Dinners with Anteaters (DWA) Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is Dinners with Anteaters (DWA)?
   a. Dinners with Anteaters is a program that brings students, alumni, staff and faculty together for an evening of food, fun and conversation throughout Orange County. It is a great opportunity for alumni, staff, faculty, etc. to connect with current students and share their advice and expertise while as well as provide a complimentary meal.

2. How does Dinners with Anteaters work?
   a. Dinners with Anteaters takes place once per academic quarter, typically on a Saturday evening. Volunteer alumni/staff/faculty will host individual dinners on the same date, either in their home or at a local restaurant. The students will be pre-assigned to a specific dinner based their major and/or interests.

3. What are my primary responsibilities as a dinner host?
   a. Your primary responsibilities include providing students with a warm meal as well as sharing your advice and experience in a friendly and welcoming environment.

4. Where can I host a dinner?
   a. Dinners can be hosted at your own home or at a local restaurant. If you are hosting at a restaurant, consider choosing a place with a low noise level and located close to UCI.

5. What time can I host the dinner and how long do they typically last?
   a. As a host, you can set your own dinner time. However most dinners typically begin around 6 p.m. and last 2-3 hours long.

6. Can I host a dinner with other people?
   a. Yes, you can host a dinner with other people. It is a bonus if they are also an Anteater but anyone is welcome. The more the merrier!

7. Are my dinner expenses tax deductible?
   a. Meals supplied by hosts may be tax deductible*. Please request a gift in kind form from us and save receipts for submission with form. *Please consult with your tax advisor. The university’s tax ID number is 95-2226406

8. Can I request a specific student demographic for my dinner?
   a. We will try our best to accommodate requests but we cannot guarantee it. Please indicate your request during time of registration and our DWA team will contact you for further discussions.

9. What is a dinner lead and what is their role?
   a. Each dinner will have an assigned dinner lead, who is a member of the Student Alumni Association. The role of the dinner lead is to communicate important information to both hosts and students. They also serve as the point of contact for any questions or concerns.

10. Will I receive students with dietary restrictions?
    a. You will be able to indicate on the registration form whether you will be able to accommodate students with dietary restrictions. We will only assign students that you indicated that you can accommodate.

11. I'm not available on the event date but I would love to host in the future.
    a. DWA occurs once every quarter (Fall, Winter, and Spring). You will be able to host on any of the dates that you are available. Although DWA typically occurs on Saturday to ensure student availability, we can make special exceptions if you prefer to host on Friday or Sunday of that same weekend. Please make this request at the time of registration or contact us in advance through email at dinnerswithanteaters.uci@gmail.com.
12. I’m not a UCI alumnus/na but I want to host.
   a. We welcome any staff, faculty, retirees/emeriti, parents, or friends of UCI to host. The more, the merrier!

13. Will I be compensated for the meal?
   a. Hosts will not be compensated for the meals. However meals can be tax deductible*. Please request a gift in kind form from us and save receipts for submission with form. *Please consult with your tax advisor. The university’s tax ID number is 95-2226406

14. Is it expensive to host a dinner?
   a. How much to spend on dinner is completely up to the host. Past hosts have saved money by providing simple meals like pizza or In N Out. Sometimes a home cooked meal like spaghetti and meatballs can be cost friendly as well.
   b. Other helpful tips include co-hosting with other Anteaters friends and splitting the dinner costs between all co-hosts. You also have the freedom to host a smaller group (3 students minimum) when you register.

15. What if my house isn’t big enough to host a dinner?
   a. Some hosts can opt to host their dinner at a local restaurant if their home is not large enough. Otherwise past hosts have gotten creative by setting out chairs in the living room or other area in the house. The students are pretty flexible and don’t mind balancing the plates on their laps. Great food and company is all they need!

16. What if I can’t host on Saturdays?
   a. DWA typically occurs on Saturday to ensure student availability. However we can make special exceptions if you prefer to host on a Friday or Sunday. It is preferred that the dinner take place during the same weekend as the initial event date. Please make this request at the time of registration or contact us in advance through email at dinnerswithanteaters.uci@gmail.com.