

A Hope student's guide to Thanksgiving break

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IHOP

When is breakfast not an option?

Boston Market

It's like Thanksgiving, but without the family. Get your meal to-go with all the works.

Bob Evans

Order your Thanksgiving feast to-go or stop in for a classic meal.

The Windmill

Start your day off right before you begin dinner.

Downtown Bars

Holidays call for massive amounts of family and alcohol. Bars will be open at some point. Trust me.

When Thanksgiving Dinner Fails

Normally I don't encourage going out to eat on Thanksgiving because people should be with family. In order for workers to do that as well, they need to not be scheduled to work. That being said, as a server at Bob Evans for three years, Thanksgiving Day was the best shift ever for three reasons: I didn't have to help prepare dinner, I didn't have to work later than four and I made bank. People travel, have more people over than their houses can fit and sometimes just can't cook to save their lives. Embrace whichever party you're in—just tip nicely.

On this page, you will find some details about what restaurants are nearby and open on Thanksgiving Day.

*NOTE: Most restaurants are open for a limited time on Thanksgiving Day and the following Friday.

Unwanted Conversations and Ways to Avoid Them

We all know that conversations can become uncomfortable when so many people get together and eat for a rather long period of time. I would be a fool if I told you there was a way to completely avoid politics or an explanation that you actually have no idea what you're going to do after college. Even if you don't go home, you'll most likely get a call from a relative who misses you on this day.

Despite the fact that these conversations are unavoidable, there are plenty of activities to do instead of talking. Some families and friends might decide to go home and pass out after a large meal. You, at least, know better.

Here are some options in Holland and in general to do after Thanksgiving.

Movie Night

There are several decent movies in theaters, including "Coco," which released today. When in doubt, you can always rent from a Redbox when leaving Meijer or Walmart.

Sleep

Honestly, sleep is good. You're tired, break is never long enough. There's no drama while you're sleeping.

Outdoor Adventures

The forecast in Holland is looking to be a little colder, but not too cold to get outside. Although it's dark after dinner, taking a family walk can be a safe alternative to lying on the couch.

Game Night

Monopoly, Life and even Cards Against Humanity (although, maybe you save that last one for your friends) are fun games to get everyone involved.

Denny's

Have you seen "The Santa Clause" where Tim Allen takes his son to Denny's after burning the turkey? It works in real life, too.

Alpenrose

If you're feeling fancy, join their Thanksgiving buffet.

Grand King Buffet
All you can eat Chinese food. Do you need more?

China Kitchen
One of the quickest take-out restaurants. Ten minutes and you've got yourself a meal.

Relief for Students Staying on Campus

If you're unable to leave campus for Thanksgiving break, don't worry. You won't be alone. There are plenty of students who stay every year and make the most of it with their own "Friends-givings." For students who want to spend Thursday surrounded by others, some opportunities are available.

Scott Hall's Thanksgiving Dinner

Residents and leaders in the Scott Hall community stay and help international and other students who can't make it home enjoy a real Thanksgiving dinner. This is held Thursday in the late afternoon. Heads up is required so they can prepare enough food. For more information or to RSVP, please contact Jesus Romero at romero@hope.edu

Meijer Shuttle

If you want to make some food of your own, a Meijer Shuttle Bus will be running Wednesday from 6:30-8:30 p.m. but NOT Thursday. Phelps will also not be open until Sunday night dinner.