SPOT Leaders and Crew are dynamic and enthusiastic Stanford students & alums who volunteer their time, effort, and passion to welcome you to Stanford! Trip leaders complete training classes/experiences around leadership, group dynamics, risk management, wilderness skills, medical response, specific trip-related activity integration, and more. SPOT is the first-year experience run cooperatively by Stanford Outdoor Education and VPUE.

Who leads/runs SPOT?

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But What About NSO?

NSO begins the day that SPOT ends. Students can move right into their dorms at the completion of SPOT on Sept. 20, 2018.

How Much Does SPOT Cost?

Enrollment fees, gear costs, and financial aid questions are addressed online.

“...a beginning to my freshman year. I definitely want to lead a trip.”
-Khaki group participant, Basecamping, 2013
What is SPOT?
Stanford Pre-Orientation Trip’s purpose is to provide a foundational immersive experience that cultivates Stanford Identity by fostering student engagement and personal growth.

SPOT leads the Stanford Experience by...
...empowering personal growth through challenge, self-reflection, and mentorship.
...developing awareness of interconnectedness and the value of community within the Stanford Environment.
...contributing students to the campus community prepared to actively participate and lead.

Be a part of THIS Stanford tradition!
And have a ton of fun doing it!

Save the dates!

Registration window:
June 19-22, 2018

SPOT 2018 Dates:
Sept. 13 (1pm) – Sept. 20 (4:30am)

More info? Head to spot.stanford.edu

“I wanted to gain confidence and independence before going into college. And I bonded with a group of amazing fellow students and will continue to learn from each of them!” - Wilderness participant, 2014

“I feel like I have a small community now on campus and some hopefully life long new friends” - Basecamping participant, 2016

“SPOT made me more open to experiences and people. Allowed me to stay away from judgement.” - Basecamping participant, 2016

“Many people have concerns about college that are similar to mine, and it was nice to know we’re in the same boat, which makes me feel more ready.” - Wilderness participant, 2013