

#GOBULLS #GOBULLS #GOBULLS #GOBULLS #GOBULLS #GOBULLS



WOW! Week of

GloBull Lens



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August Edition

# Apply for your USF ID.

As you prepare your arrival to the University of South Florida, you can already start the process of getting your USF ID card, even before you board your plane to the USA!

## So, what benefits will students receive with their USF ID cards?

Just take a look below at all of the resources available to you with a USF ID card:

- **Free access to public transportation**

Your USF ID card will provide you with free access to the USF Bull Runner bus in Tampa, which operates all around campus, and about 1.5 miles (2.4 kilometers) off-campus.

Your USF ID card will also provide you with free access to public transportation in Tampa (Hillsborough Area Regional Transit or 'HART' bus), St. Petersburg (Sun Runner and Looper buses) and Sarasota (Manatee County Area Transit or 'MCAT' and the Breeze buses).

- **Library access**

Your USF ID card will enable you to check out books, laptops, DVDs, and music CDs from the university libraries.

- **Campus Fitness Centers**

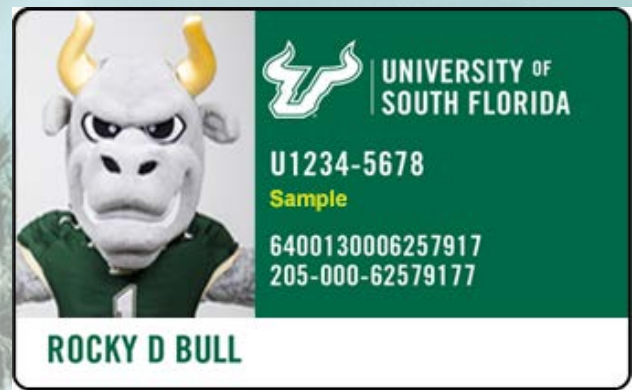
Students may use their USF ID cards to gain free access to the campus recreation centers, which offer a wide range of cardiovascular and strength-building resources and programs, including treadmills, swimming pools, free weights and nautilus equipment.

- **On-Campus Residences and Mail Services**

If you are living on-campus, your USF ID card will enable you to swipe into your residence halls as well as your mail rooms.

- **Other University Services**

You may also use your USF ID card when accessing services at the Health and Wellness Center, the Counseling Center, and the Center for Career and Professional Development.



## How do students start the process of getting their USF ID Cards?

Follow these three steps to obtain your USF ID Card!

1. Upload a photo (with a light background – see examples) at the [USF ID Card website](#).



2. When you arrive to USF, simply collect your physical card at the campus ID Card Center where you plan to study. See locations below:

- a. Tampa Campus: Student Services Building 1032
- b. St. Petersburg Campus: Bayboro Hall (BAY) 134
- c. Sarasota Campus: 8350 N. Tamiami Trail in B116

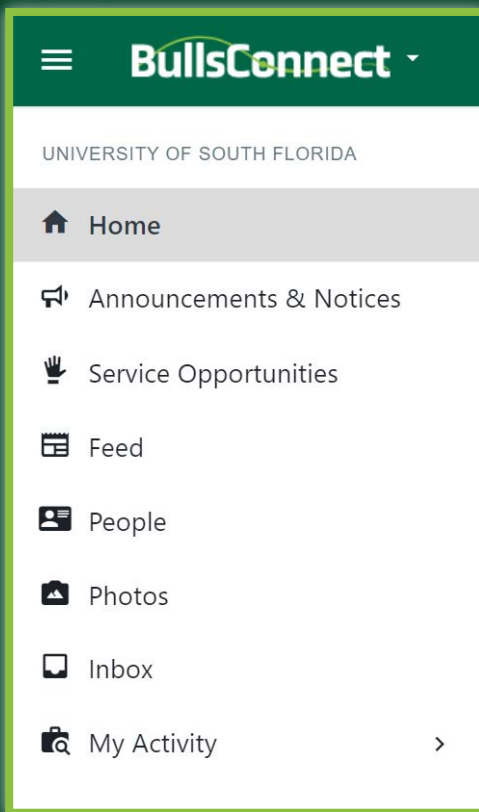
3. Remember to activate your card, before using it!

Your initial USF ID card only costs \$10. However, if you lose this card, it will cost \$15 to replace it.



Now that you know all the benefits associated with your USF ID card, be sure to make it a top priority to obtain your ID card in the first week of arriving at the USF campus.

# How to Navigate on Bulls Connect

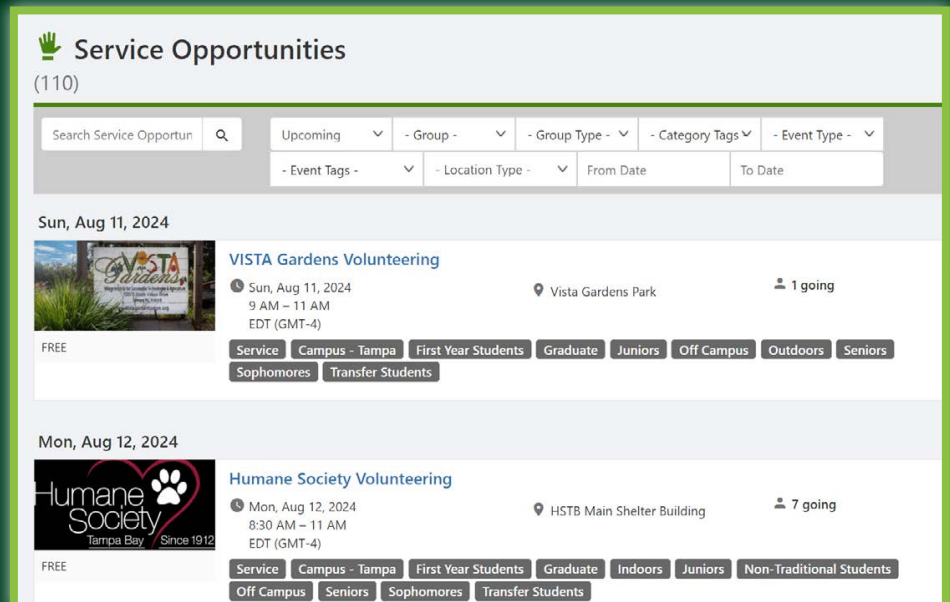


Bullsconnect is one of the most important online university resources that links students to activities and people outside of the classroom. As I review the website, I'm able to identify volunteer opportunities, a wide variety of student interest groups, internship information, and upcoming campus events. To help you appreciate the value of this site, I'm going to take you on an in-depth journey of the site's features, beginning with the homepage below.

In the column on the left, you can find information about announcements and notices. If you click on the photos' tab, you will see all the images that have been posted by the community. And if you click on the inbox, you will see all the messages you have received.

## Service Opportunities

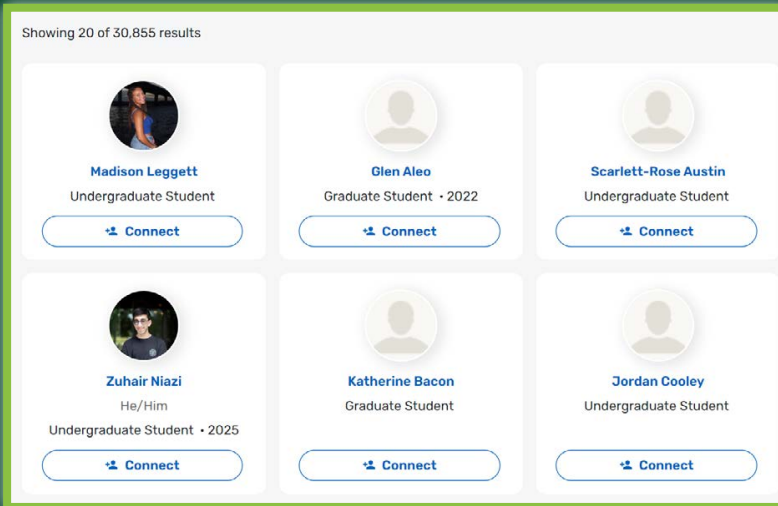
In this tab, you will find amazing volunteer opportunities. The highlighted square below shows the different filters you can use to make your search more focused. The 'upcoming' filter shows you previous and upcoming volunteer events. The 'group' filter allows you to identify opportunities from particular clubs, while 'group type' is divided into activities conducted by student organizations, departments, and programs. The 'category' filter will show you whether the



activity is being conducted on the Tampa, St. Petersburg or Sarasota-Manatee campus, and whether the event is philanthropic, political, recreational, or service-related in nature. The 'event' tag helps you to determine if the event is associated with entertainment, training, wellness, the arts, or other classifications.

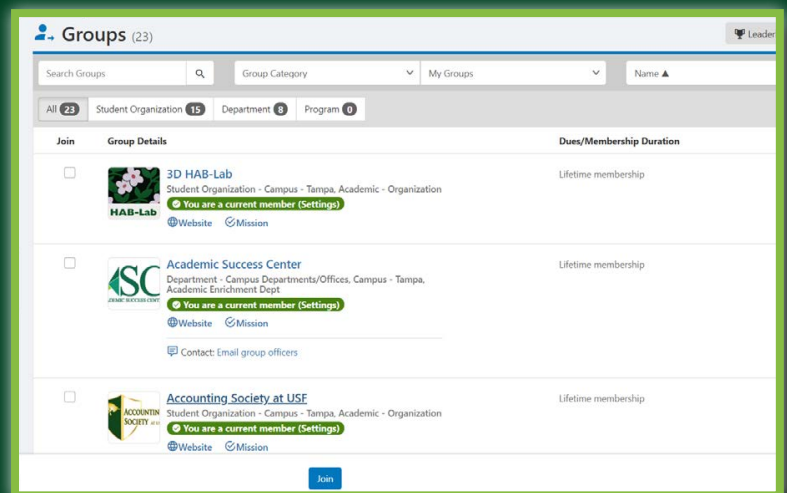
# Connecting with People

The 'people' tab helps you to find other students who have a profile on Bullsconnect. The filters allow you to focus your search for undergraduate and graduate students as well as faculty and staff. You can also use the filters to find students who play different types of sports, who are pursuing a particular career, and who are fluent in a variety of languages.



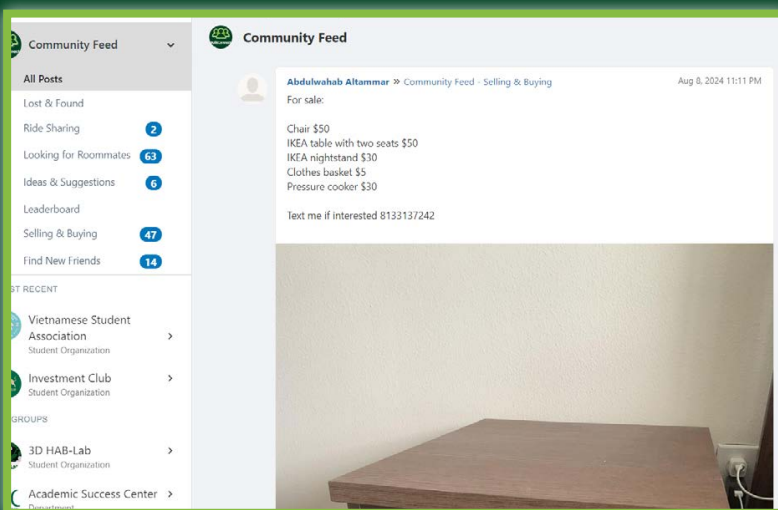
# Personal History on Bullsconnect

The 'My Activity' tab allows you to see everything you have signed up for or saved in the past such as meetings and events you have participated in or groups you have joined. It also allows you to track previous conversations with others.



# Roommates, Ride Sharing, Buying and Selling, and More

In you click on the feed tab in the left column, you will be connected to students who may be looking for roommates, ride share opportunities, and who may be in the market to buy or sell goods. In this image below, you can see an example of someone seeking to lease their apartment.



# Dat's *Dining & Shopping* spots



Hey there, new Bulls! Welcome to the University of South Florida! As an international student who has lived in Tampa for a full year, I know how exciting and overwhelming the first year can be. One of the biggest challenges (and adventures) is figuring out where to eat and shop. Fear not! I will help you navigate all the dining areas on and off-campus to ensure you have a smooth and enjoyable start to your life at USF. Let's get started!

## On Campus Dining Options

When I first arrived at USF, The Hub quickly became my go-to dining area. It is the main dining hall on campus and it is located near the Marshall Student Center (MSC). Grabbing a meal at The Hub is convenient and provides excellent social opportunities to meet with friends! Juniper

is another excellent dining hall that provides students with all-you-can-eat options. By having a meal plan, students can access these dining halls regularly, and get to know the different types of food served.

USF has a variety of other on-campus restaurants and cafes, in addition to the dining halls. I never ran out of dining options on campus, whether I was craving Asian fusion or just a Starbucks Coffee.

For more on campus information, be sure to visit the [USF Dining website](http://www.usfdining.com).

## Off Campus

In America, fast food culture is incredibly popular, and as a student, I found places like Chick-fil-A and McDonald's to be absolute lifesavers, especially when I had cravings for French fries at 2 AM! Luckily, there are so many of these restaurants around the USF area.

For example, University Plaza on Fletcher Avenue and the areas around 56th Street and Fowler Avenue offer a mixed variety of options with local favorites like Salem's, Wendy's, Taco Bell, and Pollo Tropical. You'll also find plenty of foreign cuisines offering diverse cultural dishes.

The University Collections Plaza on Fowler Avenue is a melting pot of culinary delights. You can find a savory ramen bowl at LanZhou, rich Indian curry at Taj, flavorful Vietnamese pho at Pho Quyen, and a hearty Mexican grill bowl at Chipotle. The Plaza even boasts three boba shops and two cafes, perfect for a quick treat or caffeine fix.

**USF Tampa Campus**

**Dining**

[www.usfdining.com](http://www.usfdining.com)

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# Shopping

## Groceries

The **Publix** grocery store is right on campus and has everything, including meat, chicken, fresh vegetables and all kinds of tasty snacks. The nearby **Walmart** store is a one-stop-shop for groceries, clothes, and electronics, and stays open late. Next, the **Target** store is a lot like Walmart, but fancier. If you are on a tight budget, the **Dollar Tree** store sells most of its goods for approximately one dollar. **ALDI** also sells a variety of food as super low prices, but you need to remember to bring a quarter for the shopping cart. For quick snacks and essentials, check out all the other convenient stores near campus like **P.O.D Market 7-Eleven, Wawa, and Mobil.**

And for **personal needs**, Bulls Pharmacy on campus provides prescription medications, health products, and daily necessities. The CVS Pharmacy is also nearby, and provides prescriptions, snacks, and toiletries.

## Retail Shopping

University Mall is perfect for a day of retail therapy with its variety of brand name items like Bath and Body Works, Dillard's, Macy's and countless other places to shop. There is also a Movie theater inside! Nearby, University Plaza is a shopping heaven that offers an array of shops to meet different needs. Ross is a store that offers good deals on clothing and home goods. Also, you'll find Elegant Beauty Supplies and Sally Beauty for personal glow-up care. Aaron's Rent to Own is another store that can help you with your furniture and electronics rentals. DTLR is an excellent store for finding stylish shoes, and rue21 is another store that will help you find trendy clothing. For academic needs and USF merchandise, the USF Bookstore is indispensable, stocking everything

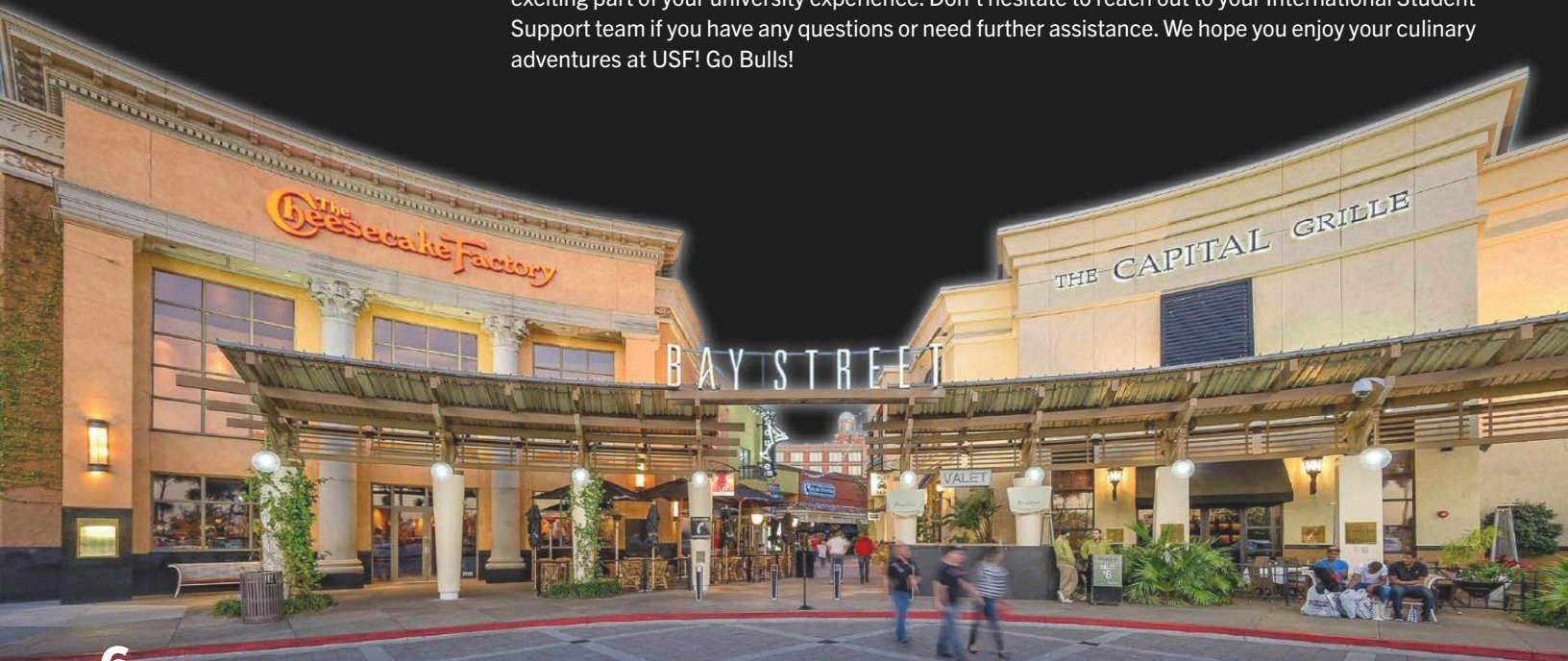


## What is the best way to find new places?

**Go with a Friend:** It's always more fun exploring new restaurants with friends to have quality social time while enjoying various types of food. It's also safer walking off-campus in pairs or in groups than alone. If you want to expand your social network, you can join student groups on Bulls Connect and meet fellow students, who may be able to give you new ideas on places to go.

**Go online:** Google Maps can help you to find nearby restaurants, cafes, grocery stores, and shopping centers. The reviews and photos can help you decide if a place is worth checking out. Yelp is another review site in which real people leave real reviews about their experiences, and this can also help you to find hidden gems and avoid duds. Last, don't forget to follow USF groups and local food bloggers on Instagram and Facebook. They often post about new, popular dining areas around campus.

Last thing, welcome once again to USF! Exploring new places to eat and shop can be a fun and exciting part of your university experience. Don't hesitate to reach out to your International Student Support team if you have any questions or need further assistance. We hope you enjoy your culinary adventures at USF! Go Bulls!



*How to Avoid*


# SCAMS &

*Protect Your*

# SAVINGS

Imagine subletting your apartment on Facebook for the summer. You are having no luck with finding another student to help you rent out the apartment for the rest of your lease, and you are slowly reaching the point of desperation. You are checking Facebook messenger every day, just to see if ANYONE took interest in your apartment, so you can finally go home for summer. You finally open the Facebook app one day to find that one person is totally interested! As the days go on, you find out that this student has expressed that they need you to help them out with a couple security fees, because they are currently struggling to pay for them right now. So, you, being the kindhearted person that you are with a couple extra bucks to spare, end up sending them \$100.

As time goes by, they are now continuously asking you for more money, making up lie-after-lie to try to get you to send them more funds through an online transfer. They have shown you screenshots of the completed application form and have asked you to help them out with the last half of the sublease fee. **What could go wrong?** They have already shown you the completion of the sublease form ...right?



Little did you know that this tactic is a common con used by scammers to defraud students out of hundreds of dollars. I know this, because I was that person who tried helping out a so-called fellow "student" who in fact was not a student at all, and only had an interest in swindling me out of a couple hundred dollars.

There are other stories of students who have been cornered in the MSC (Marshall Student Center) by scammers wearing a USF tee-shirt or polo jersey, claiming to be affiliated with the University of South Florida, and requesting or event demanding money from unsuspecting new students.

But I'm going to let you in on a little secret: if someone you don't know asks you to take money out of your savings and hand them cash to cover a student debt or any other fee, **THEY DO NOT WORK FOR USF!**

So how can we fix this problem, and educate all students of possible student scam attempts whether it be through online or personal interactions? **The first step is to become immediately suspicious** of anyone asking you to take out a couple hundred dollars out of a bank machine to settle a "student debt" or "the remaining balance of your financial aid". Unfortunately, even if a person is wearing USF attire, it does not mean that they are employed by the University or have the right to tell you to do this.

**"THEY DO NOT WORK FOR USF!"**

**How to interact with an in-person scammer:**

The best strategy of dealing with an in-person scammer is to not interact with them at all. You should walk away and report them to a university staff member working behind a desk, within an office, or who is a uniformed law enforcement officer.

Usually, when students try to converse with scammers, they forget that scammers are almost like professional liars. Remember, these people are very good at their trade and will say anything and everything to get money or personal information from you.





## DIGITAL SCAMMERS

Similar to in-person scammers, there are also **digital scammers** who will try to steal your money. Here are some tips to protect you from these types of online scammers:

**Tip #1:** If someone is texting you through any sort of social media app asking for money (Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat), they are likely a scammer. No matter what type of evidence they try to show to convince you that they are legitimate, they are most likely lying and trying to steal from you.

**Tip #2:** If you receive an email from an email address that is not from the University (an address ending in usf.edu) asking you to transfer money to a phone number or an email address, it is best to block the email address from your email account to ensure that you are staying scam-free.

Final Thoughts: So, how can you tell if you actually owe money to the university, or to your off-campus apartment? The best way to find out if you have a balance is to go directly to those offices, whether it be financial aid, admissions, or housing. Calling the phone numbers listed on their official website is another good way to ensure that you are speaking with a legitimate person, and this includes off-campus apartment buildings.

***“How can you tell if you actually owe money...?”***

Scammers lurk online or in-person to find anyone who will be willing to give them money willingly and will **tell you convincing lies** to persuade you that they are legitimate. To avoid the personal and financial pain of being scammed, you must remember to 1) hang up, ignore or **walk away from suspicious people** demanding personal or personal information, avoid clicking on suspicious links (phishing) trying to steal your information, and 2) **report these scammers to a person in authority** that you trust. Stay safe and alert because your money and personal information depend on it!

- Raquel Lanzaro,  
Student Experience Leader





# WOW!

**WEEK OF WELCOME**

**SAVE THE DATE**

**August 22 - 30**

**Week of Welcome (WOW) is a week-long USF celebration to welcome new students and returning students each summer, fall, and spring! WOW features a series of events and programs for new and returning Bulls to make lasting connections and have a successful start to your semester.**

For the latest updates and information, check out Tampa's WOW **BullsConnect** page.

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