

A year ago at the beginning of May I was sitting at my parents computer applying to be a Cronkite Villager, and I was pretty gung-ho about it. A few months later I was moving myself into McClintock Hall and I was surrounded by 38 other freshmen who were excited to go to our first Cronkite Village meeting. I ventured to the TV lounge with my new roommate, excited for the year to come and all of the events that were planned for us Villagers. Unfortunately, that's where my involvement ended.

And I missed out.

Cronkite Village had the opportunity to tour facilities of the three major journalism outlets. Newspapers. The Arizona Republic and The East Valley Tribune. A radio station, The Edge 103.9. A TV station, Fox 10 in Phoenix and much more. While my fellow dorm mates were off bonding and doing fun things, like going to Diamondbacks games, I was off doing my own thing. I missed out on learning about the ins and outs of a journalism operation. I missed out on making connections with people who might be able to give me internships. I missed out bonding with the other Villagers. I missed out on an experience of a lifetime that was provided to me by Cronkite Village.

Finally, by the end of the second semester, I had found some of my best friends in Cronkite Village and I was regretting not participating all year. My eyes were also opened to the value of the opportunities Cronkite Village offers. So, as a soon-to-be retired Villager, I would highly recommend participating as much as you can from the start. Even if you don't want to go tour the Ahwatukee Foothills News or the Scottsdale Times, you should, because it's not always about the tour, but it is always about the relationships and the experience.