



## How to Tour a Retirement Community

So you're starting to look at retirement communities... This can be an exciting process for the entire family. Make sure you are prepared! See below for a sample list of topics to ask about when you tour and visit potential locations. Not only are these good starting points for additional conversation, the answers should help you in moving forward.

### Community

- Carefully research who owns the community.
- Find out how long the community has been in business.
- Determine if the community is for-profit or not-for-profit; this can affect staff turnover and resident transience.
- Ask if the community offers a continuum of care, and find out if current residents have priority access to the higher levels of care.

### Costs

- Determine if the entrance fee is refundable or non-refundable.
- Ask about the monthly fees, and find out what these fees cover.
- Find out what utilities are covered in the monthly fees, and likewise, which utilities are extra (Examples include cable, phone and internet).
- Ask what services are covered in the monthly fees, and likewise, which services are extra (Examples include housekeeping, maintenance, transportation and parking).
- If the community offers a continuum of care, carefully research how the costs of future, higher levels of care are covered.

### Location

- Find out how close the community is to doctors and hospitals in the area.
- Ask about how close you will be to dining, shopping and entertainment opportunities.

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### Apartment Amenities

- Determine if you want a patio or balcony in your apartment and see if these are available options.
- If you plan on keeping your car, find out what the options are for parking.
- If you need additional storage, ask what's available.
- Ask about heat and air-conditioning; find out if these are controlled in each individual apartment home.

### Dining

- Ask if there is a dining program.
- Find out if there are limits on choices and dining times.

### Activities

- Ask if there are fitness-oriented activities available.
- Find out if there are spiritual, educational or cultural activities available.
- Ask for examples of recent off-campus trips.
- Ask if there is an activities director on staff.

Your goal should be to learn as much as possible about the retirement communities you are considering. Ultimately, it's all about being comfortable with your decision. We invite you to ask any and all questions when you visit Edgewood Summit; we are more than happy to share information about what a worry-free retirement lifestyle can offer!