How to be a Maroon at Home

We know you’re anxious to come to campus in the fall and explore your new home, especially considering current circumstances. Nothing can replace the real thing (trust me, I know, I’m writing this 702 miles away from campus in Maryland). I miss seeing the new ducklings at Botany Pond, I miss visiting my favorite campus cafe, Grounds of Being, and I even miss studying in the Reg with my friends! You could call it Stockholm Syndrome but I love that big gray library all the same.

Until we are all able to get back to campus, here are five ways to be a maroon at home instead!

1. Wear your maroon!

Need to get used to the color maroon before seeing it everywhere on campus? Want to show your school pride to your family that already knows where you’re going to college? Then put on your favorite UChicago t-shirt or sweatshirt! It might be a little too warm for your maroon scarf, but if you want to imagine yourself on the quad in January (couldn’t be me) then have at it! Make sure you snap a picture on Mondays and tag @UChicagoCLI & @UChicagoCollege for #MaroonMonday

2. Take a virtual tour of UChicago’s campus

Our friends over at the admissions office have been nice enough to record a comprehensive tour of campus, all online! Come see what the quad looks like while there are still leaves on the trees and it isn’t 20 degrees.

3. Host an online study date

Once you get to campus, you’ll probably be spending a lot of time in the library with your friends. Good news is, you have lots of choices! Whether you prefer Mansueto, The Reg, Harper, or Crerar, there’s a place for everyone to drown in homework while simultaneously enjoying the library aesthetic™. Exciting, I know! Although you can’t do that in person yet, you can always call your friends up on Zoom or Facetime and have an online study date! It might not be the same, but at least you won’t have anyone telling you to be quiet if you talk (and I mean hey, it’s what all of us have been doing all spring anyways).
4. Make your own version of our $1 milkshake
Hutchinson Commons, right in the middle of campus, offers $1 milkshakes every Wednesday during the academic year. We might not be able to enjoy them right now, but you can make your own at home too! All you need is milk and vanilla ice cream (and some chocolate syrup or Oreos if that’s what you’d prefer).

5. Recreate campus at your desk
UChicago campus is infamous for its eccentric blend of gothic and modern architecture, which is beautiful, albeit slightly jarring. Now you can build your own version of UChicago’s most famous buildings through the university website! All you need is some paper, scissors, and a ruler. Some dexterity and artistic ability might be nice, though, because I tried to make Mansueto and it looked more like a pancake than a dome.

Written by Andy Eller: a third year in the College, majoring in Law, Letters, and Society who enjoys imagining his room is the Regenstein Library and thinking about all of the Shinju Sushi he will eat once he gets back to campus.