Making the decision to move off-campus doesn’t mean you have to relinquish your social life.

In fact, off-campus housing can provide newfound freedoms that allow you to explore greater depths to your socialization–you no longer have to worry about letting friends into your building or the university policies that keep you from planning the party of your dreams. Even if you are physically isolated from your campus, there are many ways for you to amp up your social life.

1. Join a club

Especially with Zoom University, joining a club is a great way to feel like a part of your school’s community. Meeting with a small cohort of students who share similar interests to you is a great way to maintain your presence at school while getting the privacy and comfort of your off-campus home.

1. Get an on-campus job

This might be the most physically demanding tip we have. Getting a job on campus means that you’re bound to run into new and familiar faces at least a few times a week. This tip is especially good for those who are looking to make new friends. And for those who already have a tight-knit friend group, it makes meeting up with them after work much easier.

1. Schedule

With a new home comes new responsibilities, and one of them should be maintaining a weekly or daily schedule. Not only will this help you stay tuned in to your role as a student, but it will make hanging out with friends much easier. Try planning at least one outing a week, surrounded by small coffee dates with friends. This makes socializing feel less stressful, especially once your midterms and finals start piling up.

1. Professors

This is probably not the tip you were expecting. Maybe Professors *aren’t* the people you consider when trying to hype up your social life, but building relationships with faculty is a great way to learn about cool opportunities on campus. Whether it be an on-campus lecture or a fellowship opportunity, keeping in touch with your professors can help you maintain a close connection to your school/student life.

1. Bring the party home

While living off campus might liberate you from the no candles policy and ‘quiet hours’ curfew, there are more perks to your new home that make it the perfect hangout spot. For instance, with your own kitchen you can organize weekly dinners with your friends instead of getting together at the dining halls. There are so many ways to personalize your new home that you wouldn't be able to do without violating your university’s restrictions, so take the opportunity to make your off-campus home a place where you and your friends can be comfortable. That being said, make sure to respect your landlord’s rules and the other tenants in your building.

Living off campus with Smarta doesn’t mean you’re banished from the life of a college student. Remember that you can always head to your favorite on-campus lunch spot with a friend, or relax on the lawns for a study session. You’re still a student, just with a bit more independence.