

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE COMMUNITY

Being a good ally and person of support also looks like taking the time to learn more about the LGBT Community. Use these resources to open your understanding of LGBT issues and to be a better ally.

K-State LGBT Student Organizations

- Sexuality & Gender Alliance
 - Gender Collective
 - oSTEM

Visit ksu.edu/lgbt to learn more!

LGBT Informational Websites

www.advocate.com

www.hrc.org

www.transequality.org

www.isna.org

LGBT Literature

“Boy Erased” by Garrard Conley

“Transgender History: The Roots of Today’s Revolution” by Susan Stryker

“Torn” by Justin Lee

LGBT Movies

Matt Shepard is a Friend of Mine (2013)

Boys Don’t Cry (1999)

Paris is Burning (1990)

The Death and Life of Marsha P. Johnson (2017)

▼ Other Campus Resources ▼

Office of Student Life

785-532-6432 / 201 Holton

K-State Counseling Services

785-532-6927 / Lafene Health Center

Center for Advocacy Response and Education (CARE)

785-532-6444 / 206 Holton

Office of Institutional Equity

785-532-6220 / 103 Edwards

Campus Police

785-532-6412

All Emergency Services

Dial: 911

Diversity & Multicultural Student Affairs

785-532-6276 / 224 Anderson

Kansas State University
LGBT
Resource Center

So,
You Have A
Roommate
Who
Is LGBTQ+?



For more resources:

lgbt@k-state.edu

www.k-state.edu/lgbt

207 Holton Hall / 785-532-5352

My Roommate is LGBT!

When you move into your new dorm room at the beginning of the year, you may have some anxiety about meeting your new roommate.

- Will you get along?
- Is your roommate messy?
- Do they prefer Marvel or D.C.?

Many first year college students have never lived with anyone besides family and now you're expected to share a tiny room with a complete stranger. You and your roommate may end up as friends, or you may just tolerate each other until the end of the school year. **But what if your roommate is lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT)?** What do you do then?

Use this handout as a guide to being a great roommate and ally to for LGBTQ people!

REMEMBER: COMMUNICATION IS KEY!

It is okay to ask questions to learn more or gain a better understanding. If you have never known a LGBT person, you may have questions for your roommate regarding your roommate's sexuality. It is okay to ask about their dating life or even questions about how they came out and came to know they were LGBT. The key to any good relationship is good communication, so if you have any concerns, bring them up. Don't be afraid to bring up questions and concerns that you may have so the two of you can figure out what to do about your concerns.

Your RA or hall director may be able to help you with these conversations. The LGBT Resource Center and other campus resources are also available.



COMING OUT

If your roommate comes out to you, you should try and keep an open mind and not judge. It is important to be aware of your personal boundaries, what you feel comfortable discussing, and your own moral and personal beliefs regarding LGBT people. Whatever they may be, just listen. Coming out can be a very vulnerable time.

- Don't push. A person who is coming out may have a hard time talking about it. Don't force them to disclose anything.
- Acknowledge the risk they took by coming out to you. Compliment their courage. Don't minimize the importance of what they did.
- Keep their confidence and respect their privacy. A person's coming out journey is their own, so don't assume everyone knows or has been told.

BUT ARE THEY INTERESTED IN ME?

The first thing that may be going through your head is that your roommate is going to be attracted to you, that you aren't going to be able to undress in front of your roommate.

Relax. Chances are your roommate is not attracted to you. Just as most heterosexual people are not attracted to all different sex people, LGBT people are not attracted to everyone of the same sex.

MAKE ROOMMATE AGREEMENTS

Spending the time now to thoroughly discuss these and other issues will prevent problems from occurring throughout the year. Community living, especially in one you may not have chosen, is an essential life skill so a little courtesy goes a long way.

- Sleep/Study/Social Time Schedules
- Cleaning & Upkeep Responsibilities
- Privacy & Personal Space
- Etc ... (We recommend everyone do these things!)

▼ 8 Things YOU can DO! ▼

1. Be willing to listen and provide a safe space for LGBT people in your dorm.
2. Don't make assumptions. Ask questions to seek a better understanding or to clarify something you've been told.
3. Use the proper pronouns that your friend, co-worker, family member or roommate uses.
4. Refrain from using anti-LGBT language, comments, or jokes. Let others know you find them offensive and they won't be tolerated.
5. Confront your own prejudices and biases, even if it is uncomfortable. Take the time to learn more about the LGBT Community.
6. Defend your LGBT friends and family against discrimination.
7. Include your LGBT roommates & friends to hang out with your other friends and family.
8. Believe that all people, regardless of sexuality or gender identity, should be treated with dignity and respect.
9. Take time to learn more about the community and the issues they face. Attend club meetings, take a class, visit the LGBT Resource Center, and so much more!
10. Participate in a SafeZone training hosted by K-State! Visit www.ksu.edu/safezone for more information.

What Does LGBTQIA+ Mean?

L - Lesbian **G** - Gay **B** - Bisexual **T** - Transgender

Q - Queer* / Questioning **I** - Intersex **A** - Asexual

* **Queer** is a term for anyone who is not straight and/or outside of socially constructed gender norms. Originally used as a discriminatory term, it has been reclaimed by many (not all) LGBT people. Not all people use this word as an identity, so it's best to ask and respect that choice.