

RAZORBACK

PARENT NEWSLETTER

Greek Edition

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Benefits of being GREEK



Membership in a fraternity or sorority provides excellent networking opportunities both in college and for your student's future career. On campus, Greek students are involved in virtually every aspect of student life, and as a result, your student will be well connected to the happenings on campus. Your student will also gain valuable personal development through educational programming and numerous leadership opportunities. The Greek community is truly committed to philanthropy and community service, and each fraternity and sorority has their own philanthropic and service programming, thus allowing your student to actively engage in service locally and support national philanthropies. From an academic standpoint, our fraternities and sororities are very successful, each providing supportive programming and advantageous learning environments.

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We were held accountable which increased our level
of responsibility and it helped us grow."

"My chapter is my home away from home,

a place on campus I can go
and feel welcome and safe."

"I feel like [membership] is something [your student] can really benefit from

because it teaches you no matter what the odds are against you

can still do something that will change history and make history."

"It's somewhere I feel more comfortable,

somewhere I feel comfortable with people

who are out of the same culture..."

"GO GREEK!"

Welcome Razorback parents to the **UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS!**



What an exciting time to become a part of an ever growing, but vibrant, Greek community. With over 4,000 UA Greek leaders and 33 outstanding chapters, we strive every day to excel in the areas of academic excellence, community service and philanthropy, brotherhood and sisterhood, and cultural appreciation. Our ultimate goal is to not only develop lifelong friendships, but also to actively engage and build exemplary Greek men and women for life.

As parents and family members of our students, there are numerous ways in which you too can become involved in your student's fraternity or sorority experience. Many of our chapters host Family Day, Mom's Weekend, and Dad's Weekend events, allowing parents and families to visit our campus and spend

time with chapter members. Sororities and fraternities become the home away from home for all of their members, and we would like for you to feel the same comfort when you come to visit.

If your son or daughter is interested in making the most of their collegiate experience at the University of Arkansas, joining a fraternity or sorority is certainly one way to start. We understand that you may have questions, and we encourage you to visit <http://uagreeks.uark.edu> and discover what makes Greek Life at the University of Arkansas a great experience for our students. There, you can also learn about the recruitment/intake processes, and find links to each of our chapters.

Again, we appreciate your interest in Greek Life and look forward to meeting as well as working with your son or daughter this upcoming academic year!

Sincerely,

Parice Bowser
Director of Greek Life

Download the Family Guide to Greek Life at the University of Arkansas by visiting <http://uagreeks.uark.edu/3232.php> and read through the letter provided by Parice Bowser, Director of Greek Life.

INTERFRATERNITY *Council*



At the University of Arkansas, 14 chapters are currently represented in Interfraternity Council (IFC): Alpha Gamma Rho, Beta Theta Pi, Farmhouse, Kappa Alpha Order, Kappa Sigma, Lambda Chi Alpha, Phi Delta Theta, Phi Gamma Delta, Pi Kappa Alpha, Sigma Alpha Epsilon, Sigma Chi, Sigma Nu, Sigma Phi Epsilon, and Sigma Pi.

BENEFITS OF IFC:

The Interfraternity Council is comprised of some of the oldest Greek letter organizations in the United States. All of the fraternities at the University of Arkansas were founded over 100 years ago nationally. As a member in IFC, your son will become part of a long legacy of brotherhood, scholarship, and service on campus. One member described his new member experience as something that, "provided order to my life. We had mandatory study halls. We were held accountable which increased our level of responsibility and it helped us grow."

RECRUITMENT PROCESS:

The process begins with your son registering by Thursday, August 23, 2012. Formal recruitment is August 24th-26th and August 31-September 1, 2012, concluding with Bid Day before kick-off on Saturday, September 1st. Each day, your son will visit fewer chapters for longer periods of time, which allows for him to learn more about the chapters that truly interest him. Most days of fraternity recruitment are relaxed, with the exception of Preference Night on Friday, August 31st which is formal and men are expected to dress nicely.

PREPARING FOR RECRUITMENT:

In preparing for formal recruitment it is most important to remind your son to be himself. Each chapter at the University of Arkansas is unique. A current member described the reason why he selected his chapter as, "I just chose where I felt at home the most. It seemed like the men at my chapter really wanted me to be there and I just felt like I really wanted to be there."

In the summer, chapters host various recruitment events, offering opportunities to get to know members on a more individual level. Most of these events are publicized by word of mouth; however, one member recommends that men going through fall recruitment reach out to recruitment chairs of individual chapters to find out when they are hosting summer recruitment events. It is recommended that your son take initiative to show his interest in the chapter.

It is important to note that your son is not guaranteed a bid (invitation of membership) from a fraternity. However, the best way to obtain a bid is to encourage your son to consider the possibility of membership in as many chapters as possible.

IFC, NPHC & UGC Recruitment Calendar

Interfraternity Council:

DATE	EVENT
<i>August 20</i>	IFC Meet the Chapters
<i>August 22</i>	IFC Cookout
<i>August 23</i>	Registration for IFC Recruitment ends
<i>August 24-26; August 31-September 1</i>	Formal Recruitment
<i>September 1</i>	Bid Day

National Pan-hellenic Council:

DATE	EVENT
<i>August 21</i>	NPHC Interest Tea
<i>September 4-7</i>	NPHC Week
<i>September 6</i>	"Stomp the Yard" Stepshow

United Greek Council:

DATE	EVENT
<i>September 7</i>	UGC Information Day

NATIONAL *Pan-hellenic Council*

There are seven collegiate chapters from the National Pan-hellenic Council (NPHC). The NPHC sororities include Alpha Kappa Alpha, Delta Sigma Theta, and Zeta Phi Beta. The NPHC fraternities include Alpha Phi Alpha, Kappa Alpha Psi, Omega Psi Phi, and Sigma Phi Beta.

BENEFITS OF NPHC:

The NPHC community at the University of Arkansas is very inclusive and supportive of one another. While your son or daughter will select one chapter to seek membership in, they will find a strong camaraderie among the other chapters and their respective community. NPHC chapters at the University of Arkansas are small enough for your student to form deep, meaningful bonds of brother or sisterhood, while also belonging to a larger Greek system. The National Pan-hellenic Council also has impressive alumni members and a rich, vibrant history in America to inspire your student to success. One member said the following, "I feel like [membership in NPHC] is something [your student] can really benefit from because it teaches you no matter what the odds are against you can still do something that will change history and make history."

INTAKE PROCESS:

In order to seek membership in a NPHC chapter, your student has to have completed a certain number of credit hours. The majority of members go through during their sophomore year. The University of Arkansas hosts NPHC Week on September 4th – September 7th. During this week, your student will have the opportunity to learn about all seven of chapters. It is

strongly encouraged that your student researches the chapter they are interested in joining and gets to know the organization's members. Your student should use this time to learn about the values of each chapter and determine which fraternity or sorority's values are most aligned with their own. The Office of Greek Life holds an intake seminar which elaborates on the process. Overall, the intake process is an opportunity to learn the deep history and knowledge that is treasured by the organization and learn how to uphold those values. Intake helps your student grow, develop and form bonds. A current member recommends reminding your student to "keep their studies first because it can be a time consuming process."

AFTER INITIATION:

At the conclusion of the intake process your student will participate in their new member stepshow. A new member stepshow is an event where members are revealed to the community. At the new member stepshow, they will perform a step show and celebrate being Greek.

No matter which organization your student selects, each will provide a meaningful process and experience. They will be able to form lasting friendships, serve the community, and be in a strong academic environment.



United GREEK COUNCIL

The United Greek Council (UGC) is the newest Greek council at the University of Arkansas, having been founded in the spring of 2012. The UGC is currently comprised of one Latino fraternity, Phi Iota Alpha Inc., and one Latina sorority, Hermandad de Sigma Iota Alpha, Inc.

BENEFITS OF UGC:

The UGC organizations each offer members opportunities to learn and share their individual cultural backgrounds. Your student will also be able to bond on a deep, meaningful level with their fellow brothers and sisters and create their own sense of community on the University of Arkansas campus. When asked why they joined a UGC organization one member stated, "it's somewhere I feel more comfortable, somewhere I feel comfortable with people who are out of the same culture... [UGC organizations] feel more like home because we all speak the same language, and we fit..." UGC organizations are very community service-based. They will provide your student with valuable leadership skills, and a deeper understanding of their culture.

INTAKE PROCESS:

The intake process begins for your student as they attend an informational meeting for the organization they are interested in joining. It is recommended that they research the organization at the local, regional, and national level, and see if the organization is something they really want to be a part of. It is traditional for students to approach a brother or sister and express interest in learning more about their organization. Your student is required to be in their second semester as a freshman or beyond to begin the intake process.

Your student will go through the intake process, which lasts for 8-12 weeks, with other men or women seeking membership in the organization. UGC organizations have relatively small membership so it is a more intimate experience, and your student will really get to know fellow members on an individual level. During the intake process a member said, "You're going to learn a lot about our organization; more importantly, you're going to learn more about yourself and who you are in your culture, as well as other cultures. It's a very rewarding process."

UGC organizations are very community service-based. They will provide your student with valuable leadership skills, and a deeper understanding of their culture.



National PANHELLENIC COUNCIL



BENEFITS OF NPC:

Membership in a Panhellenic sorority provides your daughter with a valuable network on campus. As one member explained, "my chapter is my home away from home, a place on campus I can go and feel welcome and safe." The Panhellenic Creed states, "We, as undergraduate members of women's fraternities, stand for good scholarship, for guarding of good health, for maintenance of fine standards, and for serving, to the best of our ability, our college community. In a NPC sorority, your daughter will be surrounded by women who are striving each day to reach these ideals.

RECRUITMENT PROCESS:

The process of recruitment begins with your daughter registering by July 15, 2012. Formal recruitment is Sunday, August 12th – Sunday, August 19th concluding with Bid Day. Your daughter will move into the residence halls on Saturday, August 11th before any of the other freshmen. During recruitment, your daughter is referred to as a Potential New Member (PNM). Recruitment week is a large, coordinated process designed around the concept of "mutual selection". This means that at the end of each day your daughter will rank the chapters she visits, and the

chapters will rank the PNM's. Each day, the PNM's will visit fewer chapters for longer periods of time, which allows for your daughter to learn more about the chapters that truly interest her.

National Panhellenic Council (NPC) is made up of 10 sororities on the University of Arkansas campus, including: Alpha Chi Omega, Alpha Delta Pi, Alpha Omicron Pi, Chi Omega, Delta Delta Delta, Kappa Delta, Kappa Kappa Gamma, Phi Mu, Pi Beta Phi and Zeta Tau Alpha.

PREPARING FOR RECRUITMENT:

In preparing for formal recruitment, it is important to remind your daughter to be herself. Each chapter at the University of Arkansas is unique and current members recommend that a PNM select the chapter they feel most comfortable in. Another thing to consider is obtaining letters of recommendation. An alumna member of a sorority writes the letter of recommendation. It is by no means the determinant for your daughter's success in recruitment; however, they can be helpful for chapters to get to know your daughter before formal recruitment week.

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National PANHELLENIC COUNCIL

During formal recruitment week, every PNM and chapter member is given a different t-shirt for each day so everyone can get to know each other for who they are and not what they are wearing. The only exception is for Preference Day when your daughter will visit up to two chapters and will wear a nice cocktail style dress.

A current member recommends that your daughter brings an umbrella, wears comfortable flat shoes, and stays hydrated. During the week, your daughter is encouraged to write down her feelings about each chapter she visits. This will help her to remember the details about each chapter when she ranks them at the end of the day.

One current member recommended that PNMs try to be outgoing, especially on the first day. She suggested thinking of three things to talk about while your student is waiting between chapter parties. She provided an example of a funny move-

in story that helped make her more memorable to chapter members. Current members have repeatedly said that they have often felt nervous during recruitment week as a chapter, and they are also trying to make good impressions on the PNMs. Tell your daughter to be herself and the conversations she has with chapter members will flow comfortably.

Your daughter is not guaranteed a bid (invitation of membership) from a Panhellenic sorority. However, the large majority of PNMs receive a bid, and the best way to ensure this is to encourage your daughter to consider the possibility of membership in as many chapters as possible. On Bid Day (Sunday, August 19th) each PNM will be given an envelope with their bid inside. Everyone is instructed to open their bid at the same time. It is important to note that if your daughter attends Bid Day, she will open her envelope with a bid inside.



Representatives from various NPC chapters got together during New Student Orientation in June of 2012 to educate incoming students about Greek Life and the benefits of joining a sorority.

EXPANSION, EXTENSION

& *Colonization*



This past fall the Office of Greek Life saw record numbers of potential new members that participated in recruitment. The number of women accepted into sororities has increased significantly since 2007 when 460 women were matched with one of the eight National Panhellenic Council (NPC) organizations. In 2011, 1,079 women became members of one of the eight groups. The twelve fraternities in the Inter-fraternal Council (IFC) on campus have also seen visible growth and felt the strain of larger pledge classes on their chapters. With the support of University administration, the two councils both elected to begin the process of inviting more chapters to campus.

In November 2011, the process of Extension began for sororities and the announcement was made to all NPC organizations. The University of Arkansas received eight applications from interested sororities. Five sororities were selected to make formal presentations on campus in February. The National Panhellenic Council voted unanimously on February 23 to re-colonize Alpha Chi Omega and Phi Mu in the fall of 2012. "There is excitement and a true sense of rejuvenation within the Panhellenic community right now," said Leah Nichols, Panhellenic president. Both sororities were chosen based upon their signature programming themes that focus on exceptional educational initiatives, including a true commitment to providing long-term support for the new colonies on the university campus, as well as their commitment

to provide strong alumnae support and development.

In December 2011, the University of Arkansas announced to all National Interfraternity Conference organizations that they were beginning the process of Expansion. The University of Arkansas received seven applications from interested fraternities. In March, four fraternities made formal presentations in a similar manner to the sororities. IFC voted to invite Beta Theta Pi to colonize, and Kappa Alpha Order to re-colonize in fall 2012. "Beta and KA are known nationally for investing valuable resources in its members as well as the fraternal movement across the country. We also believe both organizations would be competitive chapters that would attract high caliber members from day one." stated Parice S. Bowser, Director of Greek Life.

The Greek community is very excited to welcome Alpha Chi Omega, Phi Mu, Beta Theta Pi, and Kappa Alpha Order to campus this fall! Their additions will help reduce chapter sizes to allow for more intentional bonding experiences among members, and bring new programming ideas to the community. Alumni of the three organizations re-colonizing will have the opportunity to strengthen their connections to the University of Arkansas through active involvement in their chapters. All four organizations plan to work collaboratively to establish successful, positively-contributing chapters at the University of Arkansas.

PANHellenic Recruitment Calendar

National Panhellenic Council:

DATE	EVENT
July 15	Registration for NPC Recruitment ends
August 11	PNM's move into residence halls
August 12	Sorority Recruitment Orientation
August 12-19	Formal Recruitment
August 19	Bid Day

GREEK LIFE LINGO

NPC = National Panhellenic Council
 NPHC = National Pan-Hellenic Council
 IFC = Interfraternity Council
 UGC = United Greek Council
 PNM = Potential New Member
 Bid = Invitation of Membership
 Gamma Chi = NPC Recruitment Counselors
 Rho Chi - IFC Recruitment Counselors
 Colonization = Expansion of the Greek Community

For more information,
 visit uagreeks.uark.edu
 or e-mail
gogreek@uark.edu.



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University of Arkansas Greek Life



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