



Bethe House Active Citizen FAQ

What does it mean to be a Bethe House Active Citizen?

Being selected as a Bethe House Active Citizen carries two distinctions. First, you are being formally recognized by the selection committee as a Bethe resident (currently living in the house) who has demonstrated a discernibly high level of current participation and/or leadership, and/or who holds tremendous potential for future participation in Bethe House. Second, those chosen as Bethe House Active Citizens will be *placed at the front of the Bethe House in-house lottery*.

How many people will be chosen to be Bethe House Active Citizens?

Approximately twelve residents will be chosen as Bethe House Active Citizens this fall.

Why are there Active Citizens?

To further the primary goal of the West Campus House System at Cornell University, the creation of an environment that closely links the residential life of the students to the intellectual mission of the university. In an attempt to achieve this goal, Bethe House emphasizes informal interaction with faculty members, self-governance, and social and cultural programming. In these ways, Bethe House is building an actively engaged community of upper class students – one that fosters personal discovery and growth, civic engagement, and nurtures scholarship and creativity in an environment of collegiality, civility, and responsible stewardship. Therefore Bethe House has a vested interest in celebrating and retaining those who are currently active house members.

What is the application process?

Application materials (including the link to the online application) will be available on the Bethe House website (<http://hansbethehouse.cornell.edu/people/Active-Citizen.cfm>) beginning in October. **Applications are due online Tuesday, Nov. 8 at 11:59pm.** A selection committee chaired by Assistant Dean Erica Ostermann will review all applications and make recommendations to House Professor Thom-Levy who will make the final decision. Those selected as Bethe House Active Citizens will be notified before December. In February all Bethe residents who indicated an interest in participating in the Bethe House in-house lottery will be notified of their selection number. The Bethe House Active Citizens will be placed at the front of the lottery, followed by all other lottery participants ordered through the use of a random number generator.

Who selects the Bethe House Active Citizens?

The Bethe House Active Citizens will be selected by House Professor Thom-Levy based upon recommendations from a selection committee that will review each application in detail. The committee will be composed of Assistant Dean Erica Ostermann (chair), two Graduate Resident Fellows and two graduating senior residents selected by House Professor Julia Thom-Levy.

Is there an advantage for second year Bethe House members or returning Active Citizens?

Yes and no. While it is true that second year members of the house will have a much longer period of time to have been involved in Bethe House, the selection committee will be aware of this fact, and will expect greater levels of participation from second year house members. The same perspective extends to Active Citizens who are reapplying.

When will I find out whether I have been selected?

All Bethe house residents who complete and submit an application by the November deadline will be notified of the selection committee's decision by December.

Does being selected affect my ability to block with other Bethe residents for the Bethe in-house lottery?

No. If chosen as a Bethe House Active Citizen, you will follow the same blocking guidelines as all other residents participating in the Bethe House in-house lottery. Only current residents are eligible to participate in the in-house lottery. If you choose to block with other current residents, you are not limited to choosing among the other Bethe House Active Citizens, but you are limited to participants in the Bethe in-house lottery (so you cannot pull in friends who are not eligible for or who have not entered the Bethe lottery).

What will be expected of me next year if I am selected as a Bethe House Active Citizen?

You will be expected to remain an active citizen of Bethe House and your involvement will be expected to include, at a minimum, the ways you outlined in your answer to the second question on the application. Additionally, the house leadership may consult you informally in order to gain additional perspectives on ideas, issues, and programs. Active Citizens serve three semesters, starting in the spring following their selection.