Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania (HUP). If you live closer to campus, waking up for 7am clinicals isn't quite as bad. The walk to campus from University City is about 15-20 minutes or you can ride your bike in 10-15. The bus and trolley are also convenient ways to get to campus. University

City offers apartment buildings and old Victorian homes that are converted into apartments. Many families find living in the city very convenient. Living in Center City - just across the river - is also enjoyed by graduate nursing students because of the many sights and sounds right outside of your doorstep. The city is filled with fun things to do and it's only a 20-30 minute walk across the bridge.

Disadvantages: Depending on where you live, like in any large city, parking, crime and street noise can be problematic. A lot of this is blown out of proportion - but the bottom line is that you just have to be careful. Most areas are very well-lit, but in those that aren't, use the buddy system. Car theft is a problem you cannot do anything about - if thieves want to steal your car, they will. If you absolutely feel you cannot do without a car, we suggest either downgrading to a compact, older model, or paying to house your BMW in a monitored parking garage. Probably the biggest disadvantage is that your dollar doesn't go quite as far in the city. Among the "popular" neighborhoods, in order of most expensive to least expensive generally, any apt/residence defined as being in Rittenhouse Square or Fitler Square will be among the highest rents, followed by University City and Old City. The Art Museum area and West Philly locations are likely the least expensive neighborhoods in Philadelphia, while still being relatively safe and convenient.

Living in the Suburbs:

Advantages: Larger dwellings for less. Likely, for what you pay for 2BR in the city, you could find a single-family home with a yard in the suburbs. Some families feel safer in the suburbs and enjoy the quieter setting. There are plenty of things to do and some students find the train commutes convenient as a quiet time to get in more studying. Plus, you can keep your BBQ grill!

Disadvantages: Again, this is a personal choice, but some students may feel like it is a hassle to have this commute everyday (remember you could have 7am clinicals). There are often gaps in their schedules and they can use this time to study, but for those that live nearby, they can swing home for lunch, etc. Also, there are often group projects; so the closer you are to your fellow classmates, the easier it is to get together.

HOUSING

- To begin your search for a place to live, feel free to check out Penn's Off-Campus Living Office at <http://www.business-services.upenn.edu/offcampusliving/>. They have many listings for all types of living arrangements, information is updated weekly, and their service is free. The website has lots of helpful information on finding a place to live as well as information about good and bad landlords.
- You may also want to try the School of Nursing's new INTRANET website that lists ad's for housing, roommates, employment, and much more at <https://email.nursing.upenn.edu/exchweb/bin/redir.asp?URL=https://share.nursing.upenn.edu/sites/oa/oss/JOBS/Forms/AllItems.aspx>
- Philadelphia.craigslist.org is probably the most commonly used and most helpful in finding openings and often time gives you direct contact with the renter.
- Next check out the different areas of Philadelphia and decide where you want to live. Issues such as costs, pets, parking or convenience will help you make this decision.
- Once you have decided on an area, start checking into the different living options: do you have a family or are you single, do you want a roommate, or do you want to live by yourself. Apartment complex or a brownstone? If you are interested in brownstone living, many have luck looking in local newspapers, or "cold calling" the major realtors in the area. Some are willing to rent sight unseen, but our recommendation is that you do research, make lots of appointments and beat the streets. Beware, Philly summers are hot and

humid—start looking early, so if you're planning on searching on-foot, don't just choose a location because it has air-conditioning.

Looking for a roommate:

If you are looking for a roommate, Penn's Off-Campus Living Office Webpage helps link you with other students looking for roommates. You might also want to check the various web listings such as craigslist, or the local newspapers. If you would like to look for a place with other nursing students, we could also help with that.

Feel free to email: John Hergert (hergert@nursing.upenn.edu)

Philadelphia has several different universities and colleges within in the city, you may want to also check out their websites for students looking for roommates: Drexel, Temple, MCP Hahnemann, Jefferson, etc. The city is full of young people looking for roommates. If you decide to live with a random person, be sure to ask a lot of questions regarding their living habits to make sure it'll be a good fit. Remember, you are entering an intense program and you want to live in a positive living environment that is conducive to studying. Again, craigslist.com is a great resource for finding roommates.

Dealing with Landlords:

- Remember, Philadelphia is an old city, which means a lot of the buildings are older and may require updating. If possible, check out a place in person or have a friend look at it for you to make sure things work before you sign a lease. We advise students to carefully inspect properties and request needed repairs in writing at the time of lease signing.
- Always inquire about specials (i.e. free rent, lower security deposit, etc.) Also something that worked for me is to ask the leasing agent what unit they are trying to unload and see if you can get a deal on it, especially if it has been vacant for sometime. There is a decent vacancy in the Philly market and leasing agents would rather rent a unit than let it stand vacant for an extra month.
- Check all the terms of the lease agreement. There have been some sneaky maintenance clauses in previous years.
- Find out if any utilities are included in the cost of rent (i.e. water, electricity, gas). Remember those bills add up. If you can have them included you'll appreciate being able to crank up the a/c in the hot Philly summers.
- Most managed buildings in Philly require that you sign a one year lease, but then convince you to move to a month-to-month lease afterwards for "convenience sake." Be sure to ask whether this move will increase your monthly payment. It usually does and you would benefit in the long run by signing another full year and throwing away a month's rent when you graduate (if your lease isn't up).

Other Suggestions:

- Inquire about subleasing for the summer, so you can get better acclimated with the city and decide where you would want to sign a year lease starting in the fall. It is very common for students to sublet their apartments over the summer for cheaper rent prices.
- I don't recommend renting a place sight-unseen as it's not always as nice as it is described on the phone. Be sure to check things out for yourself, or have a friend go look for you.

RESOURCES FOR HOUSING

NeighborhoodPlace.com -This website offers statistical snapshots or more detailed analyses of schools, crime risk, and cost of living for hundreds of U.S. cities - all for free. The site will also tell you how the neighborhood measures up in terms of air quality and environmental and natural hazards.

- Philadelphia Inquirer (Philly's primary newspaper)
- Philadelphia Weekly (free in boxes on street corners)
- Apartment Shoppers Guide (free in boxes on street corners, or order for \$4.00 on (800-551-APTS)
- The Main Line Times
- The Welcomat (a free newspaper that lists apartments for rent)
- Off-Campus Living Office at 4046 Walnut St. (215/898-8500). They have many listings for all types of living arrangements, information is updated weekly, and their service is free <http://www.business-services.upenn.edu/offcampusliving/>

<http://www.rentphilly.com>

<http://www2.phillynews.com/>

<Http://www.rentnet.com>

<http://www.rent.com>

<http://www.apartmentguide.com>

<http://www.craigslist.com>

<http://www.springstreet.com>

<http://www.move.com>

<http://www.apartments.com>

<http://www.rent.net>

<http://www.roommates.com>

<http://www.4wallsinphilly.com/>

The rental market here usually requires 60 days advance notice; however, high-rise apartments sometimes know their availability sooner. At some of the more popular high rise buildings, you may have to place your name on a waiting list two-three months in advance of your move-in date. The best advice is to be persistent. If a rental agent says they won't know availability until 60 days in advance, keep calling anyway, things change fast.

If you are interested in a house for rent versus an apartment, your search might be a little harder, but not impossible. Real estate agents and the Philadelphia Weekly are the best sources for information, and you will need to move fast in order to get a good place. Expect to pay more for a home that has a garage. Another way to find a house is to find a nursing student who is graduating or moving. You can do so through the Nursing on-line chats, or by contacting Adam Sherr at advisor@nursing.upenn.edu. Some nursing students may also be looking for roommates.

PREPARING FOR YOUR MOVE

MOVING RESOURCES

Monstermoving.com can help you find a mover, change your address, and manage your entire move online.

Movingsolutionsusa.com is located in the Greater Philadelphia region, Moving Solutions provides services including packing and unpacking.

<http://www.relocationcentral.com/directory/us/pa/philadelphia/>

ABF U-Pack moving is another option. You pack, they drive and you unload. It's less expensive than having professional movers take care of everything for you. The only downside is that they give you a range of 4-days when the truck will arrive, so you might have to manage a few days without your belongings. Note: they charge for how many feet you take up in the truck. <http://www.upack.com/>

UHaul: You pack, you drive, you unload.

<http://www.uhaul.com/>

If you are coming from far away, a suggestion if you are shipping stuff is to check into Amtrak as previous students have used Amtrak to ship their stuff and were happy. It is a lot cheaper and 30th Street Station is conveniently located to pick up your stuff. However, this will require finding a way to pick up your stuff once it arrives here.

UTILITIES

Electric- PECO Energy 1-800-841-4141 - a word of caution - PECO rates are amongst the highest in the country. An apartment that includes electricity will save you big bucks in the summer because of the air conditioning. Ask what different power bills tend to run if you are tight on the cash and are trying to decide between places. Check utility.com for options also.

Gas- Philadelphia Gas Works (215) 235-2050; A lot of the older buildings are not well insulated and cause you to lose your valuable heat in the winter. While some students found high ceilings to add more depth to their apartment, they also found it to be more expensive when heating their place in the winter. Also, be aware of the drafty windows for the same reason. (Some students paid as much as \$200/month to heat a 1 bdrm apt)

Phone- The local phone company is Verizon (888/571-0571), within Philadelphia call (800/640-4155)

Telecom Lines - DSL is available in the Philadelphia area through the following providers: Earthlink/Mindspring, Verizon and Comcast. Service is about \$30-45/month. ISDN Lines are also available in some areas.

Cable - As you are most likely aware, watching TV is expensive. There are a few different carriers depending on where you live in the city, but they are all usually expensive and it makes you think sharing an apt is worth it just to help with TV costs. **Comcast Cable** <http://www.comcast.com> or **Greater Media Cable** (215/463-1100)

Emergency- dial 911 for police, fire or ambulance

Information- dial 411 or area code plus 555-1212

Newspapers- Philadelphia Inquirer, Philadelphia- (215) 665-1234, Suburbs 1-800-222-2765; Philadelphia Weekly, Free city magazine, pick it up around town. It has a section on Center City apartments; Main Line Times, (610) 473-6050. Philadelphia Gay News (<http://www.epgn.com>).

INSURANCE

www.insweb.com

Researching insurance options is tedious, but this site makes it a bit less painful. Enter all your personal info just once and you'll get quotes for homeowners, renters, auto, health, and life insurance, not to mention that essential coverage for the family pets. Instant on-line quotes are not always available, but participating insurers will provide quotes via e-mail when the on-line option is unavailable.

Health Insurance can also be purchased through the National Student Nurses Association at www.nсна.org

Be sure to check into getting Renters Insurance as mentioned before, buildings in Philadelphia are old and accidents have been known to happen. Take the proper measures to protect yourself.

Beware, car insurance for those registering their cars with a Philadelphia address, the rates are some of highest in the country.

Philadelphia Convention and Visitors Bureau- 1515 Market Street, Suite 202, Philadelphia, PA 19102. (215) 636-3300.

Voting- If you want to become an official PA resident, then pick up a registration packet at your nearest post office, library, or state liquor store. You just mail in the information and you are officially taxable in Pennsylvania. You can also download the information online at <http://www.dos.state.pa.us/voting/>. If you plan on applying for a PA driver's license, you can automatically register to vote at the same time.

WIC- Woman Infant Children program. This is a government-funded program. Its purpose is to ensure proper nutrition for children whose families are unable to afford it. They provide free formula to children under one, and staples like milk, eggs, cheese, juice and cereal for children over one. You must have some income to qualify for the program. The WIC office is in the Children's Hospital of Pennsylvania (215) 590-1096, or 1415 N Broad (215) 978-6100.

TRANSPORTATION

KEEPING A CAR IN THE CITY:

Driver's License- If you plan to have a car in Pennsylvania you must obtain a Pennsylvania drivers license within 60 days. To obtain a PA driver's license you must go to a PennDOT office (Department of Transportation) with your current out-of-state drivers license, your social security card, at least two pieces of mail with your local name and address, and your checkbook or a money order. They do not accept cash. PennDOT offices are in the Aramark Building at 11th and Market St. and on Columbus Boulevard--on the southbound side a few blocks before Home Depot. Check the yellow pages for other locations.

A strong word of caution, no appointments can be made. Plan to spend at least several hours waiting in lines. Bring a book or something else to occupy your time while you wait.

Car Registration- You need to go to your nearest "Tag Office" to register your car. You must register your car if you want to apply for a residential parking permit. Look in the yellow pages for the Tag Office nearest you. It costs approximately \$75 and they generally only accept cash.

The easiest way to register your car in PA is to join the American Automobile Association (AAA), The Center City AAA office is located at 20th and Market on the south side and they offer FREE parking behind the building while you attend to your business with AAA. You can register your car in PA with assistance from AAA bringing the following information:

- The title to your car.
 - If you have a loan on your car, you must have the AAA office correspond with your lien holder for the title (usually this is done by fax) so be sure you have your lien holder's name, phone/fax number and your loan account number.
- Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) of your car
- Your car's mileage
- Your PA driver's license

After your initial paperwork is cleared with AAA you must submit your car to a state inspection within 10 days.

- Partners have had luck with the service they received at the Firestone Tire and Service Center at 31st and Market.

Advantages:

- Many of helpful stores are driving distance (such as Target, Walmart, IKEA and Home Depot on Columbus Blvd.) or in the suburbs, and most of the serious shopping (like King of Prussia mall - the 4th largest in the U.S.) is located outside the city
- Greater freedom to explore Philadelphia and the great area and take advantage of other destinations such as a Washington, DC, the Jersey Shore or New York City.

Disadvantages:

- Parking and car insurance in the city is extremely expensive. Living in University City you can park your car on the street without a permit, but you need to be aware of the parking signs. If you choose to live in Center City, plan on paying for a parking garage about \$80-\$200/mo and insurance, while depending on your car, will likely be more than double what you are paying now. If you can, look into keeping you state insurance in the state you are in now. Some companies have a temporary garaging rate if you are a student and can establish a residence in the state from which you are moving.
- Car theft and vandalism is the city's worst problem (thus the reason for high insurance rates). Even garaged cars are prime candidates for this. Buy yourself a club and do not leave *anything* in sight inside the car.

Parking-

Center City: If you live in and have on street parking, you must have your car licensed in PA to obtain a residential parking permit (\$35). During the week you may only park on the street for 2 hours without this resident parking permit. Until you have your car licensed in PA, you may purchase a temporary parking permit for 15 days from the local parking authority office (\$15). Residents in eligible areas can purchase parking permits that **exempt them from meter and time limit restrictions on posted blocks**. To be eligible for a Residential Permit Parking sticker, your vehicle must display **Pennsylvania license plates** and be **registered to your home address** within the area's permit parking district.

For additional information contact the Philadelphia Parking Authority (215) 683-9730 or visit their offices at 3101 Market Street, Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

http://www.philapark.org/permits/residential_permit.aspx

Parking lots - Most lots cost about \$3 an hour, up to a daily maximum of \$8-\$10. Street parking is available, but not easy to find depending on the time of day and where. It is \$.25 for 7.5 minutes for metered parking. Pre-paid Smart Cards can be used instead of quarters and can be obtained through the Philadelphia Parking Authority (www.philapark.com). If you live in Center City, you may choose to purchase monthly parking. Remember, it ranges anywhere from \$80-200/month. Some high rises have parking garages conveniently located underneath the buildings, or else private garages also sell spots.

University City: Residents of University City can usually find parking around where they live without needing a permit. Just remember, that you may have to drive around the block several times before you find a spot, or you might have to walk a distance to your car. Just be sure to read all the parking signs, as lots of the streets are 2 hour parking only (and watch out for snow days when you can't park on the street). However, like in Center City, you can also apply for a permit to park on the street indefinitely in timed spaces. (See the information above).

Other Helpful Information:

- Car Rental companies are plentiful in the city and the rates are reasonable (\$30-\$40 per weekend day)

- Or check out Philadelphia Share a Car at <http://www.phillycarshare.org> as a way to use a car whenever you might need it.
- For those that have never been without a car, we speak from experience when we say it can be amazingly liberating being without one. You find that you can walk just about anywhere and will be in better shape for it!
- However, not all of your clinicals will be at HUP and you may need to drive into the suburbs for your Maternal-Child Clinicals or for Community Clinicals where you do home Healthcare visits. If you have a car, you may be asked to drive your fellow classmates to clinical as well. Many of the places can be accessed by SEPTA, or you can find a ride with a classmate
- If you bring a car to Philadelphia ALWAYS carry a lot of quarters or get a Smart Card, the city is very efficient at enforcing the parking laws.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION:

Commuter passes for Penn- If you live in the suburbs or want to drive to campus for any reason you can apply for a commuter-parking pass. You must apply early, as spots are first come first serve. Rates are about \$360 per school year and they do go fast. (215) 898-8667. <http://www.business-services.upenn.edu/transportation/partnership/compass.html>

SEPTA Information (215/580-7800) or www.septa.com

Philadelphia area bus, trolley, subway and rail information, rail connection to Philadelphia International Airport. Or you can call the phone number above and ask a live customer service rep to recommend routes for your trip.

Buses and Subways are easy to use; however, if you have children, you may want to consider investing in a lightweight umbrella stroller that will fit in the seat with you.

PennTransit also offers door-to-door van service throughout University City, buses, and escort services. There are PennPasses for Septa available for full time students through PennTransit Partnership Programs, as well as TrailPasses, etc. For more information go to www.business-services.upenn.edu/transportation.

The #76 bus is known as the tourist bus and a convenient way to see all that Philadelphia has to offer. It originates at Penn's Landing and runs the length of Center City ending at the Zoo, stopping at all museums, parks and other attractions, best of all it is only \$.50. A great way to avoid parking at frequented attractions.

PATCO Information (215/922-4600)

High speed line connecting Center City with NJ

AMTRAK Information (800/872-7245) or www.amtrak.com

Train service throughout Northeast and continental US

Philadelphia International Airport (215/937-6937 or 1-800-PHL-GATE)

There is a flat taxi rate of about \$26 to and from the airport (from the city). (This is subject to increase and tip is not included). SEPTA trains (R1 from University city) generally run every 30 minutes, cost \$5.50/person/each way (you can pay on board), and they leave you off right at the terminal. Lady Liberty Shuttle is also another option. It costs \$10 door to door. Call 215-724-8888 for more information.

TAXI SERVICES

Taxis are easy to hail in Philadelphia, but in case you need to call one:

- Quaker City Cab (215/728-8000)
- Liberty Cab (215/389-8000)
- City Cab (215/238-5000)
- Olde City Taxi (215/338-0838)
- Keystone Cab (215-722-8294)

Car Rentals

Alamo (800/327-9633)
Avis (800/331-1212)
Budget (800/527-0700)

Dollar (800/800-4000)
Hertz (800/654-3131)
National (800/227-7368)

Philadelphia Visitor's Center- 16th and John F. Kennedy Blvd. Stop here when you first arrive. You can pick up maps of the city, subway and bus routes and helpful information about things to do and see or visit www.independencevisitorcenter.com.

EMPLOYMENT

Many nursing students choose to work in the Hospital to get more experience and because the pay is pretty good. Here is a list of the hospitals in the area. You can find the name of the Nurse Recruiter online to call about working as a nursing assistant or acquiring a nurse externship.

The Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania (HUP)
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
Chestnut Hill Hospital
Philadelphia VA Medical Center
Presbyterian Hospital
Jefferson Hospital
Pennsylvania Hospital
Hahnemann Hospital
Graduate Hospital
Temple University Hospital/Temple Children's Hospital

Working At Penn:

For many of you, working at the University is ideal but navigating through the Human Resources website is not! All University job postings can be found at <http://www.hr.upenn.edu/jobs>. The "official" word is that HR prefers applicants to submit their resumes online. However, it's most effective to communicate directly with someone at the University, either by phone, fax, email, or in person. We suggest calling Penn's Human Resources directly at 215-898-7284 (option 4 will connect you to a Customer Service Representative) to get a specific contact name for a job in which you are interested.

Also, there are numerous positions available as research assistants in the nursing building, hospital and Biomedical Research Building. Adam Sherr frequently sends out emails to the nursing list servers regarding available positions. You are also welcome to contact faculty in the nursing program who may be doing research you are interested in to see if they need any help. Networking is key. You may also see many postings on the School of Nursing's new INTRANET site <https://share.nursing.upenn.edu/sites/oa/oss/JOBS/Forms/AllItems.aspx>

Federal Work Study - If you qualify for federal work study (as determined by FAFSA), you can apply for jobs through the Student Employment Office at <http://www.sfs.upenn.edu/seo/>

**Students who work usually work between 10-20 hours/week. It will take time to figure out what works best for you, but students often work weekends at the hospital or work jobs during the week that are flexible with their school schedules. Students have reported that working more than 20 hours is difficult to manage.

FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

Schools:

Selecting the best schools for your kids involves a little less guesswork at www.schoolmatch.com. It lets you search for public and private elementary and secondary school systems based on criteria such as student performances on college scholarship exams, per capita income, property values, and the education level of adult residents. The data comes from a network of credible sources, including county tax assessors, regional planning commissions, accrediting agencies, state educational agencies, and state taxing authorities. If you need more info, you can opt to pay \$34 for a School System Report Card, which is viewable on-line and includes an in-depth analysis of all search criteria as well as detailed reports on school system expenditures, tax base, accreditation, special education programs, and any awards won. The PA department of Education is another good resource (www.pde.state.pa.us).

TOWNE GREENE (MONTESSORI) SCHOOL

*2121 Arch St, Philadelphia
(215) 563-6368*

TRINITY PLAYGROUP

*2212 Spruce Street, Philadelphia
(215) 732-2519*

Located in a beautiful church, this playschool consists of 3 cheerful well-equipped classrooms for kids from 18 months to 5 years. The program is flexible and the fee is fair. The staff is very caring and warm. The program also includes visits to nearby parks, playgrounds and the Public Library at Rittenhouse Square. In addition the kids are taken to farms and museums. Parent involvement is encouraged.

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA CHILDREN'S CENTER

*Left Bank Commons, 3160 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia
(215) 573-2111*

This school has a preschool program for children 3-Kindergarden and an infant/toddler program beginning at 12 weeks. Open 7:30am to 6:00pm. There is an indoor gym room, art room, computer room and a fully equipped outdoor play area. This center fills up quickly. NAEYC certified.

THE BEACON CENTER

*2125 Chestnut St., Philadelphia
(215) 963-0748*

This is a small program heavily into the arts. Taking children 2 and over in 3 classes with a class size average of 8.

If your child is five years old or older, Philadelphia has great private schools that you may want to check into. The following is a small list to get you started:

Friend's Select School (215) 561-5900

Germantown Friends School (215) 951-2300 www.gerantownfriends.org

Philadelphia School (215) 545-5323 www.tpschool.org
St. Peter's School (215/925-3965 <http://stpeteronline.org>

The public school in Center City is called Greenfield Elementary. It is one of the best public schools in Philadelphia. They have Kindergarten through 8th grade. It is located at 21st and Chestnut.

The school districts in the mainline area including Lower Marion, Haverford Township and Radnor are consistently ranked in the top 10 in the state (often ranking in the top 5).

Childcare:

- Start a babysitting pool with other parents. This has worked particularly well when families live in the same building. It is very cost effective!
- Seek out other grad students in your building or nearby area.
- Ask other nursing student parents for babysitting recommendations.
- If you are looking for a day care facility, remember Day Cares accredited by the National Association for the Education of the Young Child (NAEYC) meet stricter guidelines than most. NAEYC can provide you with a list of accredited schools in the area: write 1509 16th Street NW, Washington DC, 20036, or call (202) 232-8777.

Resources to Help with the Transition:

The following are several other organizations and publications that you may find helpful.

PARTNER/FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER

The Partner/Family Resource Center was created to address the questions of students with families and/or partners. The main objective of the Center is to offer peer and professional support for students and member of their families. Specific services include the following: resource listings for daycare and schools in the area; English classes for international students' family members; activities for children, spouses, and partners; baby-sitting referrals; information about health care for students' family members; access to support groups; and opportunities to meet other students with family responsibilities. Household items donated by departing students are available free of charge to incoming students. The Center, which is sponsored by the University's Department of Residential Living, is located in Room 104, Sansom Place West, 3650 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104. For more information, call (215) 998-9490.

FOR PARENTS OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

"Every child with special needs in the USA is entitled to receive services paid for by the county." *JFK Early Intervention* (see page 12) provides services for children ages 3-5 with developmental delays. *Child Link - Philadelphia Health Management Corporation* (see page 57) organizes therapy for children under 3.

PARENTS EXPRESS

This is a free monthly newspaper for Philadelphia Area parents. You can pick up copies in newspaper boxes on the street, or in bookstores or some children's toy stores. You can also visit them on-line at <http://familyfun.go.com>. This newspaper carries parenting articles, ads for child-related services and stores, school/day care information, and a calendar of local events. Similar publications include *Metro Kids* and *Parent's Guide*.

PHILADELPHIA FOR FAMILIES

Pick up a copy of the free monthly publication "Parent's Express" and "Metro bookstore readings for children. This is available in bookstores, cafes, and libraries.

PHILADELPHIA WITH CHILDREN

A book by Elizabeth Gephardt. This is a GREAT resource for families in the Philadelphia area. It lists over 750 places to go and things to do in the city and the surrounding suburbs. It includes descriptions, costs, and directions for each activity.

THE PARENTS' GUIDE TO THE DELAWARE VALLEY

A book by Cynthia Roberts. Like the book listed above, it also provides activities for families in the Philadelphia area, but also gives advice on finding an OB/GYN and pediatrician, choosing a hospital, and finding child care and the right school for your child.

WELCOME WAGON - provides community information and distributes offers from local merchants to millions of families. Use the web site to find merchants, print coupons, and learn more about neighborhoods. 800-77-WELCOME or www.welcomewagon.com

PHILADELPHIA LIVING

Philadelphia Festival and Events

June

Odunde is an African-American Celebration during the second Sunday of June. Odunde means Happy New Year in Yoruba and the street festival on South Street is marked by vendors and a pilgrimage to the Schuylkill River.

A two-week celebration leads up to the grueling Wachovia USPRO Cycling Championship. The 250 km course offers the richest purse in the nation to the winner (215/973-3546).
www.procyclingtour.com/pct-races.cfm

More than 20,000 paintings, prints, watercolors, silkscreens, and sculptures are for sale at the Rittenhouse Square Fine Arts Annual (215/635-5060)

During Elfreth's Alley Frete Days, the oldest residential street in the US opens its homes to the public, and includes a colonial crafts show, bagpipers and entertainment (215/574-0567)

The Manayunk Arts Festival: www.manayunk.com
Features a juried show with more than 200 artists (215/482-9565)

Manayunk Stroll: www.manayunk.com

The Summer Mummer's Parade duplicates the New Year's Day event- www.mummers.com

July

The annual 4th of July Parade begins on 20th and JFK Blvd and winds through town-
www.americasbirthday.com

Fireworks at the Philadelphia Art Museum

Various locations throughout Philadelphia feature indoor exhibits and theme parks for Independence Day. A massive fireworks display caps the evening (215/636-1666)
There is \$3 validated parking beneath the building.

Kutztown Pennsylvania German Folk Festival, eat traditional Dutch foods, watch master glass blowers, quilters and weavers, attend an Amish wedding, petting zoo, magic shows etc in early July- www.Kutztownfestival.com

Dragon Boat Races

August

The UPenn Museum of Archeology presents its Summer Performance/Storytelling Series, featuring dancers and performers from near and far. (215/898-4890)

The Philadelphia Folk Festival celebrates with international folk music performers and groups. www.folkfest.org

Golfers will enjoy watching top PGA pros during the Grand Champions Celebrity Classic (610/565-4653)

September

Watch the Philadelphia Eagles kick off (215/463-4977)

Yo! Philadelphia!, presented by the Daily News, is a celebration of Philadelphia's own performers, foods, and music (215/636-1666)

Penn's Landing In-Water Boat Show features yachts and boats of all shapes and sizes along the waterfront (215/449-9910)

Puerto Rican Week Festival Parade

Philadelphia Fringe Festival: www.pafringe.org
Music, dance, theater, poetry, puppetry and everything in between!

Annual Sippin' by the River @ Penn's Landing (215) 965-7676

October

October is Polish American Heritage Month, with a month-long series of exhibitions, lectures, music, and celebrations citywide (215/922-1700)

The Manayunk Indian Summer Feast is a shopping and dining extravaganza (215/482-9565):
www.manayunk.com

Manayunk Annual Antiques & Collectibles Festival: www.manayunk.com

Dragon Boat Races- www.philadragonbaotfestival.com

The Philadelphia Vintage Grand Prix pits more than 100 historic cars against the clock in Fairmount Park (215/685-0052)

76ers NBA Basketball season starts: (215/339-7676)

Flyers Hockey season starts

Avenue of the Arts Festival, Broad Street

November

Philadelphia Marathon: www.philadelphiamarathon.com

Thanksgiving Day Parade (215) 965-7676

The Fairmount Fall Festival invites visitors to enjoy sports, special events, festivities, and special tours throughout the park (215/685-0052)

The Philadelphia Orchestra presents its chamber music series (215/893-1955)

A traditional Philadelphia favorite, the Enchanted Colonial Village - an animated reproduction of an 18th century village - will be on display at the Atwater Kent Museum (215/922-3031)

From the end of November through December, the Market Street East Holiday Festival entertains shoppers with performers and displays along E. Market Street. Each year, Strawbridge & Clothier department store at 8th and Market Streets has an especially ornate display.

December

The Historic Houses in Fairmount Park are especially pretty during the early holiday season; when each is decorated by local garden clubs (215/684-7926)

Celebrate during a seven-day long Kwanzaa Festival at locations throughout the city (215/574-3127)

Greet the New Year with a fireworks and music spectacular near the Benjamin Franklin Bridge on Penn's Landing (215/636-1666)

January

Practice your struts for the New Year's Day Mummer's Parade, a frosty version of Mardi Gras www.mummers.com

The Philadelphia International Auto Show displays the latest on wheels - www.phillyautoshow.com

Chinese New Years

Celebrate in Philadelphia's own Chinatown. Dragon parades and firecrackers go off every Sunday during the New Years Celebrations, starting around Noon. The 15th day of the New Year is called the Lantern Festival, which is celebrated at night with lantern displays and children carrying lanterns in a parade.

Martin Luther King Day takes on special meaning with ceremonies and special events throughout the city (215/574-3127)

February

The PECO Energy Jazz Weekend features more than 90 events, performances, workshops and films (215/636-1666)

South Street Mardi Gras for Fat Tuesday

It is a great time and can get wild at night. Held the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday. (800) 537-7676

March

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's Flower Show claims to be the largest and most prestigious garden event in the United States. Held in the convention center, it's a must-see for anyone interested in horticulture www.theflowershow.com

Ireland rises once again during the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade (215/965-7676)

The Erin Express, held on two Saturdays around St. Patrick's Day, has free buses around the city to many of the Irish bars. You'll find lots of 20-somethings out enjoying the celebration all day long and well into the night.

Check out the Mummer's String Bands' Show of Shows - Costumed bands play and perform in the warmth of the civic center (800/225-5745)

The Book and The Cook Festival: www.thebookandthecook.com

Manayunk in Bloom: www.manayunk.com
Highlights the boutiques, galleries and restaurants along Main Street.

April

During the Annual Gardens Collaborative, various public gardens throughout the city celebrate with a variety of events (2158/635-0427)

Spring Splash on South Street
Promenade down South Street in your Easter Bonnets. (215) 965-7676

More than 35 guided bus and walking tours through selected private homes, gardens, and historic buildings take place during Philadelphia Open House (215/928-1188)

The world's oldest track meet (begun in 1885), the Penn Relays takes place at UPenn (215/898-6151)

The American Swedish Museum hosts Valborgsmassofaften, the traditional welcoming of spring, with a bonfire, signing, and dancing (215/389-1776)

The Philadelphia Film Festival: www.phillyfests.com
A two-week celebration of the best of new world cinema (215/895-6542)

May

Broad Street Run-10 mile run down Broad St- www.broadstreetrun.com

Dad Vail Regatta: www.dadvail.org
Sixty colleges and universities and more than 3,000 rowers participate in the largest rowing competition in America, the Dad Vail Regatta (215) 856-1123

The biggest blues festival on the East Coast Riverblues brings together artists from all over the world (215/636-1666)

The Italian Market Festival is a day-long feast of Italian food, music, and special events (215/922-5557)

The Devon Horse Show and Country Fair is the nation's largest outdoor equestrian event (610/964-0550)

Jam on the River- www.jamontheriver.com
Enjoy music on the banks of the Delaware River.

Race for the Cure: <http://www.phillyraceforthechance.org/>
5K run/race held every Mother's Day to donate and support research for breast cancer.

DAY TRIPS

Atlantic City: www.atlanticcity.com and www.atlanticcitynj.com
Philadelphia is only 75 minutes from the largest casinos outside of Las Vegas!

New Jersey Shore: www.newjerseyshore.com and www.capemay.com
Check out the quaint town of Cape May.

New Hope/Doylestown: www.newhopepa.com
Cute, touristy towns with some great shopping and sites

Peddler's Village: www.peddlersvillage.com
An 18th-century style experience with numerous eateries and some 75 specialty shops - from home furnishings and hand-crafted items to toys, antiques and hobby shops - set on 42 acres of beautifully landscaped grounds and winding brick pathways. Beautiful and festive during the Holiday season.

Brandywine Valley: www.brandywinevalley.com
As part of the Philadelphia countryside, this region enjoys a rich history. Starting in 1682 when English Quaker William Penn arrived here to seek religious freedom for his Society of Friends. As the story of America unfolds, you can understand why the Brandywine Valley has been considered a part of the Soul of America.

What makes this area unique is the balance between the rural, open landscapes, and the explosive growth over the past ten years. Helping to set the standard for environmentally responsible tourism and managed growth, it has the best of both worlds.

Long considered a cultural Mecca, Chester County is home to Longwood Gardens, Winterthur, and The Brandywine River Museum. With plenty of attractions and lodging opportunities, come discover why so many people return again and again to experience a lasting memory.

Bucks County: www.buckscountycvb.org
Tour one of the country wineries or working farms. Celebrate a traditional festival. Create a day of family fun at Sesame Place®. The possibilities are as broad as our panoramic landscapes - and wonderfully memorable.

Lancaster County/Pennsylvania Dutch Country: www.800Padutch.com
Lancaster County is as diverse and fascinating as it is scenic. Enjoy their beautiful rolling farmlands dotted with one-room schoolhouses and windmills. Take a horse and buggy ride or a steam train ride through the peaceful countryside where our Amish neighbors still live without the use of electricity and motor vehicles. Then enjoy the diverse attractions for all ages, our world famous stage shows, incredible food, and fantastic shopping opportunities.

Valley Forge: www.valleyforge.org and www.nps.gov/vafo
Valley Forge National Historical Park. This historical place is where Washington camped the winter before marching back and taking Philly from the British. There are trails for running, biking, walking...

Longwood Gardens (30 miles west of Philadelphia): www.longwoodgardens.com

Longwood Gardens invites you to explore thousands of acres of gardens, meadows, woodlands and greenhouses filled with lush vegetation. Created by turn-of-the-century industrialist Pierre du Pont, Longwood boasts magnificent fountains and outdoor garden displays that make for sheer horticultural delight. Enjoy year-round events, including flower shows, concerts and fireworks displays, for people of all ages. Longwood Gardens is open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., with longer hours in the summer and during the Christmas holiday season. Admission prices vary from season to season, starting at \$12 for adults, \$6 for ages 16-20 and \$2 for kids 15 and under. The gardens are on Route 1, three miles north of Kennett Square.

Hershey Park (located approx. 2 hours from Philly):

www.hersheypa.com

Commonly known as “Chocolate Town, USA,” Hershey, PA is a great day or weekend trip with fun for the whole family. You can visit **Hershey Park** (1-800-HERSHEY), an amusement park with more than 50 rides and attractions for all ages. Check out **Chocolate World** (717-534-4900) for an exhibit telling the story of chocolate—from beans in tropical forests to candy bars and cocoa. For more information, contact the **Hershey Visitors Center** (1-800-533-3131). To get there, take PA Turnpike West to exit 20 (Lebanon-Lancaster). Follow Rt. 72 North to Rt. 322 West to Hershey.

Manayunk: www.manayunk.com

Roll into adorable Manayunk, a historic village on the Schuylkill River 10 minutes northwest of Center City, for unique shopping and good places to eat and drink. Unusual galleries, chic home décor and upscale clothing stores, plus unique gift and jewelry shops occupy the old buildings that line Main Street. Not mention the fun bars.

Manayunk is also a great stop along the Philadelphia-Valley Forge Bikeway. From Center City you can ride 22 miles along the Schuylkill, a stretch of which becomes the Manayunk Towpath. Biking along the Towpath you'll see old rail lines and canal locks, ruins of the lock tender's house, old textile mills and diverse wildlife.