Panhellenic Sorority Recruitment 101

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Tonight’s Presenter:

Joe Gurreri, Director of Student Activities & Greek Life
Gettysburg Greek Life Overview

Organizations’ Summary
16 Greek Organizations
• 9 Fraternities
• 7 Sororities

2014-2015 Data
847 Total Members (46% of upper-class students)
Approximately $45,000 Raised for Charities
Approximately 6,000 Hours of Community Service
3.23 All-Sorority GPA in Spring 2015
What Is A Sorority?

Sororities are…
- Values-based organizations that are both social and philanthropic in nature
- Tremendous resources that present great leadership opportunities
- Designed to enhance students’ academic and co-curricular experience
- Life-long commitments that create life-long friendships

Sororities are not…
- Drinking clubs
- The Hollywood-created stereotypes seen on TV
- Supportive of hazing or demeaning activities
Sorority Community Overview

2 Governing Councils
   National Panhellenic Conference (Panhellenic)
   National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC)

7 Inter/nationally-Affiliated Organizations
   Alpha Delta Pi
   Alpha Omicron Pi
   Chi Omega
   Delta Gamma
   Gamma Phi Beta
   Sigma Sigma Sigma
   Zeta Phi Beta
Panhellenic Community Overview

Gettysburg College’s Panhellenic Association (CPA)

- Alpha Delta Pi
- Alpha Omicron Pi
- Chi Omega
- Delta Gamma
- Gamma Phi Beta
- Sigma Sigma Sigma
What Does It Mean To Be Inter/Nationally-Affiliated?

Women joining sororities at Gettysburg become part of a world-wide sisterhood:
• At least 100 other collegiate chapters
• At least 90 alumnae chapters
• At least 100,000 initiated members

Inter/national HQ support for members and chapters:
• Organizational Structure and Support
• Annual Visits to Campus and National Leadership Conferences
• Membership Development and Educational Programs

Shared rituals, values and expectations of members

All chapters abide by Unanimous Agreements of National Panhellenic Conference
Women Participating in Recruitment Must:

- Achieve at least Sophomore Academic Standing
- Maintain at least a 2.50 Cumulative GPA
- Accumulate No More Than 5 Conduct Points
- Register for Recruitment ($20 fee)
- Fully Participate in Formal Recruitment (or have approved absences)
Panhellenic Recruitment Schedule

**Spring 2015**

Monday, March 16th: Registration Opens

Monday, March 16th: All-Women’s Period Begins

Sunday, April 19th: Informal Recruitment Round

**Fall 2015**

Monday, August 31st: PNM Pre-Recruitment Meeting

Friday, September 4th: Formal Recruitment Round 1 (Inter/National Round)

Saturday, September 5th: Formal Recruitment Round 2 (Sisterhood Round)

Sunday, September 6th: Formal Recruitment Round 3 (Preference Round)

Sunday, September 6th: Bid Night
Recruitment Informal Round – Panhellenic Preview Day, Sunday, April 19th

Participation in Informal Round was not required for Potential New Members

Opportunity for both PNM’s and chapters to have a practice round

PNM’s visited all 5 chapters for 15 minutes

Information Session to provide basic information about the recruitment process

Very structured logistically, but very informal interactions

All PNM’s received recruitment t-shirts
Recruitment Round 1: Inter/National Organization Night, Friday, September 4th

PNM’s will visit all 6 chapters

Each “party” during this round will last 30 minutes

The presentation and conversation on this night will highlight the inter/national organization (national philanthropy, values, colors, symbols, etc.)

PNM’s will wear their recruitment t-shirts

PNM’s will design and make their own nametags in advance of the first round

Starting this night, the PNM’s and chapters will rank each other as part of the mutual selection process
Recruitment Round 2: Sisterhood Night, Saturday, September 5th

PNM’s will visit up to 4 chapters
• It is possible for a PNM to not be invited back to any chapters this night
• Many PNM’s will not visit 4 chapters this night

Each “party” during this round will last 40 minutes

The presentation and conversation on this night will highlight the local chapter members’ involvement and chapter programs

PNM’s will choose their own outfits for this round

PNM’s will wear their self-designed nametags again during this round

After their last “party,” the PNM’s and chapters will once again rank each other as part of the mutual selection process
Recruitment Round 3: Preference Round, Sunday, September 6th

PNM’s will visit up to 2 chapters
- It is possible for a PNM to not be invited back to any chapters this night
- Many PNM’s will not visit 2 chapters this night

Each “party” during this round will last 60 minutes

The chapters will be leading the PNM’s in ritual ceremonies during this final round that give the PNM’s a deeper understanding of the chapter and start showing the PNM’s what it means to be a member of the organization

PNM’s will choose their own outfits that are a bit more formal (i.e. dresses)

PNM’s will be provided nametags by the chapters during this round

After their last “party,” the PNM’s will complete a preference card ranking the chapters and committing to the acceptance of a bid from any chapter listed
After the conclusion of Preference Round, all PNM’s will complete their preference cards and return to their residencies.

Any PNM not receiving a bid will be notified in advance of Bid Night activities.

At the posted time, all PNM’s who are receiving bids will report to the Fieldhouse to receive their bids and hear a brief welcoming presentation.

After the completion of this presentation, all PNM’s will meet representatives of their new chapter and report to the soccer field for Bid Night pictures.

After official Bid Night activities have ended, NO chapter events may include alcohol or hazing.

Panhellenic Bid Night: Sunday, September 6th
Women participating in recruitment must follow their schedule and attend all chapters to which they are assigned. Failure to do so may result in the PNM being removed from the process.

Potential New Members should not bring anything to a sorority’s room nor take anything with them, such as gifts, with them when they leave a suite.

Conversation topics during recruitment should not include alcohol, men, or money.

PNM’s should be respectful of the women in every chapter room they visit. Inappropriate behavior may result in the PNM being removed from the process.
Panhellenic Recruitment Guidelines

At the end of the first two formal rounds, PNM’s must rank every chapter they visited.

Fully participating in recruitment through preference round does not have any negative impact on a PNM’s ability to go through the recruitment process again. Women are encouraged to continue all three days, even if their first choice is no longer an option.

Signing a preference card after the third round is a binding commitment and PNM’s should be thoughtful in doing so.

There is no limit on how many women will be placed in sororities during recruitment. However, there is a quota per chapter based on the overall total.
Panhellenic Recruitment Terminology

Bid – invitation of membership to join a sorority

Snap Bid – chapters that do not fill to quota can offer snap bids prior to the Bid Night ceremony; this option is not available after Bid Night ceremonies begin

Single-Intention Preference – after preference round a PNM who visited two chapters ranks only one on her preference card

Continuous Open Bidding (COB) – chapters who did not fill to quota or are below the average sorority size may offer bids throughout the year to interested new members
New Member Education

New Member Education can be a time consuming educational process that will involve NM’s learning about the sorority’s history and values.

This process should never include alcohol or hazing.

The new member process will conclude with the initiation ritual prescribed by the inter/national organization by Sunday, November 8th. Not all chapters will end at the same time.

The Office of Student Activities & Greek Life will host a webinar describing this process after Bid Night.
Initiated Member Expectations

Becoming a member of the Greek community is a financial commitment. New members will be billed for association fees, initiation fees and badges. Each semester there will be chapter dues and national organization fees.

Joining a sorority is a time commitment. There are standing weekly meetings and events throughout the semester at which all members are expected to be present. Women can then choose for themselves how much additional involvement in leadership roles they can handle.

Being a member of a sorority means that individual behavior and academic success reflects on that of the entire chapter. Women in sororities must positively represent themselves and maintain high academic standing or they can be sanctioned by the chapter, which could affect their future membership.
What Role Can Family Members Play?

Encourage your daughter to keep an open mind about each chapter
Remind her that sororities are only one of the many student groups on campus
Maintain a balance of checking in to hear her thoughts and concerns and also allowing her to process alone if she prefers
Encourage your student to make decisions independently
Reminder her to balance academics and co-curricular commitments

Resources
www.sororityparents.com - National Panhellenic Conference Resource
www.gettysburg.edu/greeklife - Gettysburg Greek Life Website, Parents’ Tab
Panhellenic Sorority
Recruitment 101

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