

Hi everyone!

Welcome to Caltech! My name is Ava Balanon, and I am your current Interhouse Committee (IHC) Chair. To quickly describe, the IHC is a part of student government that consists of the eight presidents of the individual Houses, the IHC Chair, and the IHC Secretary. In this committee, we serve as a key line of communication between Houses, and we work together to plan events like Rotation.

The House system is a huge part of many students' Caltech undergraduate experience. Unlike traditional dorms, the eight Houses provide immediate, tight-knit communities that you get to be a part of! In addition to social connections, Houses also offer helpful resources and a network of upperclassmen who are eager to support you as you transition into campus life. Rotation is the one-week process where you'll have the chance to explore what every House has to offer through a variety of events.

During Rotation, you'll be able to attend House dinners, desserts, and events to meet people and get a feel for each House's unique culture. It's a great way to connect with both other first-years and upperclassmen who are looking forward to welcoming you. Everyone participating in Rotation wants to get to know you, and just as importantly, help you get to know us.

While Rotation might still feel far away, I understand how it can sound high-stakes, but it's not meant to be stressful. Everything is optional, and Rotation is simply an opportunity for the Houses to give you a chance to learn all about them. You can always change/add memberships after Rotation, and your House does not limit your friends and experiences. Throughout the year, there will be multi-house events, Interhouses, ASCIT events, or you can just go hang out with friends in other houses at any time!

At the end of the day, this is supposed to be a time for you to explore the campus, make connections, and most importantly have fun! Rotation is one of the most memorable parts of the year, and all of the upperclassmen are happy to meet you and welcome a new class into their Houses. Everyone is working hard to make sure each House feels warm, welcoming, and ready for you to explore.

You'll get more information later in the summer and during orientation, but please don't hesitate to reach out with questions! You can always reach me via email (abalanon@caltech.edu), and the rest of the IHC has their emails listed at <https://ihc.caltech.edu/ihc-roster>.

On behalf of the IHC and the campus as a whole, I am so excited to see all of you come to campus and become a part of our community!

Best Wishes,

Ava Balanon

Interhouse Committee Chair