

Eric Ennis'
"Syracuse Challenge"
For 2014-2015 Maxwell Students

Sometimes it can be tough moving to a new city when you don't know where to go for a good meal, where to find interesting things to do or where to take your friends when they come to visit. Then there are the people who mistakenly think that because Syracuse, NY isn't a city of 8 million people, there's nothing to do or see. For both reasons just mentioned, I have created a "Syracuse Challenge" for the 2015 Class of Maxwell Students. Below is a long checklist of various things (136 to be exact) to do, see, taste and experience in Central New York, 95% of which I have personally done and recommend.

So here's how it works: as you spend time going and checking things off the list, keep a tally of the things you're doing. While you're there grab some proof that you accomplished it- take a picture (a selfie works just fine), keep a menu, etc. so that you can show me you were there and did it. You can check off items by yourself or with a group of other Maxwell students, but you need to have some proof. Once an individual or a group of Maxwell students reaches 75 items accomplished (and can provide proof for each one) the first person/group to do so will receive a \$150 gift card to a place of their choice.

Some group rules:

- All items accomplished on this list will begin July 25th, 2014 (sorry if you've already done some of these things but it won't kill you to repeat I promise)
- This competition is only valid for current students enrolled in a Maxwell program, dual degrees and joint programs are welcome, but Maxwell must be a part of your education.
- Finally, as noted by an asterisk below in the list, any winner of the challenge must have attended a Syracuse Orange Basketball game in the 2014-15 Season, no exceptions (after all, this is a challenge about Syracuse & I'm making the rules).
- Any group competing must all complete at least 75 of the same items (no pooling items together)

The goal of this challenge is to provide an incentive to get you off the Syracuse University campus when it's possible this year and exploring what Central New York has to offer. I hope you'll find there's a heck of a lot to do while you're here for the next 11 months (or longer depending on your degree).

If you have any questions don't hesitate to reach out to me at esennis@syr.edu, and when the time comes when someone (or multiple someones) accomplished 75 items on the list, contact me, provide some proof, and be ready to claim your prize.

Best of luck on this year at Maxwell and try to get off campus once in a while!

Historic Architecture

- 1. Niagara Mohawk Headquarters (Considered an American art deco masterpiece)
- 2. State Tower Building
- 3. Onondaga County Courthouse (my favorite non-SU building in CNY)
- 4. Landmark Theater (especially it's interior)
- 5. Syracuse Savings Bank Building
- 6. City Hall Commons (Syracuse's version of the Flatiron Building)
- 7. The Hotel Syracuse
- 8. Chimes Building / 500 Building (designed by architect William Lamb, who also designed the Empire State Building)
- 9. The 5 sisters (identical Victorian-style homes in the Park Ave neighborhood)
- 10. Sacred Heart Church & Assumption Church (tons of other cool churches too)
- 11. Vanderbilt Square & the University Block Building (the former SU Law School)

Events

- 12. Taste of Syracuse (June)
- 13. 40 Below New Year's Eve Party
- 14. 40 Below "Cycle Syracuse" Event (September 7th)
- 15. Syracuse St. Patrick's Day Parade (March)
- 16. Arts Week (July 25th-27th)
 - Arts & Crafts Festival in Cathedral Square
 - Blue Rain Eco-Fest
 - Northeast Jazz & Wine Festival
- 17. Attend a Syracuse Football game (Florida St. plays on Oct. 11th, people!)
- *18. Attend a Syracuse Basketball game (a MUST-do if you want the \$150 prize)*
- 19. Attend a Syracuse Lacrosse Game (February-May)
- 20. Attend a Syracuse Crunch Game (The Frozen Dome Classic on Nov. 22 could break the record for largest crowd to ever watch an indoor hockey game in the U.S.)
- 21. Attend a baseball game with the Syracuse Chiefs (Preferably during a "\$1 Thursdays" game)

Explore

- 22. Experience the New York State Fair (end of August until Labor Day)
 - See the free concerts at Chevy Court
 - Dairy Building (\$0.25 milk)
 - Eat as much fried food as possible
 - Midway games & rides
- 23. Play Lazertag at Fun Junction
- 24. Explore the CNY Regional Market (awesome local vendors & fresh produce)

- 25. Go Apple Picking at Beak & Skiff Apple Farms (Fall)
- 26. Go Pumpkin Picking at "Pumpkins at the Hollow" (Fall)
- 27. Go Strawberry Picking at Abbott Farms (Late Spring/Summer)
- 28. Experience the Rosamond Gifford Zoo at Burnet Park
- 29. See a show at Funny Bone Comedy Club
- 30. Take a tour of the Middle Ages Brewery
- 31. Experience Tipperary Hill
 - See the "upside down" traffic light
 - Eat at the Blarney Stone
 - Coleman's Pub
 - Nibsy's Pub
 - Rosie's Pub
- 32. Spend a day in the Village of Skaneateles
 - Doug's Fish Fry
 - Johnny Angel's
 - Walk the waterfront Pier
 - Go Mansion Hunting
- 33. Spend a day in Ithaca
 - The Commons / Downtown
 - Buttermilk Falls
 - Cornell University / Ithaca College Campuses

Get Outdoors

- 34. Go camping in the Adirondacks
- 35. Go on a wine tour in the Finger Lakes
- 36. Relax in Upper Onondaga Park
- 37. Run the Onondaga Creekwalk
- 38. Run the Onondaga Lake Western Trail or the Onondaga Lake Parkway
- 39. Have a picnic at Longbranch Park
- 40. Go skiing or snowboarding on the nearby slopes
 - Labrador Mountain
 - Greek Peak
 - Toggenberg Mountain
 - Song Mountain
- 41. Explore the trails at Green Lakes State Park (its way more than just a beach)
- 42. Chimney Bluffs State Park
- 43. Letchworth State Park
- 44. Tinker Falls
- 45. Go ice skating in Clinton Square (the get coffee in Armory Square afterwards)
- 46. Pratts Falls

- 47. Baltimore Woods Nature Center
- 48. Beaver Lake Nature Center (great for snowshoeing in the winter)

Food

Breakfast

- 49. Stella's Diner
- 50. Little Gem Diner
- 51. Mother's Cupboard (between the frittata & giant pancake, you'll be here multiple times this year)
- 52. Harrison Bakery

Coffee / Cafes

- 53. Cafe Kubal (3 words: Rosemary Iced Latte)
- 54. Recess Coffee
- 55. Freedom of Espresso
- 56. Strong Hearts Café (get a vegan milkshake.. don't ask questions and just do it)
- 57. Café 407
- 58. Kava Café
- 59. Biscotti's Cafe

Lunch / Dinner

- 60. Dinosaur BBQ
- 61. Bull & Bear Pub
- 62. Heid's Hot Dogs
- 63. Limp Lizard
- 64. Tully's (highly recommend the chicken tenders)
- 65. The Retreat in Liverpool (great patio seating to have a drink & meal outside)
- 66. Coppertop Tavern
- 67. Small Plates
- 68. Brooklyn Pickle
- 69. Ale & Angus Pub (get the PowerPlay Burger- voted the best burger in the entire State of New York....twice)
- 70. Funk & Waffles
- 71. Phoebe's
- 72. Kitty Hoynes
- 73. Empire Brewing Company

International Cuisine

- 74. Byblos Mediterranean Cafe
- 75. Francesca's Cucina
- 76. Atilio's
- 77. African International Restaurant (in Little Italy)
- 78. Erawan Thai
- 79. Lao Village
- 80. appeThaizing
- 81. Boom Boom Mex Mex
- 82. Alto Cinco (or Otro Cinco in Downtown)
- 83. The Mission (the-oldest-church-in-Syracuse-turned-delicious-Mexican-restaurant)
- 84. Sakana-ya
- 85. Oishi Sushi
- 86. Ichiban Japanese Steakhouse
- 87. Pacific (in Mattydale)

Pizza

- 88. Twin Trees (if you've never had pizza cut in strips, you're missing out)
- 89. Mario & Salvo's
- 90. Gino & Joe's
- 91. Peppino's
- 92. Paladino's
- 93. Nick's Tomato Pie
- 94. Pavone's
- 95. Flame

Get a Drink (and some great food too)

- 96. J Ryan's
- 97. Blue Tusk
- 98. World of Beer
- 99. Limerick Pub (the one bar that is never mobbed in Amory Square)
- 100. Beer Belly Deli
- 101. World Martini Lounge
- 102. Syracuse Suds
- 103. Riley's
- 104. Clark's Ale House (re-opening in Downtown this Fall)
- 105. The Saltine Warrior

Date Night / Fine Dining / Bring your family (when they're paying)

- 106. bc Restaurant
- 107. Pastabilities
- 108. Scotch & Sirloin
- 109. Blue Water Grill
- 110. The Sherwood Inn
- 111. Prime Steakhouse
- 112. Delmonico's
- 113. Pascale's
- 114. Lemon Grass
- 115. Bistro Elephant

Dessert

- 116. Bittersweet
- 117. Gannon's Ice Cream
- 118. Sweet on Chocolate
- 119. Crepe & Gelato Boulevard
- 120. Eva's European Sweets

Scenic Views from above that will impress you

- 121. Woodland Reservoir observation point (my all-time favorite spot in CNY)
- 122. Westminster Park, at the top of the "never ending stairway" from Euclid Ave
- 123. Lincoln Park observation point
- 124. Skyline Lodge at Highland Forrest
- 125. Top of the Burnet Park Golf Course
- 126. Schiller Park

Culture

- 127. Visit the Everson Museum of Art
- 128. Visit the Erie Canal Museum
- 129. Visit the Onondaga Historical Association
- 130. Visit the M.o.S.T. (Museum of Science & Technology)
- 131. Go to a Symphoria Concert
- 132. Ride the free Connective Corridor Bus from Campus to Downtown Syracuse
- 133. The 24-second shot-clock memorial in Armory Square
- 134. See an exhibit at ArtRage Gallery & explore the Hawley-Green area
- 135. See a show at the Westcott Theater or the Palace Theater
- 136. Visit the 'Jerry Rescue' Memorial in Clinton Square