Hello 2016ers!

Greetings from the Middlebury Mountain Club! We hope you are all looking forward to jumping into life at Middlebury in a few short months. We are excited to introduce you to OINK (Outdoor Introduction for New Kids), our student-run outdoor orientation program designed to introduce new students to each other and to the beautiful landscapes surrounding Middlebury.

Every year, our experienced, fun-loving, and knowledgeable student leaders take small groups of new students out on two-day backpacking, canoeing, organic farming, volunteer service, and rock climbing trips all over west-central Vermont and across the lake in northeastern New York. Many Midd students find outdoor orientation to be one of the defining experiences of their time here. As participants, as leaders, and now as coordinators, it has certainly defined ours.

OINK will take place the first weekend after classes start, September 15–16. In order to maximize fun and safety, there will be 6–10 new students and 2–3 student leaders per group. The trips will vary in difficulty, accommodating all levels of experience. You do NOT need any previous experience to participate; the only prerequisite for OINK is an enthusiasm for meeting other new students and a willingness to have fun and try something new!

The OINK application will become available in your Middlebury email account, which will soon be assigned and will be due by July 20. Our hope is that we can offer a spot to everyone who would like to participate. However, if there is more interest than we can accommodate, we will use a random lottery system to select participants from those applications received by the deadline (July 20).

You can find all the information you need about OINK, including application instructions and FAQs at our website: http://go.middlebury.edu/oink. If you have any further questions regarding OINK please feel free to contact us at OINK@middlebury.edu. We can’t wait to welcome you to campus and to the Middlebury Mountain Club in the fall!

See you soon!

Janet Gehrmann'12, Tess Sneeringer ’14.5, Maya VonWodtke ’13.5
Your OINK 2012 Coordinators