

Elon University
New Member
Educator
Manual of Information

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Introduction

New Member Manual Introduction

In this manual you will find general information regarding New Member Education. The Office of Greek Life recommends that this information be included in your chapter curriculum for New Member Education in addition to the information that is required by inter/national organization. You will find information that address topics from the basic structure of Fraternity and Sorority life to hazing, and alcohol.

Goals and Objectives for New Member Programming

Basic Goals for New Member Programming

1. Teach life skills that can be used during and after college.
2. Learn ideas and purposes of the sorority or fraternity.
3. Foster chapter unity.
4. Educate new members about the chapters in the Fraternity and Sorority Community
5. Assist new members as much as possible.

Basic objectives for New Member Programming

1. Learn founding principles.
2. Know about the inter/national office.
3. Know about the local chapter.
4. Know about chapter operations.
5. Know about all the responsibilities, including financial responsibilities of members.
6. Scholarship development.
7. Character development.
8. Citizenship and community responsibility.
9. Social skill development.

Your Chapter Should Have....

1. An academic emphasis.
2. An anti-hazing policy.
3. All policies/guidelines for new members in writing.
4. Inter/national guidelines to follow.
5. A scheduled and publicized initiation date.
6. A calendar of activities for each day of the new member program.

New Member Program Guidelines

These guidelines were established to ensure that new member education enhances the academic progress of each Fraternity and Sorority member and assist their interpersonal development while providing the history and information necessary for viable membership in the Fraternity/Sorority Community.

- Every new member will receive a copy of the *Elon New Member Bill of Rights* that shall be reviewed with him/her at the onset of the chapter's new member orientation program. The *New Member Bill of Rights Confirmation Form* must be signed and filed with the Office of Greek Life within the first week of the new member program.
- Each chapter will uphold the *Elon Anti-Hazing Contract*, educating all members on this policy at the onset of every new member program. Every member of the Elon Greek community is responsible for upholding a zero tolerance for hazing. The *Anti-Hazing Contract Confirmation Form* must be signed and filed with the Office of Greek Life within the first week of the new member program.
- New member programs may last no longer than six weeks. All new member programs must be completed by the deadline established and announced by the Office of Greek Life each semester.
- Each chapter's new member program must be submitted in writing and approved by the Office of Greek Life prior to bids being issued. A copy of this written program must be provided to each new member by his/her chapter at the onset of the new member program. Written programs must include all dates, beginning and ending times, locations and descriptions of each activity. This includes initiation date, time, and location.
- Any changes to new member calendars must be discussed with and approved by the Office of Greek Life at least 72 business hours in advance.
- Scavenger hunts, or other similar activities by any other name are prohibited. This is part of North Carolina's hazing law.
- New member activities must end no later than 11:00 PM Sunday – Thursday and 1:30 AM Friday and Saturday and may not start again till 8:00 AM Monday – Friday, and 9:30 AM Saturday and Sunday.
- For organizations with required study halls or study hours, flexibility must be given to those individuals who need to study alone, in the library computer lab, with a study group or in a separate location. Only academic coursework may be completed during required study halls (no fraternity/sorority information).
- Organizations wishing to hold new member activities including off-campus initiation, retreats or road trips, must have prior approval from the Office of Greek Life. Chapters wishing to hold overnights (on or off campus) as part of their program must file an *Overnight Request Form* and an *Overnight Participant List* with the Office of Greek Life no later than Tuesday for that weekend. Overnight activities may only occur on Fridays or Saturdays.

- All chapters must follow their own inter/national new member programs. In cases where Elon and inter/national policies differ, Elon policy will always take precedence.
- New member educators are encouraged to meet regularly with the Director of Greek Life as well as their chapter's faculty and chapter advisors for feedback. Questions or concerns should be directed to the Office of Greek Life in Moseley Center room 209 or 336-278-7326.
- Chapters should be familiarizing themselves with the Elon University Student Handbook, specifically sections regarding Hazing and Greek Life. Chapters should also familiarize themselves with North Carolina State Law and their own inter/national policies related to new member activities.

New Member Required Forms and Regulations

New Member Bill of Rights

There are a number of activities that are constructive parts of new member/ associate/ aspirant education and will contribute to your becoming a more active and productive member of your Greek organization. However, there are other activities in which you might be asked to take part that are a violation of inter/national fraternity and sorority regulations, Panhellenic, Interfraternity, National Pan-Hellenic regulations, and/or GSW policies. These activities constitute “hazing.”

Listed below is a *New Member Bill of Rights* that specifically outlines activities that fraternity or sorority members **cannot** require of you. **If they do so, the fraternity or sorority and the individual member(s) in question are subject to severe penalties up to and including permanent removal of GSW recognition, suspension from GSW and possibly removal of the chapter’s charter.** New members/associates/aspirants participating in “hazing” activities may also be subject to judicial sanctions. Please study your rights and make certain that they are not violated.

No new member/associate/aspirant shall be required by any person or persons to perform any act which:

1. Interferes with the academic process – causes the pledge/new member/associate/aspirant to miss or be ill prepared for classes, labs, study sessions, or test
2. Causes the new member/associate/aspirant to violate GSW policies
3. Requires or pressures the new member/associate/aspirant to consume alcohol
4. Prevents the new member/associate/aspirant from securing normal amounts of sleep (no activities between the hours of 11 p.m. and 7 a.m.)
5. Requires the new member/associate/aspirant to perform personal services for collegiate or alumni members (including, but not limited to, driving around members and/or their guests (including members of other organizations), “shopping” for members, etc.)
6. Is sadistic -- treats the pledge/new member/associate/aspirant in a “sub-human” manner
7. Is illegal – including the use of drugs and alcohol
8. Is immoral
9. Places the new member/associate/aspirant in physical danger or in jeopardy of losing his or her life
10. Places severe emotional stress upon the new member/associate/aspirant
11. Requires the new member/associate/aspirant to be present at activities for unreasonable periods of time
12. Requires the new member/associate/aspirant to participate in a “Kangaroo” Court or other individual questioning activities

New Member Overnight Request Form

Organization

Date of request

Contact person

Contact phone number

Overnight location

Contact number at overnight location

We respectfully request permission for the attached list of individuals to stay overnight at _____ on _____. All reasonable efforts will be made to ensure comfortable sleeping arrangements for each individual that will not compromise the following:

- ❖ no overnight activities Sunday through Thursday
- ❖ no activities between the hours of 1:30 a.m. and 9:30 a.m.
- ❖ personal safety
- ❖ safety of the house/suite/location
- ❖ Physical Plant work schedule
- ❖ relationship with residents/neighbors/community

These individuals will be out of the house/suite/location no later than _____ on _____ (date).

Signature of Chapter New Member Educator

Signature of Chapter President

Signature of Campus Advisor

History of Fraternity/Sorority Life

The History of Men s Fraternities:

Today's Greek community had two major birth periods. The first was the development of the Greek-letter society Phi Beta Kappa (ΦBK) at William and Mary in 1776, and the second, the founding of the Kappa Alpha Society fifty years later at Union College. Whereas Phi Beta Kappa laid down the foundation of the Greek fraternity, it later developed into an "honorary" organization. It was Kappa Alpha Society, and later others, which brought us the more "socially oriented Greek system we know today.

During its first four years at William and Mary, ΦBK initiated about fifty members. But in 1781 the Revolutionary War caused both the college and the fraternity to shut down. Fortunately, ΦBK had formed its first colonies (other chapters) at Harvard and Yale in 1779 (which spawned another chapter at Dartmouth in 1787), and these kept Greekdom alive.

But the spirit of ΦBK changed. The newer chapters admitted faculty and graduates, and the students lost control. Several chapters had no secrecy aspects, and the students lost interest, seeing ΦBK more as a literary society than a secret brotherhood. By the early 1800s, when the students of Union College, a small, nondenominational college in upstate New York requested a chapter, ΦBK had set high standards for membership, and the students at the young college were denied a chapter. They didn't like that.

The president of Union, Reverend Nott, was very hip to students' needs, not like the stuffy administrators elsewhere. He thought fraternities would be beneficial to student growth outside the academic area. So, after ΦBK rejected charters in 1803 and 1813, he helped students found Phi Beta Gamma, a local society. But this fraternity, like Phi Beta Kappa, which finally placed a chapter at Union in 1817, was soon dominated by the faculty, too. The students didn't like that either. Modern fraternities were about to arrive.

During the early 1800s Greek-letter literary groups had begun to appear on several campuses. But, like ΦBK, they were more literary than social. The "pure" society of brothers united for friendship foremost was yet to make a comeback.

In 1825, eight years after ΦBK hit Union, nine students got together and formed the Kappa Alpha Society. Inspired by ΦBK, they too adopted a Greek name, had a square badge, and incorporated a whole set of secret grips, signs, mottoes, and rituals. But they were to differ in one large respect: While ΦBK had become a faculty-controlled, literary honor society; the KA Society's main goals were foremost social. Their main concern was to stay a tight brotherhood of friends who would meet for good times. And they did.

Two years later, other Union students, liking what they saw, formed their own fraternities: Sigma Phi Society and Delta Phi. Greek history now refers to these fraternities as the Union Triad. What they did at Union set the pattern for the growth of fraternities all over the country. Every time a fraternity popped up on a campus, several

more would pop up either to rival it or to emulate it. Five years after its founding at Union, Delta Chi set up a chapter at nearby Hamilton College. Two years later - presto! - Alpha Delta Phi was founded there to rival it. Fraternities were now off and running.

The Birth of Women's Fraternities:

America's earliest colleges were all-male. The prevailing attitude was like the Virginia Slims ad showing a girl sneaking a cigarette: Higher education, like smoking, was something nice girls shouldn't be partaking of. But times changed, and in 1836 Georgia Female College was founded. Now called Georgia Wesleyan at Macon, it is the oldest women's college in the world. A year later, Oberlin was the first college to go co-ed.

It was here, at Georgia Wesleyan, in 1851 - 75 years after Phi Beta Kappa, 25 years after the Union Triad, and 15 years after the college's founding - that women, following the men's example, first produced "secret sisterhoods." The first was the Adelpian, founded by nineteen women in 1851. The second was its rival, the Philamathean, founded by three women in 1852. Both were primarily literary societies.

Like men's fraternities, the two sisterhoods each had rituals and mottoes and the like, but unlike men's fraternities, they had no desire to form sister chapters at other colleges. (When each finally did decide to "go national" 50 years later in the early 1900s, they changed their names to Alpha Delta Pi and Phi Mu, respectively.)

In 1867, 16 years after these two sisterhoods were formed, a women's society called the I.C. Sororis was founded at Monmouth College in Illinois. Patterning itself directly after men's fraternities, its members chose to colonize other chapters from the start, so many consider this the first "women's fraternity." (But it wasn't until 21 years later that it became a Greek-letter organization - when it finally changed its name to its founding motto, "Pi Beta Phi.")

Meanwhile, in 1870 three years after I.C. Sororis began, the first women's fraternities with Greek-letter names were formed. Kappa Alpha Theta was the first, founded at DePauw in Illinois, and Kappa Kappa Gamma came three months later at Monmouth.

An interesting sidelight is that the woman who was the force behind forming Kappa Alpha Theta was first offered token membership in Fiji, which her brother belonged to on campus. She demanded full membership, but instead got a silver cake basket as a compromise. Her father, a Beta, then suggested she start her own group. So she did - the Thetas. The Fijis and the Thetas are now considered brother and sister societies on a national basis.

The fraternity is one of the most skillfully devised institutions among men, where a boy disorganized is brought into an institution of kindred spirits who believe in him and thereby help him to find himself. The fraternity makes men.

-Reverend Norman Vincint Peale

Brotherhood and Sisterhood

Two of the most popular terms connected with Greek life are brotherhood and sisterhood. Initially, you might not take these two words too seriously. After all, what do they really mean to you? Yet, when you share rituals, traditions, and unforgettable experiences with your fellow brothers and sisters, you truly develop that sense of family that you heard about all through recruitment and still hear about now as a new member.

When you go Greek, it's not like joining any club or organization, and it is certainly not just showing up for weekly meetings or attending mandatory events. Your daily interaction and time spent with your brothers and sisters is what is going to teach you what brother and sister truly mean, a bond that is much deeper than friendship.

A fraternity brother or sorority sister is someone who will encourage you to succeed, support you when things are going well, and support you even more when things are going not so well. Having a brother or sister is having unconditional support and companionship.

At the heart of these relationships are the traditions and rituals within each chapter. Although each sorority and fraternity has their individual founding values, you will find that most strive for similar goals. Some words you will hear over and over are: virtue, scholarship, ethics, justice, and, of course, friendship. These strong yet basic beliefs have been a significant part of colleges and universities all over the United States for more than one hundred years.

You can dream, create, design, and build the most wonderful idea in the world, but it requires people to make the dream a reality.

-Walt Disney

Advantages of Fraternity/Sorority Life

There are many things that you are going to bring to your Greek chapter here at Elon University, on the other hand, here are just a few things that Greek Life can bring to you.

Fraternity/Sorority Life Can:

1. Provide a sense of belonging and identity for the individual.
2. Encourage the individual to participate in all types of activities.
3. Develop in the individual a sense of group cooperation, responsibility, and skills in working within groups.
4. Provide a vehicle whereby service to the college and the community can be more effectively rendered.
5. Give the opportunity for more supervised, thus successful, studying and academic achievement.
6. Provide a social and friendship group that aids new members in adjusting to campus.
7. Provide the opportunity for friendship development with fraternity brothers/sisters at other college/university chapters.
8. Provide a ready medium for exchange of intellectual ideas.
9. Provide an opportunity to engage in business and management activities through the business responsibilities of the organization.
10. Provide an opportunity to develop leadership skills and experience.
11. Provide an opportunity to develop close personal friendships that last a lifetime.
12. Stimulate the less active person to develop his/her interests and provide an outlet for leisure time.
13. Develop in an individual s sense of campus and chapter loyalty resulting in an increase of the likelihood of graduating from the same institution in four years.
14. Develop moral and ethical standards by which an individual will live his/her life.
15. Develop citizen-leaders.

Helpful Websites

Campus Fundraiser – www.campusfundraiser.com

CAMPUSPEAK – www.campuspeak.com

Lambda10 – www.lambda10.org

Mid-American Greek Council Association – www.mgca.org

National Interfraternity Council – www.nicindy.org

National Panhellenic Conference – www.npcwomen.org

National Pan-Hellenic Council – www.nphchq.org

Omega Financial – www.omegafi.com

Pennington & Company – www.penningtonco.com

Stop Hazing – www.stophazing.org