

Prank Protocol

Pranks have long been a part of undergraduate life at Caltech. When planned with consideration for the rest of the community, they can be very enjoyable. However, badly thought-out pranks can take unfair advantage of the community. All pranks must be cleared through the Office of Residential Experience, by way of the Senior Director of Student Activities and Programs and the Prank Committee. Consideration for prank planning and execution is available in the Honor Code Handbook available online at deans.caltech.edu/HonorCode (pg. 3, “V. Practical Jokes and Pranks,” September 2019 Revision).

Caltech students are allowed to plan and implement creative, safe, and approved pranks. The following protocol is designed to help make this possible through a prank registration, communication, and approval process. The Prank Committee is a student committee that meets regularly to discuss possible pranks as well as the possible funding for future efforts. The committee is trained on this protocol and is informed about how to consider prank applications.

1. Caltech pranks must be registered through the Senior Director of Student Activities and Programs and be approved by the Prank Committee. As part of this approval, measures will be taken to facilitate the health and safety of those involved. The form to register pranks is available online at tinyurl.com/CaltechPrank.

Unregistered pranks are prohibited. Students engaging in an unregistered prank will be subject to disciplinary action, if necessary.

2. Information in the registration includes nature, location, time of the prank, contact information, funding, and measures that will be taken to manage Caltech policies as well as to uphold local and state laws.
3. The Senior Director of Student Activities and Programs will inform relevant parties of the approved prank and activity. This may include but is not limited to Security; the ASCIT president; IHC chair; House President/Chancellor; Environment, Health, and Safety Office; and relevant members of the administration. The goal here is to inform and promote awareness, safety, support for the prank, not to limit Caltech’s prank tradition.
4. All pranks require those responsible to leave a note identifying themselves. The note must be prominent, legible, and permanent.
5. There are some items on campus that may not be pranked. This was established by previous student leaders. See IHC Resolutions: ihc.caltech.edu/resolutions.html.