

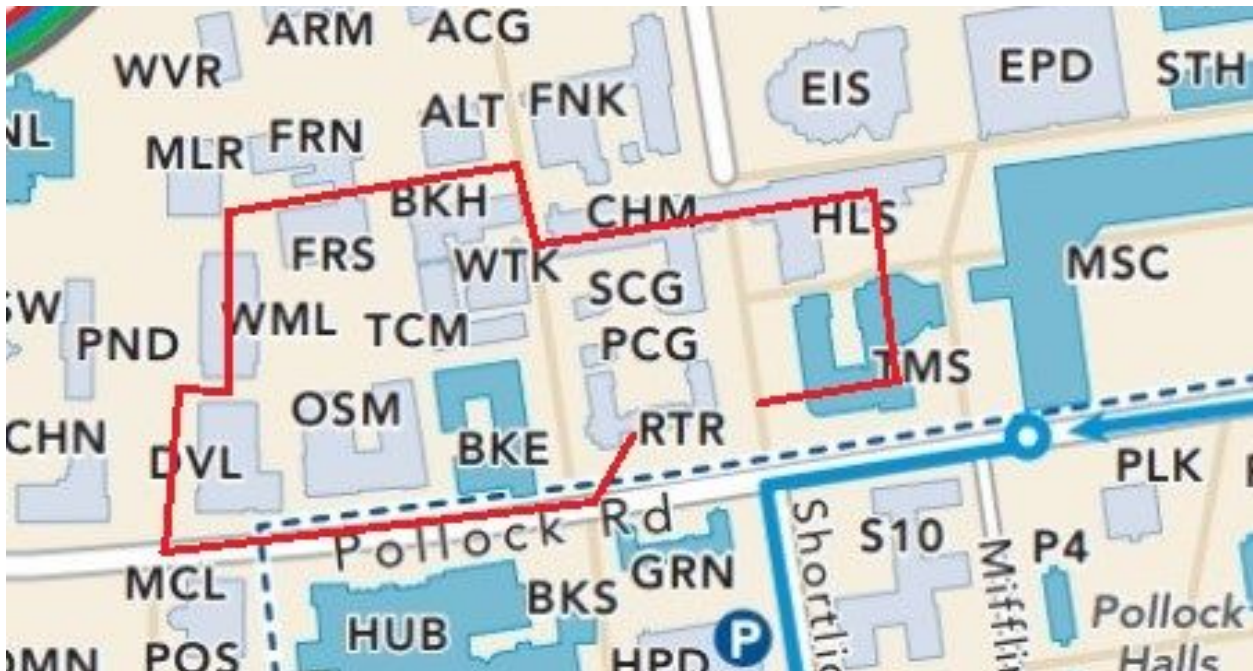
# The Official Science LionPride Tour Script

Dear SLP members,

Hello and welcome new and experienced tour guides! You are currently reading the official SLP tour script that includes not only the physical tour route, but also the words to go along with it. Please note that every tour is unique. Each prospective student will have different interests and each parent will be of varying “flavors”. Be flexible and use this guide as an outline of a tour you can beef up with your own Penn State experiences, advice, and of course, your dashing good looks. There is also no need to discuss every building here. If you happen to be talking about an amazing abroad experience or your research lab while you pass Grange Building for example, it will be okay if you don’t get a chance to mention it.

Listed below are the buildings you will pass and/or walk through in a general tour. They are listed in order, starting in Ritenour and ending outside of Thomas. Included is also a map of the route for your visual pleasure. Enjoy and happy touring!

Note - sometimes tours may start in Osmond or somewhere elsewhere than Ritenour. If this is the case, take the tour around the general route until you return to where you started, or where the family wishes to be dropped off.



## 1) Ritenour

- A future hub for all science advising and student resource center
- Currently includes Pre-medicine, BMB, Biology, Forensic Science, General Science, and BS/MBA advising

- Home of the Office of Scientific Engagement (formerly science Career and International Education Office)
  - Short-term and long-term abroad courses
  - Embedded courses
  - Internships, Externships, and Co-op opportunities
- Location of Future Students Office
  - Coordinates personal weekday visits to the college where they can meet with departmental faculty and advisors and experience an SLP tour
- Upcoming Science Student Center and patio

## **2) Grange Building**

- Division of Undergraduate Studies advising, for those with an undecided major or for those switching majors – they can help!

## **3) Boucke Building**

- Location of international studies office. If interested in studying abroad, the studying abroad advisors are here to help ensure eligibilities, country options, coursework, etc.
- University Learning Center for tutoring in Math, Languages, Computer Science, Sciences, Writing, and Public Speaking
- University Fellowships Office to inform and help students applying to prestigious merit scholarships and abroad research or study opportunities

## **4) HUB**

- Student union center with lots of activities
  - Food
  - Studying
  - HUB LateNight and free, recent movies
  - The Breakzone for ping-pong players and video game lovers (Super-Smash Bros tournament, anyone?)
  - Free speakers, concerts, and famous people
  - Big TV screen for the latest breaking news (unifying the student body through current events)
  - New renovated space– brand new space expanding on study space, bookstore, and dining area makes it the biggest student union building in the Big Ten!

## **5) Osmond Lab**

- Home of the Physics Department
- Many Chemistry and Physics lectures and classes occur here – you can mention a class you had here and your experiences with the size, professor, and course material
- Physics research and instructional labs

## 6) Davey Lab

- For those interested in Astronomy and Astrophysics
- Telescope Observatory at the top! View the stars (for free). I hear it's pretty romantic up there, too.
- Davey Library
  - They have science textbooks available for student check-out. Convenient for those unable to purchase the textbook or for those who are looking to save some money on textbooks.
  - Group study rooms
  - Computer Lab

## 7) McAllister Building

- Penn State's home for mathematics. Penn State is one of the few universities in the nation with a laboratory to conduct mathematical research
  - The Octacube
    - A sculpture of a 4D object located in the lobby of McAllister (the sculpture is actually a projection of the 4D object in the 3D world we live in)
    - The 4D octacube is a shape of 24 octahedrons (one of the Platonic solids) put together in 4D space
    - Created by Adrian Ocneanu, a professor of mathematics
- § Winner of the International Math Olympiad of 1974 while in high school
- § Great example of the amazingly bright professors we have here who are teaching undergraduates

## 8) Chandlee Lab

- Location of Penn State's Nucleic Acids Facility, where DNA sequencing is done and oligonucleotides are created.
- For tour guides in labs and who must go to Chandlee for their lab experiments, this is a great place to mention your undergraduate research experience

## 9) Whitmore Lab (Enter this building through door closest to Davey and go upstairs)

- First Floor: General Chemistry labs
- Second Floor: Organic Chemistry labs and Instrument room (NMR, IR, GC, etc.), and Resource Room – chemistry TAs here to help students
- Currently under renovation to update instructional lab spaces
- Chemistry labs are taught by Graduate TAs
- Can mention the major specific chemistry labs, like CHEM113M (materials) or CHEM213B (biology)

### **10) Mueller Lab**

- Renovated within the last year
- Biology Labs located here
- Share your biology lab experiences here
- Chick Embryo and Sea Urchin Fertilization labs (BIOL240)

### **11) North and South Frear Buildings**

- Research Labs of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology faculty
- Instructional labs on the first floor of each – visit recently renovated labs in S. Frear
- Underground tunnel between North and South Frear and other science buildings on campus to transport specimens and experiments in a more protected method.
  - During Halloween, the Chemistry Department holds a “Haunted Lab Tour”, where they set up spooky experiments in the basements of the science buildings that are connected by these underground tunnels

### **12) Althouse Lab**

- Holds some microbiology and BMB research labs as well as administrative hub for BMB

### **13) Buckhout Lab**

- Location of plant biology
- Greenhouse facility

### **14) Chemistry Building (enter through side door closest to Wartik Lab)**

- Location of chemistry faculty and research labs
- Another opportunity to talk about undergraduate research

### **15) Forensic Cottages (walking up steps to Gateway, great view of these)**

- Home of Forensic Science
- Cool crime scene set up with danger tape, bullet holes, and dummies for final exams
- Haunted house during Halloween
- I hear they allow students to spit sterile pig’s blood to study blood splattering patterns

### **16) The Gateway**

- The symbolic link between Chemistry and Life Sciences
- Great place to relax, take a nap, and study
- Used for science receptions, career fairs, and research presentations
- Amazing view of the Shortlidge mall

### **17) Life Sciences Building**

- Home for various kinds of biological research.
- Each level is broken up into different categories. For example, 4<sup>th</sup> floor is plant biology (with a greenhouse on the roof), 3<sup>rd</sup> floor is molecular toxicology, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor is neuroscience, and 1<sup>st</sup> floor is developmental biology
- Berg Auditorium holds lectures (like Sex and Evolution). Great example of a technologically updated classroom with outlets for each student, comfortable office chairs, and a great stereo system.
- Basement of Life Sciences
  - Great study area
  - Computer labs

### **18) Millennium Science Complex (walking out of Life Sciences and to Thomas)**

- Newest research building on campus
- Holds the Materials Research Institute for material science research and life science research to allow for cross-discipline exchange. The building was built to foster a new kind of research that blurs the lines between subjects for exponential advance
- Garden landscaping
  - For “quiet rooms”, labs below the garden with highly sensitive electron microscopes that need to be protected from noise and vibrations
  - The garden atop the rooms engineered to ensure no vibrations
- Includes state-of-the-art quiet rooms and nano-mechanical labs that require complete acoustic and vibration isolation. The intricate architecture of the building all go into protecting the delicate research requirements

### **19) Thomas Building**

- Location of Statistics and Eberly College of Science Administration, such as Dean Cavener’s and Dean William’s offices
- Also a “catch-all” building that holds many different classes from all disciplines
- 100 Thomas (enter the classroom)
- Biggest lecture hall on campus
- Holds over 700 students
- Many introductory classes are held in here
- Also where many students take their exams
- Can discuss different class sizes
- Unlike in freshmen or sophomore year, as you become an upperclassmen, classes are rarely this large
  - 75% of classes on campus are 50 people or less
- Engaging students in a large classroom setting – recitations, clickers, office hours

- Show other classrooms in Thomas that are smaller to give parents and students an idea of the range of classroom sizes

## **20) Exit Thomas, end of tour**

- Can point to Pollock and South Residence Halls and discuss campus life
- At the end of the tour, you can give them your business card and ask if they have other lingering questions. If they are headed to another destination afterwards, you can help them with directions. If they want to ask more questions to our Future Students Office, you can bring them back to Ritenour.

~FIN~

## **What other things can I mention?**

- How to get involved in undergraduate research (tricks, hints, and tips)
- How to get involved in student organizations and clubs, both science specific and not
- Dining on campus and meal plans
- The housing options and room details (like how we have a microwave and a refrigerator in each room!)
- Off campus housing
- Downtown activities
- Mac or PC? And other technology related topics
- Learning resources, like professor office hours and TAs
- College advice and finding a home
- Anything else appropriate and relevant!

## **Tour etiquette and guidelines**

- Best practices in front of families – always maintain a professional manner
- Treat them like guests
- Do not talk alone (if multiple tour guides) while family is waiting – go greet them
- Attire – polo and nametag, khakis (appropriate corresponding shorts if weather permits)
- If a tour guide is late – Megan will call you
- Wait five minutes then go – do not meet back up after tour has started – note in Google doc
- No dorm tours
- No flirting
- No accepting money/tips – if they insist, direct them to thon.org to donate

- Answer questions in a sensitive manner (ex. Party scene or Sandusky affair)
- If Sharon or Megan or anyone sends you an email – REPLY PLEASE

Any lingering questions? Don't be afraid to ask! Have fun!

### **General Info on Science Majors**

Biology

Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

Biotechnology

Microbiology

Astronomy and Astrophysics

Chemistry

Physics

Planetary Science and Astronomy

Mathematics

Statistics

Forensic Science

Premed and Premed-Med

Science (B.S.)

Science (BS/MBA)