



PARENT'S
FRATERNITY
AND SORORITY
INFORMATION
MANUAL
2016-2017



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August 1, 2016

Dear Parents,

Thank you for visiting our webpage and the **Parents' Guide to Greek Life** at West Virginia University.

We have developed this manual to help you understand the complexity of fraternity and sorority membership, and to give you some basic information about the West Virginia community.

Membership in a fraternity or sorority can be a valuable experience for your student. The contributions these organizations can make to their educational experience are numerous, as life-long friendships are made and leadership skills are developed.

We need you, as a parent, to be an active partner in your student's fraternity or sorority experience by becoming familiar with the community and the organization. Please do not hesitate to contact the staff in the Office of Greek Life if you ever have questions about anything. We are here to support you and your student in making their experience at West Virginia University one that they will remember for many years to come.

Sincerely,

Jessica W. Li, M.A.
Assistant Director

INTRODUCTION

The West Virginia University fraternity and sorority community consists of a diverse group of men and women within 30 fraternities and sororities. Social fraternities and sororities at WVU create smaller communities within the larger university environment and are committed to the basic principles of fraternity and sorority membership: **Academic Achievement, Service and Philanthropy, Leadership, Brotherhood & Sisterhood, Social, and Alumni Involvement.** Building lifelong friendships through collaborative and meaningful relationships is also a key component to the fraternal experience at West Virginia University.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE



Fraternities and sororities at West Virginia University are considered private, independent, and self-governing entities that freely associate and determine their own membership. Each fraternity and sorority is a member of one of the three governing councils at West Virginia University, i.e., the Interfraternity Council (IFC), the National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC), or the Panhellenic Association (PA). Each fraternity or sorority is affiliated with a national or international organization.

OFFICE OF GREEK LIFE



The purpose of the Office of Greek Life at West Virginia University will be to create a fraternity and sorority community at West Virginia University that will support and complement the academic mission of the University, that believes in and abides by the founding principles of the inter/national organizations and the responsibilities associated with fraternity or sorority membership, and that promotes the development of its members intellectually, socially, and ethically.

WHY DO STUDENTS JOIN A FRATERNITY OR SORORITY?

The reasons that a student may choose to explore social or service fraternity or sorority life are as varied as the students themselves who join. Many students find that membership in a chapter gives them opportunities to develop valuable skills they have not been able to find elsewhere. Sometimes, joining a fraternity or sorority is an excellent way for some students to meet people, get more acclimated to campus life, gain important leadership skills, have fun, contribute to the community, and/or establish life-long friendships. Fraternity and sorority life is not for every student – but it is a great opportunity for many!

PHILANTHROPY AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

An important part of a college education is learning to work with others and to give of oneself. Fraternities and sororities work with those in need through their individual national philanthropies and local service projects. Community service activities enhance members' personal awareness, while expanding their individual well-being.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT



Academic achievement plays an important role in fraternity and sorority life. Each individual chapter places great emphasis on high scholarship and promotes academic excellence through supervised study halls, incentive programs, and access to tutoring. To remain a member in good standing, each new and initiated member must maintain a chapter-specified grade point average. The overall fraternity and sorority cumulative and semester grade point averages (GPA) for the spring 2016 semester are provided below:

SPRING 2016 ACADEMIC REPORT			
All Fraternity GPA	2.67	# Fraternity Men	
All Sorority GPA	3.10	# Sorority Women	
All Fraternity / Sorority GPA	2.90	TOTAL	2,238 (10%)
Undergraduate GPA	2.71	# Independent Men	11,356
Undergraduate Women GPA	3.04	# Independent Women	9,670
All-University GPA	2.86	TOTAL	21,026

GREEK SING

Greek Sing was started as a performance opportunity for fraternities and sororities to showcase their musical talents. The event was restarted in 2016 by the Interfraternity Council and the newly formed Office of Greek Life at West Virginia University.

The event is held annually during the fall semester. The final staged performance is held in the Mountainlair Student Union and is open to the general public.



NATIONAL PAN-HELLENIC COUNCIL STEP SHOW



Each spring the National Pan-Hellenic Council, Inc., which is comprised of nine Historically Black Greek Letter fraternities and sororities known as the "Divine Nine," sponsors their annual Step Show. The show has been a large success and attendance has grown steadily.

Since this show is such a big tradition, a considerable number of alumni return to campus for this event. African American stepping finds its origins in a combination of military close-order and exhibition drill, and in African foot dances such as the Welly "gumbboot" dance. During the mid-20th century, traditionally-black fraternities and sororities on United States college campuses traditionally sang and chanted to celebrate "crossing over" into membership of their respective organizations.

"Stepping is a rising art form and an important part of America's artistic and cultural heritage. In stepping, the body is used as an instrument to create intricate rhythms and sounds through a combination of footsteps, claps and the spoken word. Stepping is based on a long and rich tradition in African-based communities that use movement, words and sounds to communicate allegiance to a

group." <http://www.stepafrika.org/company/what-is-stepping/>

Notwithstanding its collegiate roots, stepping is also performed by schools, churches, cheerleading squads, and drill teams. Popularized by National Pan-Hellenic Council member organizations that perform at local and national competitions, stepping has been featured in films and shows such as *School Daze* (1988), *Mac and Me* (1988), *Drumline* (2002), *Stomp the Yard* (2007), and the TV series, *A Different World* and *Sister, Sister*. The first nationally syndicated stepping contest, S.T.O.M.P., aired in 1992, and The Howard University "Beta" chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. stepped at former President Bill Clinton's inauguration, after appearing in a Foot Locker commercial in December 1992.

GREEK WEEK

Greek Week is a time in the spring when the members of the fraternity and sorority community come together around events of celebration such as community service events or events that celebrate the fraternity and sorority community. Traditionally, fraternity and sorority chapters are paired into teams that compete to win points to determine the Greek Week champion. Points are determined by chapters' winning the various events and/or by having the highest participation and contributing the most to the community service effort.



FRATERNITY AND SORORITY LEADERSHIP

FRATERNITY AND SORORITY LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

The fraternity and sorority community offers endless opportunities for developing one's leadership skills. The Fraternity and Sorority Leadership Institute was created to offer intensive eight-week leadership training for emerging leaders within the fraternity and sorority community. Members are exposed to opportunities to **develop skills in organizational management, delegation, goal setting and time management**. Chapters also provide educational programming in such areas as time management, diversity, leadership, communication and other informative topics.



UNDERGRADUATE INTER-FRATERNITY INSTITUTE - UIFI

UIFI is a five-day leadership school held each summer (sessions run throughout the summer for students convenience) that brings together 50 fraternity men and sorority women from across the country. Students stay in a fraternity or sorority house on the Indiana University campus in Bloomington, Indiana or at UCLA in Los Angeles. UIFI is one of the best leadership schools in the country and is tailored exclusively for fraternity and sorority leaders.

SOCIAL

As many students will agree, campus life often extends beyond the realm of the classroom to create a balance between one's academics and social life. The fraternity and sorority community offers students unique social opportunities, providing them with enriching experiences unmatched anywhere else. Activities range from: exchanges or socials between individual fraternities and sororities, events hosted in local clubs, functions with alumnae, athletic competitions and formal dances, brother and sister only events, Soul Food dinner nights, BBQ cookouts, educational programming, panel discussions, and date parties. Social events provide opportunities for members to bring dates and/or meet new people. Attendance at these events is

not required, but for many students, social events provide a nice balance to their challenging academic curriculum.

THE GREEK ALPHABET

The **Greek Alphabet** is a set of twenty-four letters that has been used to write the Greek language since the late 9th or early 8th century. The Greek alphabet recognized today arose after the Greek Dark Ages — the period between the downfall of Mycenae (ca. 1200 BC) and the rise of Ancient Greece, which begins with the appearance of the epics of Homer, around 800 BC, and the institution of the Ancient Olympic Games in 776 BC. Its most notable change, as an adaptation of the Phoenician alphabet, is the introduction of vowel letters, without which Greek would be illegible.



FRATERNITY AND SORORITY HAZING

HAZING = ABUSE
RECOGNIZE IT. REPORT IT. END IT.

INTRODUCTION:

Hazing is any physical or mental act that puts a person in a stressful or dangerous situation. Hazing is not permitted by any of the three fraternity and sorority governing councils at West Virginia University. Hazing can manifest itself in many different ways and it is usually hard to detect since the participants are usually willing to be subjected to these juvenile and sometimes dangerous acts. Secrecy also plays a major role. If you suspect that hazing is happening in a fraternity or sorority at West Virginia University, **please call the Office of Greek Life at 304-293-8201**. Every effort will be made to respect the confidentiality of complaints. ***This is not the time parents should be concerned about being your student's best friend. Hazing is a crime and parents are encouraged to contact the Office of Greek Life if they suspect hazing is occurring.*** Remember, **a student cannot agree or volunteer to be hazed**. The law is clear. Just because a student wants to participate in a particular activity does not mean the activity is acceptable or that the fraternity or sorority may permit the activity to occur.



HAZING

No chapter, colony, student or alumnus shall conduct nor condone hazing activities. Hazing activities are defined as:

"Any action taken or situation created, intentionally, whether on or off fraternity premises, to produce mental or physical discomfort, embarrassment, harassment, or ridicule. Such activities may include but are not limited to the following: use of alcohol; paddling in any form; creation of excessive fatigue; physical and psychological shocks; quests, treasure hunts, scavenger hunts, road trips or any other such activities carried on outside or inside of the confines of the chapter house; wearing of public apparel which is conspicuous and not normally in good taste; engaging in public stunts and buffoonery; morally degrading or humiliating games and activities; and any other activities which are not consistent with academic achievement, fraternal law, ritual or policy or the regulations and policies of the educational institution or applicable state law."

The West Virginia University Statement on Hazing



The University defines Hazing any action or situation which (1) endangers or adversely affects the mental or physical health or safety of another person or persons; (2) would cause extreme embarrassment or adversely affect the dignity of another person or persons; or (3) causes another person or persons to destroy or remove public or private property. This includes, but is not limited to, any brutality of a physical nature, such as whipping, beating, branding, forced consumption of any food, alcohol, drug or other substance, any activity which would subject an individual or individuals to extreme mental stress, such as sleep deprivation or forced exclusion from social contact. Hazing with or without the consent of a student is prohibited. Initiations or activities of student organizations are prohibited from including any feature that is dangerous, harmful, or degrading to the student. A violation of this prohibition renders both the organization and participating individuals subject to discipline. Any student who knowingly witnesses or acquiesces in the presence of hazing is also subject to discipline.

Hazing includes, but is not limited to, any brutality of a physical nature, such as whipping, beating, branding, forced calisthenics, exposure to the elements, forced consumption of any food, liquor, drug, or other substance or any other forced physical activity that could adversely affect the physical health and

safety of the individual to extreme mental stress, such as sleep deprivation, forced exclusion from social contact, forced conduct that could result in extreme embarrassment, or any other forced activity that could adversely affect the mental health or dignity of the individual, or any willful destruction or removal of public or private property.

Any activities as described in this definition upon which the initiation or admission into or affiliation with or continued membership in a recognized student organization is directly or indirectly conditioned shall be presumed to be "forced" activity, the willingness of an individual to participate in such activity notwithstanding. Any recognized student organization that commits hazing is subject to disciplinary action by the appropriate registering organization.

The State of West Virginia Hazing Law

CHAPTER 18. EDUCATION, ARTICLE 16. ANTIHAZING LAW.

§18-16-1. Short title.

This article shall be known and may be cited as the "Anti-hazing Law".

§18-16-2. Definitions.

(a) "Hazing" means to cause any action or situation which recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental or physical health or safety of another person or persons or causes another person or persons to destroy or remove public or private property for the purpose of initiation or admission into or affiliation with, or as a condition for continued membership in, any organization operating under the sanction of or recognized as an organization by an institution of higher education. The term includes, but is not limited to, any brutality of a physical nature, such as whipping, beating, branding, forced consumption of any food, liquor, drug or other substance, or any other forced physical activity which could adversely affect the physical health and safety of the individual or individuals, and includes any activity which would subject the individual or individuals to extreme mental stress, such as sleep deprivation, forced exclusion from social contact, forced conduct which could result in extreme embarrassment, or any other forced activity which could adversely affect the mental health or dignity of the individual or individuals, or any willful destruction or removal of public or private property: *Provided*, That the implied or expressed consent or willingness of a person or persons to hazing shall not be a defense under this section.

(b) "Institution of higher education" or "institution" means any public or private institution as defined in section two, article one, chapter eighteen-b of this code.

§18-16-3. Hazing prohibited.

Any person or persons who causes hazing is guilty of a

misdemeanor, and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not less than one hundred dollars nor more than one thousand dollars, or confined in a county or regional jail, not more than nine months, or both fined and imprisoned: *Provided*, That if the act would otherwise be deemed a felony as defined in this code, the person committing such act may be found guilty of such felony and be subject to penalties provided for



such felony.

§18-16-4. Enforcement by institution.

- (a) *Anti-Hazing Policy.* -- The university of West Virginia board of trustees created pursuant to article two, chapter eighteen-b of this code and the board of directors of the state college system created pursuant to article three of said chapter shall by the first day of August, one thousand nine hundred ninety-five, promulgate guidelines for anti-hazing policies.
- (b) *Enforcement and penalties.*--
- (1) Each institution shall provide a program for the enforcement of such rules and shall adopt appropriate penalties for violations of such rules to be administered by the person or agency at the institution responsible for the sanctioning or recognition of such organizations.
 - (2) In the case of an organization which authorizes hazing in blatant disregard of such rules, penalties may also include rescission of permission for that organization to operate on campus property or to otherwise operate under the sanction or recognition of the institution.
 - (3) All penalties imposed under the authority of this section shall be in addition to any penalty imposed for violation of section three of this article or of any of the criminal laws of this state or for violation of any other institutional rule to which the violator may be subject.
 - (4) Rules adopted pursuant hereto apply to acts conducted on or off campus whenever such acts are deemed to constitute hazing.

REPORT HAZING

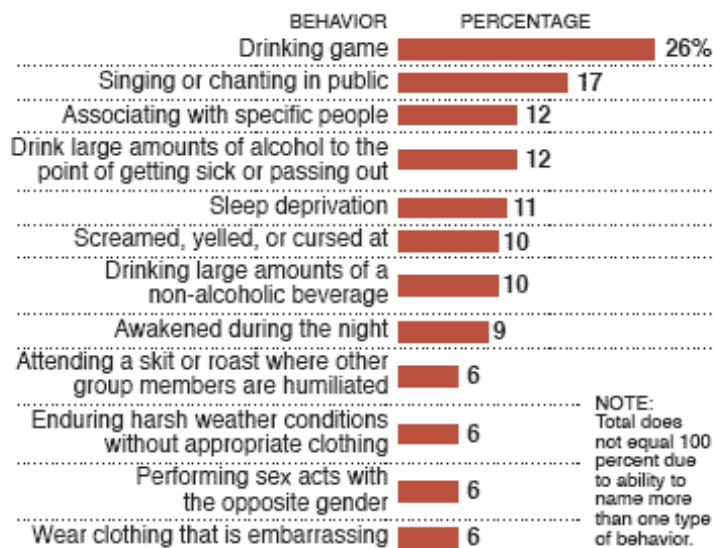
304-293-8201



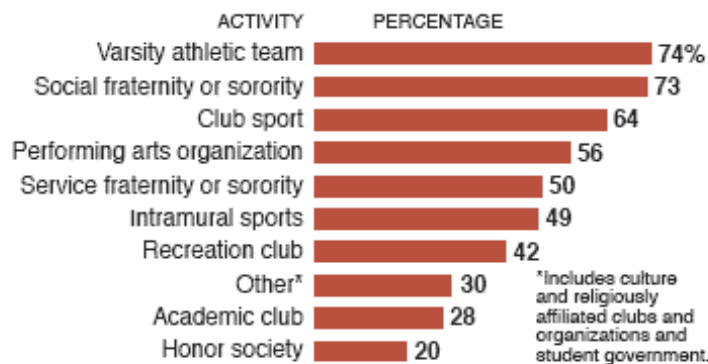
Hazing occurs across campus groups

A recent nationwide study reports hazing occurring in many different college athletic and campus groups, with alcohol a part of the most common hazing behavior.

Most frequently reported college hazing behaviors



Percentage of students in each activity experiencing at least one hazing behavior



SOURCE: College of Education and Human Development, University of Maine AP

DICTIONARY OF TERMS

Active: A student who is a fully initiated member of a fraternity or a sorority.

Associate or Pledge or New Member: A student who has not been initiated and who may be serving as a "pledge" or "associate member" of a fraternity or sorority during the new member education process. This term is also used to refer to a new member of a fraternity or a sorority. After the recruitment period, new members learn the history of their national and local chapters, learn the values and principles of the group, and get to know their fellow new members and the initiated members.

Alumni/ae: Members of a fraternity or sorority who have graduated.

Bid: An invitation to join a fraternity or a sorority.

Chapter: A term used to refer to undergraduate fraternity or sorority students in a particular fraternity or sorority. This term is also used nationally to distinguish one group of students on a particular campus from those on another campus. Many national groups give their chapters names, such as a Greek-letter, or a combination of letters, or a Greek-letter and a state. Examples are the West Virginia Alpha Chapter which is the designation for the Pi Beta Phi Sorority Chapter at WVU, the West Virginia Gamma Chapter of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity at WVU, or the Pi Mu Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. at WVU.

Badge: The membership pin of an initiated member.

Being "On-line" (NPHC): Traditionally used to describe the intake process in HBGLOs.

Big Brother or Sister: An active member of a fraternity or sorority who serves as a mentor to a new member, guiding him or her through the new member program and initiation.

Brand: Organizational symbol(s) burned into members, usually on the arms or chest. Relates to scarification practiced by African tribes. Branding is a voluntary process, not a requirement for membership. **West Virginia prohibits this practice.**

Brother: A term used by fraternity members to refer to one another.

Call/Chant: Audible sounds used by members to acknowledge or gain the attention of other members. Calls may vary regionally within organizations, and some organizations may use more than one call.

Chapter: A local group of the larger (inter)national organization, designated by a special Greek name.

Crossing Over (NPHC): Becoming an initiated member of a National Pan-Hellenic Council, Inc. organization.

Crossing Over, Cross, Crossing the "Burning Sands" (NPHC): A term or phrase used to reflect on an old historical tradition where new initiatives of a historically Black Greek Letter Organization would walk over hot sand together to symbolize the shared experience that would always seal the bond between them forever, as sand essentially lasts forever. Today, organizations have banned this idea, but may still include regular sand as a part of approved intake rituals.

Dean / Chapter Dean / Asst. Dean of Pledges (ADP) / Membership Intake Director (NPHC): Those individuals who are primarily responsible for leading or assisting with the new membership intake process. These terms may vary and some may only be used to carry on tradition while some titles of changed.

Deferred Recruitment: West Virginia University has adopted a deferred recruitment whereby all students at the University will not be eligible for membership in a social fraternity or sorority unless the student has (1) earned a minimum of twelve (12) credits as a full-time student at the University in Morgantown, and (2) holds a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.5. Exceptions to this policy are not considered or granted under any circumstance.

Dropped (NPHC): Traditionally used to describe when a potential new member decided not to continue pursuing membership into a HBGLO.

Financial: A term used to refer to an active member. (ie. Someone paying dues.)

Executive Office: The central organization of a particular fraternity or sorority. Often referred to as National Headquarters, International Headquarters, or just "Nationals".

Frat: A term used by some fraternities to refer to another member of their fraternity. Sometimes they will refer to someone as simply "Frat".

Fraternity: A group of men or women bonded together by their ritual that contains the founding principles, ideals and aspirations of the group. Some national women's groups normally called a "sorority" actually refer to themselves as "women's fraternities."

GDI: Is the term used by to refer to an individual who is not a member of a fraternity or sorority.

Grad or Alumni Chapter: The graduate chapter of NPHC organization. Usually the local grad chapter oversees the operations of the undergraduate chapter.

Hand Sign: A hand sign is sometimes used to identify members of the same organization. Most have a deep meaning to that organization or ritualistic symbol.

Independent: A person who is not a member of a fraternity or a sorority.

Informational Meeting or Seminar (NPHC): A meeting usually conducted by most HBGLOs to formally introduce interested individuals of a particular organization to the history and process to pursue membership.

Initiation or Ritual: The formal ceremony that marks the beginning of active membership. Each chapter has a different set of requirements in order to be initiated.

Initiation: A traditional ritual signifying full membership in a fraternity or sorority. This ceremony is normally very serious and has been passed down by the original founders of the organization. The official secrets of the organization are shared during the formal ritual of initiation.

Intake (NPHC): The process by which individuals pursue to gain membership into a Historically Black Greek Letter Organization under NPHC. Each HBGL organization determines when intake will be conducted, and thus it is not a given that more than one organization will conduct intake at the same time. Similarly, NPHC organizations do not conduct intake together. In general, NPHC organizations require sophomore status and a 2.5 cumulative GPA for someone to participate in intake.

Lavaliere: A pendant with a fraternity or sorority's Greek letters on it.

Legacy: The brother or sister, son or daughter, or grandson or granddaughter of a fraternity or sorority member. Each (inter)national organization has its own policy regarding legacies.

Line Name: The name given to a pledge class. Some groups do number their lines by Alpha, Beta, Gamma, etc. But also their line has a name to define them. Many times it is an acronym.

National: The national or international governing organization of a fraternity or sorority. Students sometimes inaccurately refer to this as "nationals."

Neophyte (aka "Neo"): A new member of a cultural Greek organization

New Member Program: A period of learning about fraternity and sorority life prior to initiation. This period varies for all groups.

Para (aka "Nalia"): Short for paraphernalia. The different items of Greek clothing or items someone is wearing.

Philanthropy: A charitable fundraiser or service project sponsored by a fraternity or sorority. This is not community service.

Polemarch / Basileus (NPHC): these terms are titles that signify the leadership role of members as presidents of HBGLOs organizations.

Prophytes (NPHC): refers to the individuals who were initiated prior to that of the current or new members. They may also be loosely or affectionately referred to as "Old-Heads" upon being at least 5 plus years removed from their initial membership.

Recruitment or Rush: Recruitment, informally called "rush", is the time when fraternities and sororities recruit new members. IFC fraternities usually recruit the first two weeks of each semester. Panhellenic sororities usually conduct formal recruitment during the first few weeks of spring semester (for first-year students) and the first two weeks of the fall semester (for returning and transfer students). NPHC fraternities and sororities conduct what is referred to as "intake" throughout the academic year as determined by their membership and inter/national fraternity and sorority headquarters.

Sands (NPHC): Refers to the individuals who were initiated during the same semester.

Soror (NPHC): A term used to refer to a sister in a NPHC sorority.

Sorority: A group of women bonded together by their ritual that contains the founding principles, ideals and aspirations of the group. These groups are also called "women's fraternities".

SPECIAL / SPEC (Pronounced as Spesh) (NPHC): This is a term used to characterize the close or "special" relationship that another member of the same or different HBGLO form during the intake process. Older members of the organization choose their SPECIALS at their own discretion and agree to serve, continually, as a life-long role model and support system for those they choose to be their Spec

Stroll or Strolling (NPHC): Synchronized movements, usually done while being positioned in a line, which demonstrate an array of unique steps, arm and body movements that either pull from traditional moves or are influenced by pop culture. Historically African American / Black Greek Letter Organizations usually have universal strolls that are known by each respective organization nation-wide or are created by the chapter's step master or chapter members.

TeeKee: The large necklace worn with large Greek letters on them. Similar to a lavalier but much larger and often made out of wood.

Yard: The term used by NPHC members to refer to the particular campus or university a chapter is located.

NATIONAL FRATERNITY AND SORORITY ORGANIZATIONS

Association of Fraternity Advisors - AFA www.fraternityadvisors.org



association of fraternity/sorority advisors

9640 North Augusta Drive, Suite 433 | Carmel, IN 46032 | Phone: 317-876-1632 | Fax: 317-876-3981

The Association of Fraternity and Sorority Advisors (AFA) is the professional group for the 600 Fraternity and Sorority Advisors in North America. This group meets annually in December to educate each other and to stay abreast of current trends in the fraternity and sorority world. This meeting is held in conjunction with the North American Interfraternity Conference (the umbrella group for the 62 men's groups in North America), the National Panhellenic Conference (the umbrella group for the 26 women's groups in North America) and the National Pan-Hellenic Council (the umbrella group for the 9 historically African-American fraternities and sororities).

National Pan-Hellenic Council, Inc. – NPHC www.nphchq.org



The NPHC is a national group of the nine (9) historically African-American fraternities (5) and sororities (4) in North America. There is a national conference every other year that undergraduate students attend to share ideas about fraternity and sorority life. Regional and state conferences are also held every other year (even numbered years).

National Panhellenic Conference - NPC www.npcwomen.org



The National Panhellenic Conference (NPC) is a national group of 26 women's sororities in North America who are members of the National Panhellenic Conference. Representatives from each national sorority meet annually to develop policies and procedures that govern all 26 groups throughout the United States.

North American Interfraternity Conference - NIC www.nicindy.org

Founded in 1909, the North-American Interfraternity Conference, Inc. is the trade association representing 70 International and National Men's Fraternities. The NIC serves to advocate the needs of its member fraternities through enrichment of the fraternity experience; advancement and growth of the fraternity community; and enhancement of the educational mission of the host institutions.



The NIC is also committed to enhancing the benefits of fraternity membership through its relationship with Interfraternity Councils. Today, the NIC's member organizations have approximately 5,500 chapters located on more than 800 campuses in the United States and Canada with approximately 350,000 undergraduate members.

FRATERNITY AND SORORITY ACADEMIC HONOR SOCIETIES



GAMMA SIGMA ALPHA - NATIONAL FRATERNITY AND SORORITY ACADEMIC HONOR SOCIETY

Gamma Sigma Alpha is a national Greek-Letter academic honor society. In order to be eligible for membership, a student must have a 3.5 cumulative GPA and be a junior or senior. Applications are accepted each semester, with applicants who meet the criteria automatically granted membership. A one-time national fee is charged, for which members receive a certificate and a pin.



ORDER OF OMEGA - NATIONAL FRATERNITY AND SORORITY LEADERSHIP HONOR SOCIETY <http://www.orderofomega.org/>

Membership in the Order of Omega is limited to the top 3% of fraternity and sorority members at West Virginia University. In order to be eligible, a student must hold a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 and be a junior or senior. In addition, students must demonstrate significant leadership and service to the campus and/or fraternity and sorority community. Applications are accepted each semester, with the current student members selecting the new members. Students that are selected pay a one-time national fee of \$100.00, for which they receive a certificate and a pin. The Order of Omega also selects an Honor Initiate each semester. This person must have given significantly for the improvement of the West Virginia University fraternity and sorority community.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What is a fraternity or a sorority?

Fraternity and sorority organizations at West Virginia University, identified in this document, are considered *private, independent, and self-governing* entities that *freely associate and determine their own membership*.

Parents should not expect the University to resolve issues or intervene in any decision related to their student's membership, membership status, continued membership, and/or any judicial action a national or international headquarters may take related to the organization.

A fraternity or sorority is a group of men or women bound together by brotherhood or sisterhood, common goals, and aspirations. The members that form a fraternity or sorority share their efforts, friendship, and knowledge.

Together these members learn, grow and make the fraternity and sorority stronger. Their common experience builds ties that last a lifetime. This forms a brotherhood or sisterhood amongst members which helps to develop strong and creative leadership leading to success.

Though there are many different fraternities and sororities here at West Virginia University, they all share common founding principles that are of interest to any WVU student. Fraternities and sororities enhance your educational experience by emphasizing intellectual, interpersonal, and social development. The ideals of lifelong friendship, sound education, campus and community service, and social interaction are what fraternity and sorority members strive to live by every day.

2. What are the benefits of joining a fraternity or sorority?

A student experiences numerous benefits from joining a fraternity or a sorority such as developing

supportive friends, engaging in a wide variety of leadership opportunities, participating in organized philanthropic and community service projects, networking for enhanced career opportunities, and becoming part of a national network.

This only begins the description of how being a member of a fraternity or a sorority will positively affect your son's or daughter's life; and membership is for life!

3. Will joining a fraternity or sorority affect my student's academic success?

The act of joining should not have any effect on a student's GPA. Making good grades in college is responsibility of the student. Your student's academic performance will be affected by their ability to manage their time well in addition to the amount of support they receive from the chapter they join. This is something they should ask about before they join a particular fraternity or sorority. Educational sessions on time management, resume writing, study skills, and more are offered and encouraged.

4. There are so many fraternities and sororities at West Virginia University. How do I tell the difference between all of them?

One of the ways to assist with this understanding is to visit the web pages for the fraternity and sorority governing councils. There are three (3) governing councils:

- a. Interfraternity Council (IFC),
- b. National Pan-Hellenic Council, Inc. (NPHC),
- c. Panhellenic Association (PA).

5. Do all fraternities and sororities have chapter houses?

No, fourteen (14) of the seventeen (17) IFC fraternities have chapter houses and eight (8) of the nine (9) Panhellenic Association sororities have chapter houses. An alumni corporation or an independent landlord owns some of the chapter houses.

6. Does your student have to live in the fraternity or sorority chapter house?

Living in the chapter house is determined by the individual chapter. Each group has their own requirements and your student should ask about this during the recruitment process. Fraternity and sorority chapter house living is comparable to living in the residence halls or in an apartment. Most chapters' fees include room and meals; however, some chapters do not offer meal plans. Information about costs can be obtained from the individual fraternities and sororities.

7. Are fraternities and sororities just like those on TV and in the movies?

Absolutely not!! Shows such as the new ABC Family series "GREEK" do not give accurate depictions of WVU fraternity and sorority Life. Many of the portrayals on television and in media thrive on fraternity and sorority stereotypes that are not typical at West Virginia University. Every fraternity and sorority is different and unique. West Virginia University prides itself on hosting over 30 fraternities and sororities, each with their own characteristics and personalities. The images portrayed in the movies and on TV do not reflect those attitudes at WVU.

8. Fraternity and sorority members are very cliquish, aren't they?

This could not be further from the truth. Our fraternity and sorority students represent a large variety of ethnic, economic, and social backgrounds. Students of all majors and interests are affiliated with a fraternity or sorority. One of the greatest aspects of Greek Life is that each chapter offers something different to each member. Also, many members of the West Virginia University fraternities and

sororities are involved in various other organizations in addition to their specific chapter! As stated previously, fraternity men and sorority women are involved in numerous organizations outside of Greek Life.

9. Don't fraternities and sororities take up a lot of time?

Participating in any worthwhile activity always requires an investment of one's time. Research has shown that involved college students are more likely to graduate, and they report greater satisfaction with their college experience. Through the fraternity and sorority experience, you will learn how to balance academics, work, campus involvement, and social commitments.

While each fraternity and sorority membership requirements differ, a general range for commitment is anywhere from 2 to 8 hours a week. Whether it be a community service project, planning an event, or regular weekly meetings, members have learned to manage their time wisely with other commitments such as schoolwork, a job, friends outside of their chapter, as well as other organizations that they are involved.

It is important to note that during the initial New Member Education process, more time will be required. During this time, it will be very important for your student to manage their time effectively. At the same time, each chapter understands the importance of scholarship and respects each New Member's need to study. Like we said above, time management is important during this stage!

10. Membership in fraternities and sororities is expensive, right?

Membership in fraternities and sororities is not for everyone. It is important that your student understands that membership involves semester dues. Annual membership dues vary per semester. An estimated range is anywhere from \$200 to \$600 each semester. NPHC chapters may initially be more expensive.

These fees are used to pay chapter insurance fees, national or international dues and fees, community service events, scholarships, intramural participation, and many of the social events offered. As some say – "Fraternity and sorority life is the best deal at college." Your student should ask about the costs before joining a particular group so there will be no surprises.

Every fraternity and sorority is self-supportive. Each chapter and its national headquarters determine the monthly/semester dues and membership fees. Some chapters also include a one-time association and initiation fee. Many chapters offer a payment plan. While the costs vary by chapter, the yearly expenses to live in a fraternity and sorority houses are comparable to the residence hall costs, and in many instances are less expensive.

11. If your student is new to West Virginia University, should s/he wait until they know their way around classes and campus before they join?

West Virginia University is a large campus with over 30,000 students. What better way than to start making the campus smaller than to meet people through joining a sorority?

At the same time, your student will not be eligible for fraternity or sorority membership until s/he has earned a minimum of twelve (12) credits during full-time study at the University in Morgantown, and if s/he was earned a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.5. Advanced standing academic credit or academic credit earned while in high school does not count toward the twelve (12) hour minimum credit needed to membership eligibility. Exceptions to this policy will not be considered or granted.

The sooner your student gets to know more people; the chances are the more comfortable s/he will feel on campus. By joining a fraternity or sorority during the first year, your student will find adjusting to life in Morgantown a lot easier. While joining as a sophomore and junior is highly encouraged as well, many of the men and women who waited a year until joining a fraternity or sorority wish that they had joined sooner!

12. How does my student pursue membership in a National Pan-Hellenic Council, Inc. fraternity or sorority?

(Reference the Informational Meetings in the answer and attending programs etc.)

13. What is "The Divine Nine"?

There are nine historically Black Greek-letter organizations (BGLOs) that make up the National Pan-Hellenic Council, Inc. Collectively, these organizations are referred to as "The Divine Nine." Each of these fraternities and sororities is rich in history - ties to one or more of these organizations may be found in many college-educated Black families in the United States. The organizations highlighted below are currently active at West Virginia University.

- Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Founded 1906, Cornell University
- Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Founded 1908, Howard University
- Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Founded 1911, Indiana University
- Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Founded 1911, Howard University
- Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Founded 1913, Howard University
- Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Founded 1914, Howard University
- Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Founded 1920, Howard University
- Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Founded 1922, Butler University
- Iota Phi Theta Fraternity, Founded 1963, Morgan State University

14. What is Recruitment (Rush)?

Recruitment is the new term for what used to be called "Rush." This is the time when fraternities and sororities seek and recruit their new members. The recruitment events are at different times for men and for women and are usually at the beginning of both the fall and spring semesters. The overwhelming majority of our students participate in recruitment during the fall semester.

15. If a student participates in Rush/Recruitment, do they have to join?

No. Recruitment is a time to see what fraternity or sorority life can offer your student. We invite your student to explore the various opportunities available to you as a WVU fraternity man or sorority woman! Participating in the Recruitment process and its functions does not commit a student to joining in any way!

16. What is Bid Day?

Bid Day is when men and women pick up their invitations to join a fraternity or a sorority for Interfraternity Council and Panhellenic Association chapters. This is an extremely exciting time as it is the first time that your New Member class will come together.

17. What is a Probate Show, Pro-Show or Coming Out Show?

This is when historically African-American fraternities and sororities (The Divine Nine) host a public showcase to introduce their newest members to the community. This presentation may include various

traditions such as, but not limited to: stepping, strolling, the recitation of poems and fraternal literature, singing, and personal testimonies describing their journey to becoming a new member.

THE THREE WVU FRATERNITY AND SORORITY GOVERNING COUNCILS

The fraternity and sorority community at West Virginia University is coordinated by three separate governing councils comprised of elected representatives from within the organization represented by the council:

Interfraternity Council (IFC)
National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC)
Panhellenic Association (PA)

An organization's inter/national affiliation determines membership within a particular governing council. While each council has similar styles of operation, they have different recruitment methods as well as different issues they face.

MEMBERSHIP PER COUNCIL AFFILIATION

THE INTERFRATERNITY COUNCIL

<http://www.wvuifc.com/>

The Interfraternity Council is the governing council for the fraternity community at West Virginia University. The purpose of the IFC is to govern the member fraternities, promote the intellectual, philanthropic, fraternal and social values of the fraternities at West Virginia University, and to maintain cooperation between these social fraternities, their respective inter/national headquarters, alumni, the Morgantown community, and the University.



The current fraternity chapters that are members of West Virginia University Interfraternity Council are listed below:

Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity
Alpha Epsilon Pi Fraternity
Alpha Sigma Phi Fraternity
Kappa Alpha Order Fraternity
Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity
Phi Delta Theta Fraternity
Phi Gamma Delta Fraternity
Phi Kappa Psi Fraternity
Phi Sigma Kappa Fraternity
Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity
Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity
Sigma Alpha Mu Fraternity
Sigma Chi Fraternity
Sigma Nu Fraternity
Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity
Tau Kappa Epsilon Fraternity
Theta Chi Fraternity

THE NATIONAL PAN-HELLENIC COUNCIL, INC.

<http://wvunphcwvu.wix.com/wvunphc>



The National Pan-Hellenic Council, Inc. (NPHC) promotes interaction through forums, meetings and other mediums for the exchange of information, and engages in cooperative programming and initiatives through various activities and functions.

On May 10, 1930, on the campus of Howard University, in Washington DC, the National Pan-Hellenic Council was formed as a permanent organization with the following charter members: Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. and Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. In 1931, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. and Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. joined the Council. Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. joined in 1937 and Iota Phi Theta Fraternity, Inc. completed the list of member organizations in 1997.

The stated purpose and mission of the organization in 1930 was "Unanimity of thought and action as far as possible in the conduct of Greek-letter collegiate fraternities and sororities, and to consider problems of mutual interest to its member organizations." Early in 1937, the organization was incorporated under the laws of the State of Illinois and became known as "The National Pan-Hellenic Council, Incorporated." The National Pan-Hellenic Council, Inc. (NPHC) is composed of nine (9) International Greek-letter sororities and fraternities:

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Founded 1906, Cornell University
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Founded 1908, Howard University
Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Founded 1911, Indiana University
Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Founded 1911, Howard University
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Founded 1913, Howard University
Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Founded 1914, Howard University
Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Founded 1920, Howard University
Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Founded 1922, Butler University
Iota Phi Theta Fraternity, Founded 1963, Morgan State University

THE PANHELLENIC ASSOCIATION

www.wvupanhellenic.com



The Panhellenic Association serves as the governing body for eight (8) national sororities at West Virginia University. The Council works to unite sorority women to focus on common goals and to create a network of support by providing interactive programs and activities for sorority women and all WVU students. Every sorority member belongs to the Panhellenic Association immediately upon becoming a new member. One delegate from each chapter serves on the Council, which is led by elected members from the chapters represented.

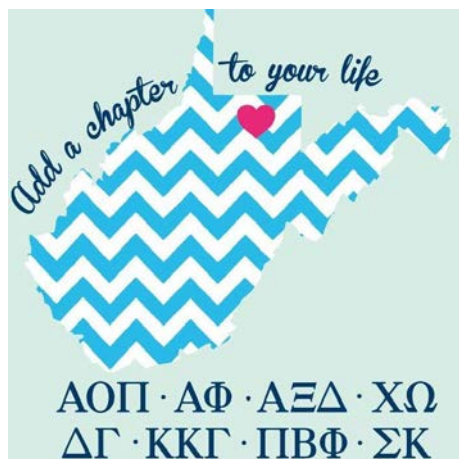
The sorority chapters that are members of West Virginia University Panhellenic Association are listed below:

Alpha Omega Epsilon Sorority
Alpha Omicron Pi Sorority

Alpha Phi Sorority
Alpha Xi Delta Sorority
Chi Omega Sorority
Delta Gamma Sorority
Kappa Kappa Gamma Sorority
Pi Beta Phi Sorority
Sigma Kappa Sorority

PANHELLENIC ASSOCIATION SORORITY RECRUITMENT OVERVIEW

The Panhellenic Association conducts two recruitment processes during the academic year, one during the fall for upperclass and transfer students and one during the spring semester for second-semester first-year women. The spring process is a formal opportunity for women to meet with all eight (8) Panhellenic sororities on campus. The fall process is an informal opportunity for interested women to learn more about the various chapters. Chapters may choose to participate in fall recruitment if their chapter's membership is not at "chapter total", which is the number of members a chapter may have as designated by the Panhellenic Association.



The spring membership recruitment process typically spans a two-week period in January or early February and consists of four opportunities for potential new members (PNM) and chapters to meet. The process operates under the banner of a "mutual selection process" in which, following each round, potential new members provide the Panhellenic Association with a list of the chapters that they would like to visit with again. At the same time, chapters will compile a list of the women that they would like to see again. If the PNM and chapter choose each other, they will be scheduled to meet again.

It is important to note, that as the spring membership recruitment process progresses, potential new members can return to fewer chapters, and chapters are able to invite fewer numbers of women to each round. Situations, therefore, may occur in which a woman wishes to continue to meet with a particular chapter but is not on the chapter's list. At this point, the woman must decide if she will continue with the membership recruitment process (if she has been invited back anywhere) or withdraw, and no longer seek membership in a sorority. No woman should think that she is guaranteed membership in a chapter; however, if a woman continues to visit with the sororities that she is invited to, the likelihood that she will be invited to join a chapter at the completion of the membership recruitment process is high.

Elected officers, referred to as the Panhellenic Association Recruitment Team, oversee the membership recruitment process. While the process follows guidelines established by the National Panhellenic Conference, the Panhellenic Association's international organization, the actual process is completely student-run at West Virginia University. Planning for membership recruitment begins in January for the following fall semester – it's time intensive, but worth it!

THE PANHELLENIC ASSOCIATION'S MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT CALENDAR AND ROUND EXPLANATION

Each recruitment function helps potential members and sorority members acquaint themselves with one

another. Throughout a two-week period, the Panhellenic Association has scheduled formalized opportunities for registered women and current members to learn more about Greek Life and to talk one-on-one with sorority members.

ORIENTATION

During orientation, women will learn more about the recruitment process and get all the information needed to have the best experience possible! The appropriate dress for Open House is casual and comfortable.

OPEN HOUSES

During the Open Houses, women will visit with each of the chapters during a three-day period. This process is designed to familiarize them with the fraternity and sorority community and the benefits of joining the fraternity and sorority community. Recruitment Counselors and a woman's recruitment group will accompany the PNM to each house at a scheduled time. This round is the most relaxed. The appropriate dress for Open House is casual. Additionally, students should wear their recruitment t-shirt and comfortable shoes.

ROUND ONE

The first round of recruitment marks the beginning of the invitational rounds and women may be attending up to 13 chapters during this round. Because each potential new member in a recruitment group may receive different invitations, women will attend these functions by themselves. Recruitment Counselors, however, will be stationed throughout the residence halls to assist in finding sorority suites and to answer questions. This round focuses on each sorority's community service and philanthropy activities, and will feature presentations and activities by the chapter. Women will also have the opportunity to become more familiar with the overall chapter membership through more one-on-one discussions with various women in the chapter.

This "philanthropy round" is casual. Women may be doing craft projects as part of the round and, therefore, should dress in dressy shorts or causal capris.

ROUND TWO

The second round allows potential new members to receive a maximum of eight invitations to return to chapters for another visit. Sororities present information about the responsibilities and bonds of the members. Each sorority will make a short presentation or skit with information about the chapter. By this round, a woman should begin to recognize faces in the chapters that she visits. She should also be able to recognize the individuality and spirit of each sorority. The appropriate dress for round three is a little bit dressier. Students should wear a skirt, sundress, or nice dress pants.

PREFERENCE

"Preference" is the last day of the membership recruitment process. An invitation to a preference party indicates a chapter's strong interest in an individual woman as a future member. Women may attend up to three preference parties on this day. Throughout the preference round, a sorority's presentation will reflect the values and ideals that they hold to be important and of value.

Preference functions have a more serious tone and chapter members will be dressed more formally. Therefore, appropriate a



attire would be a nice cocktail dress. Formal dresses are not appropriate. Women will still be walking around campus to the chapter houses, so they should wear comfortable shoes.

BID DAY

Bid Day, the last day of the recruitment process, is the day potential members receive their invitation, or bid, to join a sorority. It is an exciting day when potential members meet their new sorority sisters and pledge the sorority.

Pledging ceremonies mark the beginning to being a "New Member". This is the time period when a woman joins a sorority. The new member education period can last a maximum of twelve weeks from Bid Day. During this time, she will learn about the history of the chapter, the national organization, and other sororities and fraternities at West Virginia University. Many scholarship, philanthropy and social activities are planned by the chapter to help new members to get to know the sisters and other members of the new member class. Dress for this day should be casual. Jeans and casual shoes are recommended.

PRE-RECRUITMENT EVENTS FOR INTERESTED WOMEN

Q. How can a woman get more information on Membership Recruitment?

A woman has several ways to learn more about membership recruitment – attend a Panhellenic Association recruitment informational session, attend the Greek Life Involvement Fair at the beginning of the semester in late August and January, and/or contact the Panhellenic Association

Q. When and where can an interested woman register for Spring Recruitment?

Interested women can register for recruitment on-line beginning in November of the fall semester. See the Panhellenic Association website for more information. If women need assistance with registration and/or have specific questions about the registration process, she may contact the Panhellenic Association Membership Recruitment Team or the Office of Greek Life at 304-293-8201.

Q: How much does Sorority Recruitment Cost?

The registration fee for the Panhellenic Association recruitment process is \$45.00. A woman may pay when she registers on-line by credit card; however, she may also deliver payment in the form of a check to the Office of Greek Life in the Mountainlair, weekdays from 9:00 am – 5:00 pm (excluding weekends and academic holidays).

Q: Why is there a fee to participate in Panhellenic sorority membership recruitment?

The registration fees are used to cover the costs of recruitment, including but not limited to: a t-shirt for each participant, registration and computer processing fees, room facility costs for recruitment process, and the training of Recruitment Counselors and the Recruitment Team.

Q. Can a woman get a refund if she decides to not take part in Membership Recruitment?

If a woman decides to not participate in the Panhellenic Association Recruitment process, the registration fee is **non-refundable**.

ACADEMICS AND PANHELLENIC SORORITY RECRUITMENT

Q: What are the Academic Requirements to Participate in Panhellenic Membership Recruitment?

Sororities are dedicated to scholastic aspects of sorority life and ensure that their members have the resources and abilities necessary to achieve their academic goals. First-semester women do not have a grade point average; therefore, all first-year, first-semester women are eligible to participate in

recruitment. Every chapter at West Virginia University has established a minimum Grade Point Average (GPA) that is required by the inter/national organization in order to extend an invitation for membership to a potential new member who is not a first-year and first-semester student.

WOMEN BEING RELEASED FROM SPRING MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT

Q. Why might someone be “released” from a sorority during Membership Recruitment?

The reasons a chapter may decide to not continue meeting with a woman can vary. Each chapter has their own set of criteria agreed upon by the members and it's inter/national organization. These standards may include: academic success, proven leadership, involvement on campus and/or community, and openness to diversity. Additionally, chapters are looking for women that they feel are serious about sorority life; that will add to their chapter membership and/or appears to be a good “fit” with the existing sisterhood. Chapters are limited to the maximum number of women that they may accept during the recruitment period and on the amount of time that they are able to spend with each woman, so they often face making difficult decisions.

When a woman is released from a chapter's consideration, it may be a shock to her – particularly if the woman seemed to feel that she made a strong connection when she visited the chapter. She should keep in mind that not all women in a chapter may feel the same way about her, and again, as the chapter is limited in the numbers that they may take, the chapter will make decisions on what is best for them overall.

Being released from a chapter does not mean that she cannot be friends with the women that she meets while visiting there nor should she avoid talking in the future to chapter members. It just means that the chapter did not feel as strongly about her at that point in time. It is important for her to keep in mind that all chapters provide great opportunities for her and that she should continue to explore the options still available to her.

Q. Realistically, how many women that begin with the Recruitment Process do not receive an invitation and/or bid?

Some woman will not receive an invitation to continue with the process following a particular round or did not receive a bid at the end of the process. It is important to note that this may occur to potential new members at any point during the recruitment process. Women in this situation are advised by their Recruitment Counselor individually (typically in the affected woman's residence hall room) prior to the next round of Membership Recruitment. Recruitment Counselors are able to provide support and access to University services and/or departments if desired and will follow-up with the woman as the process continues.

Q. A woman receives an invitation on Bid Day, but did not really want to join that chapter. What does this mean?

Since a woman is able to attend up to three chapter events (if she was invited) on the final night of the membership recruitment process, she is encouraged to rank these chapters in order of how she would like to see them appear as an invitation on Bid Day.

As there is a limited amount of women that each chapter may extend invitations to on Bid Day, the woman may not get her first or second choice chapter. She may receive an invitation from her least favorite chapter.

In the case a woman is disappointed with the bid that she receives, her RC will encourage her to go to

the chapter that she has received the bid from to attempt to get to know more of the members. The RC will especially stress that the chapter membership had thought enough of her to ask her to join them. However, some women will still refuse to attend the chapter and not accept the bid offered to her. Women in this situation are unable to participate in Panhellenic Association Membership Recruitment events for one calendar year.

If the woman ultimately decides that she does not want to join the chapter, she may leave it. As long as she does not complete the chapter's initiation ceremonies, she can leave the chapter membership. However, she is asked to formally notify the chapter of her decision. Additionally, **the woman is also not able to participate in Panhellenic Membership Recruitment for one full calendar year.**

ADDITIONAL MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT QUESTIONS

Q. What is a Recruitment Counselors or Rho Gammas?

The Panhellenic Association trains a special group of women, known as Rho Gammas, for the purpose of providing a more enjoyable and less stressful atmosphere during the recruitment process. Rho Gammas voluntarily remove themselves ("disaffiliate") from their individual chapters during the recruitment process so that they are able to answer questions and guide potential members without bias or preference to a particular chapter. The Rho Gamma will provide information about the recruitment rounds, accompany women to recruitment functions, and provide a listening ear as they make decisions concerning sorority membership.

The Panhellenic Association chooses Rho Gammas based on enthusiasm for West Virginia University and sorority life, objectivity and dependability. Potential new members are encouraged to take advantage of the Rho Gamma because she can offer valuable information regarding sorority life. Her job during membership recruitment is to help registered women navigate the recruitment process and to make the week easier for them in whatever way she is able. Rho Gammas do not participate in their chapter membership selection and/or voting for new members.

Q: What is a "Legacy"?

A legacy is a Potential New Member who has a mother, grandmother, or sister who was a member of a sorority while in college. Legacies may be given special consideration by the chapters that their female family member(s) are affiliated with, but they are never guaranteed membership in that particular sorority. In the past, women who are legacies may have been viewed as receiving a guaranteed invitation to a chapter; however, this is not necessarily the case today. At West Virginia University, we reaffirm the statement that legacies are not given automatic invitations to become a member. We suggest that every woman in Membership Recruitment have an open mind toward all of our sororities.

A recommendation is a letter of introduction from a former sorority member (alumna) written about a Potential New Member. The letter or form tells the sorority more about a woman's personality, academics, and activities, while also attempting to introduce the potential new member to the active chapter members. While some campuses require recommendations, they **are not needed** at West Virginia University. Please note that if a woman has received a recommendation, it does not guarantee membership to a particular sorority.

Q. What is a "Snap Bid"?

A Snap Bid is a term that refers to a process that involves a woman who was registered for fall membership recruitment but does not receive an invitation from a chapter following the completion of the process. She, however, does receive an invitation prior to Bid Day activities. Chapters are only

eligible to offer snap bids if they do not receive quota. Please note that this process is extremely rare and does not usually result in additional women receiving bids.

Q. What does it mean if a woman “single-preferences”?

Commonly referred to as “suicide-ing”, a single preference occurs when a PNM who has attended more than one chapter in the final round of recruitment, purposely states that she will only join one chapter. By doing so, the woman takes herself out of consideration to join any other chapter.

It is important to note that if a woman does “single-preference” and does not receive an invitation to join that chapter, she is ineligible for snap bidding. Please note that all women who did not receive an invitation to join a chapter on Bid Day, had declared a single-preference.

Q. What is Continuous Open Bidding?

Continuous Open Bidding (COB) may begin after the conclusion of sorority membership recruitment and continues throughout the academic year. COB is a membership option that may be available for anyone who chooses not to participate in Membership Recruitment Week or did not receive a bid during the week. COB offers women the opportunity to join a sorority through an informal process. Membership recruitment activities might include pizza parties, bowling outings and TV nights. Participating sororities will advertise and invite women to participate. Keep in mind, women will not hear from all sororities. Because some chapters fill their new member quota during the formal Recruitment process, they are not eligible to participate in COB.

Q. How long is the new member process?

The length of the new member program will vary by each sorority. However, all chapters are required to have their new members initiated by the end of the semester. The new members should expect to have required meetings at their sorority suite. During this time, the new members will learn about the history of the chapter, the national organization, and other fraternities and sororities at West Virginia University.

Q. How do most women going through the Membership Recruitment Process “act”?

Each potential new member will approach the recruitment process differently. Parents should be aware of this potential change in behavior during the process. Some women will seem secretive, not wanting to share with friends and family how the process is going, whereas, others will be more forthcoming with the information and at times, somewhat over eager about the recruitment process. As the process progresses, women will be released from recruitment. Some will respond by stating that they had felt that they were “guaranteed” a bid to a particular chapter due to existing relationships, or because they are a legacy and/or based simply on a good conversation that they felt they had within the chapter’s members. The Panhellenic Recruitment Team recommends that these women continue to explore the options that are available to them and not fixate on the chapters that have decided to not offer her membership.

Q. What are some tangible benefits that my daughter may receive by joining a chapter?

National research projects conducted by the Center for Advanced Social Research at the University of Missouri provide data on why membership in a fraternity or sorority may be a beneficial choice for your student. Students who join fraternities and sororities are more likely to return to college the following year. Students who return to college will be able to complete their degree programs and graduate. Students who join fraternities and sororities are 28% more likely to return to school the following year than students who choose not to join a fraternity or sorority.

According to the above study, upon graduation, Greek-affiliated alumni have higher average incomes than non-Greek-letter affiliated alumni. Even when accounting for parents' educational levels, graduation year, and gender, students who were affiliated with fraternities and sororities have significantly higher average incomes following graduation. With the job market becoming increasingly competitive, a college degree no longer guarantees a successful career. In today's job market it is not only important what you know, but also who you know. When someone joins a fraternity or sorority, they not only become friends with the members of that chapter, but also begin building relationships with the families and friends of those members. Members are also introduced to alumni of their chapters all over the country. By joining a sorority, a young woman can create an entire network of people, from which could possibly be a future employer, or lifelong friend.

Q. Will joining a chapter take up too much of my daughter's time?

Any worthwhile experience in an organization will require one to invest personal time and commitment. Fraternities and sororities conduct unique programs and activities that teach students to responsibly manage and balance their academics, jobs, campus/community involvements and social commitments.

Q. Is hazing a part of the sorority culture at West Virginia University?

West Virginia University has a zero-tolerance policy regarding hazing that is consistent with the Code in the State of West Virginia. Hazing includes any activity that subjects members to harassment, ridicule, intimidation, physical exhaustion, abuse, or mental distress. Hazing is not tolerated. If you sense your student may be participating in inappropriate activities as a result of membership in a sorority, you should contact the Office of Greek Life at 304-293-8201.

Q. What is the financial obligation to joining a chapter?

There is a financial commitment associated with joining a sorority. Chapters assess dues differently and each sorority's expenses vary. There are several items and fees which may be included in one chapter's dues, but are additional for another. These fees are used for anything from national dues to money for social events. Extra costs may include composite pictures, bid day and party pictures, sorority pins, t-shirts, and party favors.

Q. Are all members of a sorority required to live in the sorority's chapter house?

Each chapter does require their members to live in the chapter facility for at least one entire academic year (some chapters may require a longer time commitment).

Q. Who is actually in charge of the sororities?

The chapters at West Virginia University are self-governing organizations; however, the Panhellenic Association exercises a significant amount of control regarding their activities. The individual chapters elect officers to manage the day-to-day operations of the organization. These officers are assisted by local alumnae who act as advisors. Each chapter is also responsible to their Inter/National organization, which offers support, advice, and direction through paid professional staff and regional volunteers.

The Office of Greek Life at West Virginia University does provide assistance to the chapters through support of the chapters and advisement of the affiliated governing boards.

Q. What is my role as a parent as my daughter is participating in membership recruitment?

- 1) Students need support throughout the process of recruitment. Be supportive and learn as much as you can about Panhellenic life by asking questions of your daughter as she meets other members

of sororities.

- 2) Keep an open mind... sorority life is not for everyone. Just because you may be a member of a fraternity or sorority does not mean that it is the right choice for your daughter.
- 3) Fraternities and sororities are different on every campus. Groups that may have been strong on the campus where you attended school may not have the same reputation at West Virginia University. Let your daughter choose the group that she feels the most comfortable joining.
- 4) Talk to your daughter beforehand about the financial obligation. Determine who will pay for what and discuss your financial limitations with your daughter.
- 5) Know that the system of sorority recruitment at West Virginia University is competitive. Not everyone who wants to join receives an invitation to join, nor does every student receive an invitation from the organization that they may wish to join.
- 6) Do not become too involved in the sorority recruitment process. This is your daughter's decision.
- 7) Too often, parents do not allow their students to "fight their own battles". It helps the student mature and gain some assertiveness when they contact various offices if they have questions or concerns about their decision to join a chapter. You cannot resolve your daughter's problems during this process. You cannot make it better.
- 8) Keep the Office of Greek Life contact information on hand if you have any questions or concerns about sorority life on West Virginia University's campus.

