

# Transition out of Recent Graduate Cohort

## A Guide for College Class Volunteers

Congratulations on completing your 10th Reunion year! We hope you enjoyed the opportunities to connect with your classmates. While you will see increased class engagement during your reunion year, it doesn't need to stop when the reunion year ends! Programming from your reunion year might inspire your class to create new traditions or continue holding certain types of events.

As you conclude your 10<sup>th</sup> Reunion, you will move out of the recent graduate cohort (the HAA defines recent graduates as those up to 10 years out from graduation). While this change means that your class will no longer be invited to programming specifically designed for recent graduates, we hope that you will find new opportunities for class engagement building on your experiences and traditions as a recent graduate. This is also a great opportunity to encourage your class to become more involved with Clubs and Shared Interest Groups (SIGs) in order to build community with alumni from other class years and other Harvard schools. [Additional information about Clubs & SIGs](#) is available on the HAA website. There are many opportunities for engagement with these communities.

Now that your class has celebrated its first two Reunions, you have likely begun to identify a core group of volunteer leaders – knowing that more are always welcome to join! – and establish your own Class traditions. In future Reunion years, your CAP staff liaison will partner with you to further develop and enhance these existing volunteer teams and class traditions, looking to you and other members of your class to provide important guidance and direction.

It's also important to bear in mind that recent HAA engagement survey data indicates that alumni volunteerism and participation tend to take a bit of a dip in the years between the 10<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> Reunion which is directly related to the life and career stages of alumni during these years. As you enter your post-10<sup>th</sup> Reunion planning cycles, please do bear in mind that you may see numbers dip, regardless of the stellar programming you put in place. On a more positive note, engagement spikes during the 25<sup>th</sup> Reunion, when alumni find they have more time to become involved with Harvard and their class.

While your staff liaison will support you, the other volunteers, and your class in different ways from your time as a recent graduate, please know that you will still be supported, and your staff liaison will be a resource for any questions (the same HAA staff liaison will work with you through the end of your 11<sup>th</sup> year out from graduation). Our separate non-reunion event support document outlines all the ways the HAA can help you with your class engagement. Below, we outline some key changes from your time as a recent graduate as you prepare to move into the next cohort.

### **Class Committee Responsibilities**

Responsibilities for Class Committee members will largely remain the same, although the committee might decide to make adjustments to past practices as needed (i.e. perhaps one Class Committee meeting per year is fine, rather than two, and perhaps the Secretary will send out fewer emails throughout the year).

Some committee members may feel that they need to step down at some point in order to focus on other responsibilities. Class Committee members can determine what the best course of action might be depending on the situation (whether the member continues serving with altered responsibilities, or if

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they should work with the leadership of the committee on a transition and succession plan). Please keep your HAA staff liaison in the loop, as they can help advise, update records, and onboard new members.

### **Activities Chairs**

[Activities chairs](#) are College volunteers who support their Class Committee and Class with programming in non-reunion years, whether that be class-specific programming, or working in partnership with activities chairs from other Classes. The HAA helps to recruit recent graduate activities chairs through central email marketing and a registration form, and sends out a series of onboarding materials to confirmed volunteers. Class Committees beyond the recent graduate cohort can determine if they want to continue to have activities chairs, and if so, how they will recruit, manage, and onboard them. You may find that after ten years and two reunions that you have a regular set of volunteers to step into this role, but you may also choose to market this broadly to your class and determine the best way to capture interest. Your HAA staff liaison can help advise on what might work best. The HAA runs terms for recent graduate activities chairs from July-June (one-year terms, renewable each year) and you may choose to continue this if you wish.

While not required, if you would like to share the names of your activities chairs on an annual basis with your HAA staff liaison, they can be sure to capture their volunteer service in our records, which might be helpful as you look to recruit volunteers for a future reunion or other projects.

### **Harvard-Yale Tailgates**

You may have participated in a multi-class tailgate for The Game at Harvard or Yale. Beyond the recent grad cohort, classes can determine what, if anything, they want to do for tailgating before The Game. Holding a tailgate is not required, so you may choose to not hold one. If you do hold one, you may decide to hold a small one just for your class, or in partnership with other classes in your cohort. Volunteer leaders should plan to organize the gathering and make any arrangements directly with the appropriate Athletics office, but please keep your HAA staff liaison in the loop (you may also need to work with your staff liaison on any planned expenses if you have a partnered class treasury).

### **Reunion Committees**

The committee for your 15<sup>th</sup> Reunion (and beyond) will take shape much like those for your 5<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Reunions did. Your reunion year begins in July preceding your May/June in-person capstone programming, and your staff liaison will be in touch with the appropriate class leaders (often Class Committee leadership and 5<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Reunion Chairs) when it's time to begin planning for the year and recruiting the committee. Your reunion programming will be strongest when you bring in new voices and perspectives, and it's common that classmates who have never volunteered for your Class in the past ten years will volunteer for the first time now.

Thank you for volunteering for Harvard and for your Class. We on the CAP team are excited to continue our partnership with you and your classmates as you move past your 10<sup>th</sup> Reunion, and we are continually grateful for your energy, enthusiasm, and dedication.