Individually Unique. Together Complete. #wearepanhellenic

2017
Panhellenic Membership & Recruitment Guide
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Welcome to SFA Panhellenic

Entering college is a very exciting time, and we are thrilled you have expressed an interest in joining a values-based organization. If you choose to accept a bid, you will become a member of an organization that is committed to excellence in scholarship, leadership, service and sisterhood.

The Panhellenic Council at Stephen F. Austin State University facilitates a fully structured recruitment process at the beginning of the fall semester. Within this booklet you will find instructions and deadlines related to registration. Please take note of the deadlines!

Any women with special needs due to health or disability are encouraged to contact the SFA Panhellenic Council at (936) 468-6296 or email sfapanhellenic@gmail.com

The SFA Panhellenic Council is here to assist you in this process and hopes that it goes smoothly for you. So, get ready to meet your new sisters!
Dear Potential New Member,

Congratulations on becoming a lumberjack! We are so excited you chose to attend Stephen F. Austin State University and can’t wait to see what you accomplish during your time at SFA. College will be the best time of your life, so take advantage of every opportunity that comes your way. Panhellenic Recruitment is a great way to begin your involvement during college.

SFA Panhellenic is composed of five wonderful sororities, all of which excel in academics, philanthropy and becoming leaders on campus. Take advantage of every moment you spend in a house during formal recruitment. Take time to get to know the women in each chapter and find out what makes them unique. Remember to have a positive attitude and an open mind when visiting the chapters. These women will become your mentors, your friends and more importantly, your sisters.

On behalf of the SFA Panhellenic Association, we are so excited to have you join us for Fall recruitment. We hope you make the most of this phenomenal opportunity and we cannot wait to welcome you to our Panhellenic community.

Axe ‘Em Jacks!

Emily Brezina & Veronica Garcia
Panhellenic President & VP Recruitment

When going through social media, you will notice that each chapter is using the hashtag “#wearepanhellenic.” We have created this hashtag to make us identifiable among the other Panhellenic Councils. If you search the hashtag, you will find pictures and posts of all the chapters here at SFA. It is very important to us that we are recognized as one large sisterhood.

Get in Touch

SFA National Panhellenic Council
@SFASU_Panhellenic
@Panhellenic_SFA
sfapanhellenic@gmail.com
#wearepanhellenic

Greek Life Office
222 Vista Drive
Baker Pattillo Student Center
Suite 3.302
Nacogdoches, TX 75962
Phone:(936)468-6296
www.sfasu.edu/greeklife
sfa_panhellenic

www.sfasupanhellenic.com
Formal Recruitment

Recruitment is a mutual selection process that balances the preferences of each new potential member with those of the existing sorority chapters. The Panhellenic Council strives to allow every young woman an opportunity to find a sorority that best suits her personality, interests and future goals, while providing an organized and unbiased membership process for the chapters.

Invitations are only guaranteed to potential new members for the first round, Tuesday, August 22nd. There is no guarantee that a Potential New Member (PNM) will be invited to attend the second (Wednesday) or third (Thursday) event rounds. Invitations to subsequent rounds are made based on the selections of the chapters and the preferences of the potential new members. PNM schedules will be maximized so they are able to meet with as many chapters as possible during their recruitment experience.

There is no guarantee that a woman will receive a bid to any sorority. However, if a potential new member attends all the events she is invited to during the third event round and lists each of those chapters of her preference, she will receive a bid to one of those chapters.

There is no specific formula that explains why a woman is released from a particular chapter, or why a woman prefers one chapter more than another. The Panhellenic Council makes every effort to allow each potential new member the best opportunity to join the sorority of her choice, but there are no guarantees a young woman will be placed within that specific sorority. It is important to keep an open mind during recruitment and to use the time to meet and make new friends!

At the beginning of the week, you will meet with your Rho Gammas to get the rundown on how everything is going to go for the week. Every morning, you will get a schedule of the chapters that you have been invited back to. It is important to attend all of the following events:

- PNM Early Move-in: August 20th, 2017 3-5pm
- Meet The Sororities: August 20th, 2017 6-8pm
- PNM Convocation: August 21st, 2017 1pm
- Open House Round: August 22nd, 2017
- First Invitational Round: August 23rd, 2017
- Preference Round: August 24th, 2017

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Recruitment Registration

Registration for Formal Recruitment is available online at www.sfasu.edu/greeklife or our website www.sfasupanhellenic.com. Registration will be open on May 15th, 2017, and will close on August 7th, 2017.

Once beginning the registration process, be sure you complete all the information at that time. If you do not complete everything at once, your information will not be saved, and you will have to start the process from the beginning. Therefore, it is helpful to have the aforementioned information handy when beginning the registration process. After registering online, please follow instructions to pay the $100 nonrefundable registration fee. This fee covers transportation to and from sorority row, t-shirt for round one, meals and supplies.

Thanks to a partnership with Residence Life, the Panhellenic Council hopes to make the transition from home to college as seamless as possible for recruitment participants. Therefore, you will be moving into your permanent housing assignment on campus for formal recruitment.

Early Move-in

Early Move-In is Sunday, August 20th from 3-5 p.m. This is the only time you will be able to move in before formal recruitment, please plan accordingly.

Note: Students who move in on Sunday, August 20 will be charged a $50 early move-in fee (this fee is separate from the Recruitment Registration fee) and will be billed to the student’s e-bill through their mySFA account. You DO NOT need to contact Residence Life about move in for Panhellenic Recruitment; we will take care of everything. Upon registering for Panhellenic recruitment, if you do not know your room assignment, or you change it during the summer, DO NOT WORRY!! All we need is your SFA Campus ID number and to know whether or not your will be living on campus in the fall.

It is important to know your meal plans will not be active until the first day of class. Panhellenic will cover at least one meal each day during recruitment. Please plan accordingly for the rest of your meals. On the day of move in you will check into your residence hall! If you have any questions about early move in, please contact Amanda Windham, Director Student Engagement at 936-468-3723 or aphorne@sfasu.edu.

Please note that women who will not be living on campus during the fall semester are responsible for their own housing during formal recruitment.

Statement on Legacies

A legacy is defined differently by each inter/national organization. However, in general, a legacy is defined as a woman whose sister, mother or grandmother is a member of a National Panhellenic Conference sorority.

It is important to note that being a legacy does not ensure you a bid in a sorority. The sorority is not obligated to offer a bid to a legacy, and a potential new member is not obligated by anyone to commit to a chapter where she is a legacy.

Please remember that the ultimate decision to join a chapter rests with the potential new member. The potential new member should not make a decision or be under pressure based on her legacy affiliation. The potential new member should make a choice based on where she is most comfortable, not on the experience of another individual.

Recommendation Letters

A letter of recommendation is a recruitment information form that is completed by an alumna of that sorority. The purpose of a letter of recommendation is to introduce a potential new member to the alumna’s sorority chapter at SFA. Sororities appreciate and use this information to assist in their recruitment selection process. It is important to know that SFA Panhellenic Chapters do not require a letter of recommendation, but gladly accept them.

Although there is no official deadline for when letters of recommendation must be received, we request all letters be submitted no later than August 1st to ensure they are received prior to the start of Formal Recruitment. You can find the addresses to where to send the recommendation letters on the sorority profile pages of this booklet (Pages 13-17.)
Recruitment Rules & Policies

Stephen F. Austin State University Panhellenic Association Membership Recruitment Guidelines are intended to help guide Panhellenic women and potential new members through the membership selection process and Formal Recruitment week. The guidelines incorporate many of the procedures recommended and/or required by National Panhellenic Conference.

• A woman must be enrolled, full time undergraduate student at Stephen F. Austin State University to be eligible to participate in formal recruitment activities.

• Potential New Members must register with the Stephen F. Austin State University Panhellenic Association and pay the $100 nonrefundable registration fee in order to participate in Formal Recruitment.

• A Potential New Member should not be in contact with a chapter member, alumna member or anyone acting on the sorority’s behalf beginning at 12:01 a.m. on Sunday, August 20th. This includes social media communication.

• Potential New Members found with drugs or paraphernalia will be immediately removed from Formal Recruitment and turned into the Office of Students Rights and Responsibilities.

• Potential new members must abide by the SFA Panhellenic Membership Recruitment Rules as Well as the NPC Unanimous Agreements.

• Potential New Members participating in Formal Recruitment must wear the nametags provided by SFA Panhellenic during all Formal Recruitment Parties.

• A Potential New Member participating in Formal Recruitment shall not be, nor ever have been, an initiated member of a National Panhellenic Conference organization.

• A woman is ineligible for membership recruitment if she has been a new member of a NPC sorority at Stephen F. Austin State University within the same calendar year.

• A woman shall complete the “Membership Recruitment Acceptance” card immediately following the last preference event she attends. Once a “Membership Recruitment Acceptance” has been signed and submitted, no changes may be made.

• A woman signing a “Membership Recruitment Acceptance” card and receiving a bid at the end of Formal Recruitment shall be bound to the chapter she matched by the agreement for one calendar year at Stephen F. Austin State University.

• Failure to follow any of these rules could result in dismissal from the Formal Recruitment Process.

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Potential New Member Bill of Rights

As a Potential New Member of a Panhellenic sorority, you are entitled to the following:

• The right to be treated as an individual.

• The right to be fully informed about the recruitment process.

• The right to ask questions and receive true and objective answers from recruitment counselors and members.

• The right to be treated with respect.

• The right to be treated as a capable and mature person without being patronized.

• The right to ask how and why and receive straight answers.

• The right to have and express opinions to recruitment counselors.

• The right to have inviolable confidentiality when sharing information with recruitment counselors.

• The right to make informed choices without undue pressure from others.

• The right to be fully informed about the binding agreements implicit in the acceptance card signing.

• The right to make one’s own decision and accept full responsibility for the results of that decision.

• The right to have a positive, safe and enriching recruitment and new member experience.

Attendance

Recruitment, much like sorority membership itself, is a process that requires a reasonable commitment of time and effort. The Panhellenic Council has adopted a no-tolerance policy regarding missed days or events. Women participating in recruitment must be available to attend all scheduled invitational rounds and evening events; exceptions will be made only for university-related activities. Potential new members are expected to be present at every chapter event they are schedule to attend on any given day. Failure to do so will result in dismissal from recruitment.
Academics

Panhellenic chapters were founded on the principle of exceptional scholarship. Academic achievement is the foundation for our future success, and the SFA Panhellenic community is committed to creating an environment conducive to learning and attaining high academic goals. The Panhellenic Grade Point Average is consistently higher than the all-campus women GPA.

All women participating in SFA Panhellenic recruitment must have a minimum 2.5 GPA (on a 4.0 scale). If you have 12 or more college credit hours, we will defer to your college transcript. If you have fewer or no college credit hours, we will defer to your high school transcript.

It is important to understand each chapter has a grade point average requirement set by its international organization. If your GPA is a 2.5 you may have significantly fewer opportunities. Potential new members who do not meet the minimum academic requirements of a specific chapter are typically released early in the recruitment process. These individual requirements are listed on chapter profile pages later in the booklet.

After accepting membership on a chapter, there are academic requirements or a woman to stay active in the chapter. The GPA requirements differ from chapter to chapter. Inquiring about academic standards is a wonderful idea for conversations during recruitment.

Each woman must be a full-time student (registered for 12 credit hours) to be considered for one of our five Panhellenic chapters.

FALL 2016 Grade Report

All Panhellenic GPA 3.07

10% of Panhellenic women were on the President’s List with a GPA at 4.0

23% of Panhellenic women were on the Dean’s List with a GPA at 3.5 or above

Chapter Requirement

High School GPA

Alpha Chi Omega: 3.0/4.0
Chi Omega: 3.0/4.0
Delta Delta Delta: 3.0/4.0
Delta Zeta: 2.7/4.0
Zeta Tau Alpha: 3.0/4.0

College GPA

Alpha Chi Omega: 2.85/4.0
Chi Omega: 2.75/4.0
Delta Delta Delta: 2.8/4.0
Delta Zeta: 2.7/4.0
Zeta Tau Alpha: 3.0/4.0

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Financial Commitment

Financial requirements are an important consideration for women participating in Panhellenic recruitment, so it is important for you to be as informed as possible regarding the costs associated with Greek Life. If you accept an invitation to join a sorority, you will enter into a financial agreement and contract for housing and dues during your college years.

Dues and fees vary for each chapter and from year to year. It is important to note that Panhellenic sorority costs may be more expensive the first year due to one-time expenses and fees. It is also important to be aware that some additional costs may arise throughout the year such as T-shirts, party favors and pictures. Chapters may assess additional fees during the year to cover costs for special events or projects. Students are encouraged to determine how much they will allocate for these expense at the beginning of each semester.

Payment options, such as forms of payment and payment due dates, vary from chapter to chapter as well. Some chapters require full payment at the beginning of each semester while others have implemented payment plans that allow payments throughout the semester. Specific financial information for each chapter is available on the chapter websites and will be discussed on Bid Day.

It is important to consider all of the financial obligations associated with joining a Panhellenic sorority. We encourage you to ask any questions you might have regarding the potential costs of membership. Members of the SFA Panhellenic community are more than willing to answer your questions at any point during the process.

2017-2018 Financial Information

The monetary averages listed below were correct as of the time this publication was printed. While the financial requirements are not expected to increase in the near future, there is the potential that costs could increase depending on the chapter.

Dues are paid every semester

New Member Dues:
First Semester Average: $1,250

Out-of-House Member Dues:
Average Per Semester: $1,800

In-House Member Dues:
Average Per Semester: $4,050
(Includes Room & Board)

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Why should I join a Panhellenic Sorority?

Leadership

Sororities encourage active involvement in campus organizations and foster the skills necessary for their members to become strong leaders. Additional leadership development programming within the chapters promotes interaction with fraternity and sorority alumni and other community leaders who can help build a foundation for success after graduation.

Panhellenic women are involved in various professional academic programs such as: The Student Government Association, Student Activities Association, Jack Walkers, Greek Wide, Jack Camp, Orientation Leaders, Driving Jacks and much more!

Not only do sorority women seek out leadership positions on campus, but they also assume leadership roles within the individual chapters and in the Panhellenic community as a whole. These leadership roles help the members build communication skills, among other skills.

Every chapter has a different set of rules when it comes to who is qualified for a leadership role. All Panhellenic chapters at SFA highly encourage their members to take over a leadership role if they are qualified to do so.

There are also leadership opportunities as an Executive member of the panhellenic council. The Panhellenic Council offers 6 executive positions for active members of a Panhellenic sorority.

Scholarship

Sororities concentrate on creating successful scholarship programs that will help each member reach her academic goals. There programs include study hours, academic mentors, study files and support technology.

Chapters take great pride in their academic efforts and encourage their members to make education a top priority. Because of this strong commitment to scholarship, the Panhellenic sorority average GPA consistently exceeds the SFA undergraduate all-women’s average. The Panhellenic GPA for the fall 2016 was 3.07.

Campus Involvement

Sororities encourage active involvement in campus organizations and foster the skills necessary for their members to become strong leaders. Additional leadership development programming within the chapters promotes interaction with fraternity and sorority alumni and other community leaders who can help build a foundation for success after graduation.

Panhellenic women are involved in various professional academic programs such as: The Student Government Association, Student Activities Association, Jack Walkers, Greek Wide, Jack Camp, Orientation Leaders, Driving Jacks and much more!

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Philanthropy & Service

Sorority involvement in community service is a priority among all chapters at SFA. Sorority women contribute volunteer efforts and monetary donations to a number of worthwhile local and national organizations, some of which are highlighted on the sorority profile pages of this booklet.

The Panhellenic Association heavily supports many local philanthropies and participates in other campus-wide service projects, such as The Big Event and Highway cleanups. These projects, along with countless others, provide SFA sorority women the opportunity to grow as civic-minded leaders.

During the 2016-2017 academic year, Panhellenic women contributed over 100,000 service hours and over $150,000 to various local and national charities.

Social Connection

Every SFA sorority offers a healthy balance of social activities that focus on sisterhood, friendship, tradition and fun! Individual chapters organize date parties, formals, dual-chapter functions, dinner exchanges, parents’ weekends and membership retreats. They also compete in intramural sports, participate in Campus activities and attend SFA athletic events together.

The Panhellenic Council promotes safety and discretion at all chapter-sponsored activities. Texas state law and university policies regarding hazing and alcohol consumption are strictly enforced. Additionally, all chapters utilize their own risk management procedures to decrease the likelihood of accident or injury at social events.

Sisterhood

The Panhellenic Council hosts one to two Panhellenic sisterhoods per semester where all five sororities attend. A sisterhood is an event where Panhellenic women have the chance to get to know each other better. It is a great way to meet new people from other chapters and make new friends. At SFA we strongly encourage Panhellenic/Greek unity.

Every chapter has their own sisterhoods for their members. These events may vary per chapter but usually consist of activities that will strengthen the bond between the members of the chapter. Sisterhood is one of the main reasons for sorority membership. There are many benefits to sorority membership, but few are greater than the unconditional and lifetime bonds of friendship that we call sisterhood.

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Panhellenic Chapters
Chapter Info

National Founding Date: October 15, 1885
Chapter Name: Epsilon Eta
Colors: Scarlet Red & Olive Green
Flower: Red Carnation
Symbols: Lyre
National Philanthropy: Domestic Violence Awareness
National Website: www.alphachiomega.org
Local Website: www.sfasuaxo.org
Length of New Member Program: Six to Eight Weeks
Academic Requirements: Study Hours Based on GPA
High School GPA Required: 3.0/4.0
College GPA Required: 2.85/4.0

All Recommendation letters for Alpha Chi Omega need to be entered on the Alpha Chi Omega national website:

www.alphachiomega.org
Chapter Info

National Founding Date: April 5, 1895
Chapter Name: Epsilon Zeta
Colors: Cardinal & Straw
Flower: White Carnation
Symbols: Owl, Skull & Crossbones
National Philanthropy: Make-a-Wish Foundation
National Website: www.chiomega.com
Local Website: www.sfachiomega.com
Length of New Member Program: One Semester
Academic Requirements: Study Hours Based on GPA
High School GPA Required: 3.0/4.0
College GPA Required: 2.75/4.0

Recommendation letters for Chi Omega must be sent to:

Rebecca Calahan
2019 Essex, Nacogdoches, TX 75965
Chapter Info

National Founding Date: November 27, 1888
Chapter Name: Beta Xi
Colors: Silver, Gold & Cerulean Blue
Flower: Pansy
Symbols: Dolphin, Pine Tree & Pearl
National Philanthropy: St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital
National Website: www.tridelta.org
Local Website: www.sfasu.tridelta.org
Length of New Member Program: Eight Weeks
Academic Requirements: Study Hours Based on GPA
High School GPA Required: 3.0/4.0
College GPA Required: 2.8/4.0

All Recommendation letters for Tri Delta can be accessed on their national website and sent to:

Maddie Pellet
424 N Steen Dr.
Nacogdoches, TX 75965

TWITTER: @TRIDELTASFASU  INSTAGRAM: @TRIDELTA_SFASU
Chapter Info
National Founding Date: October 24, 1902
Chapter Name: Zeta Psi
Colors: Rose & Green
Flower: Pink Killarney Rose
Symbols: Roman Lamp & Turtle
National Philanthropy: Support of Speech and Hearing
National Website: www.deltazeta.org
Local Website: www.deltazetasfasu.wixsite.com
Length of New Member Program: Six to Eight Weeks
Academic Requirements: Study Hours Based on GPA
High School GPA Required: 2.7/4.0
College GPA Required: 2.7/4.0

Recommendation letters for Delta Zeta must be done online:
www.deltazeta.org/join-us/recommend-a-member

or sent to:
502 N Steen Dr
Nacogdoches, TX 75965
Chapter Info

National Founding Date: October 15, 1898
Chapter Name: Theta Eta
Colors: Turquoise Blue & Steel Gray
Flower: White Violet
Symbols: Five-pointed Crown & Strawberry
National Philanthropy: Breast Cancer Education & Awareness
National Website: www.zetas.org
Local Website: www.sfasu.zetas.org
Length of New Member Program: Six to Eight Weeks
Academic Requirements: Study Hours Based on GPA
High School GPA Required: 3.0/4.0
College GPA Required: 3.0/4.0

All Recommendation letters for Zeta Tau Alpha need to be sent to the Zeta Tau Alpha House:

514 N Steen Dr.
Nacogdoches, TX 75965
What does Panhellenic do?

The Panhellenic Association at Stephen F. Austin State University is the coordinating and governing body of the five NPC-affiliated sororities on campus. The council is composed of six executive board members who are elected annually by each chapter’s Panhellenic delegate. The council acts as the central governing body of the Panhellenic community. The Panhellenic Executive Council is actively involved with chapter development, including coordinating issue-related programs and leadership opportunities for chapters and their members, compiling grade statistics for individual chapters and the Panhellenic Association, coordinating campus and community service projects, and making resource materials available to help combat chapter issues. They are also in charge of organizing recruitment, including compiling and publishing recruitment materials for incoming students and training recruitment counselors to represent Panhellenic spirit to potential new members. Finally, the Panhellenic Executive Council represents all sororities at regional and national meetings, and represents all sorority women by serving on university committees.

Panhellenic Creed

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. Cooperation for furthering fraternity life, in harmony with its best possibilities, is the ideal that shall guide our fraternity activities.

We, as Fraternity Women, stand for service through the development of character inspired by the close contact and deep friendship of individual fraternity and Panhellenic life. The opportunity for wide and wise human service, through mutual respect and helpfulness, is the tenet by which we strive to live.
What is a Rho Gamma?

A recruitment counselor, also known as Rho Gamma, is a woman who is a member of a sorority chapter at Stephen F. Austin State University. She voluntarily completed an application and interview process to become a Rho Gamma. She has disaffiliated from her chapter so she can work as a friend and guide you. Disaffiliation means she does not have contact with her own chapter throughout the recruitment process and promised not to reveal her sorority affiliation in order to be unbiased in helping Potential new members find their chapter. It further means that the Rho Gamma’s purpose is to assist you and to model Panhellenic spirit to you.

Rho Gammas have been through hours of training in preparation for recruitment. These women are educated to answer any questions you may have. They aid you in selection a chapter that is best for your own interests and needs. They are available any time, day or night, to handle problems and offer guidance. Rho Gammas will keep anything you tell them in confidence, so you can be open with them about any problems you have during recruitment.

Recruitment can be a hectic and exciting time. If you get frustrated, collect your thoughts and talk with your Rho Gammas. Feel free to confide in them, make friends with them and ask questions – that’s why they’re here! Throughout the summer, you will be placed in a Facebook group with both of your Rho Gammas and other women going through recruitment. You will find out the chapter your Rho Gammas are part of at the end of the Panhellenic Bid Day Celebration.
What to wear

This round of parties focuses on the excitement of “Going Greek!” and the importance of philanthropy. During this day you will visit all five Panhellenic sororities. You will be greeted at each house by singing and smiling faces as you are welcomed to the party. Feel free to ask any questions and tell them a little about yourself.

Wear the recruitment t-shirt provided by the Panhellenic Association and casual shorts or skirts with flats or sandals.

This day is the longest so you definitely want to dress comfortably. Also, find a method that works for you to keep track of the chapters you visit.

The parties on this day are informative and allow you more time for conversations with the Panhellenic sorority women. You will be able to see the individuality and spirit of each chapter, as well as experience the special bond of Panhellenic sorority sisterhood.

Wear a casual daytime dress, skirt or capris with comfortable sandals, flats or wedges. No T-shirts or heels.

This day you will have a close glimpse of the sisterhood of the chapters. Think hard about if this is the group of women you could see yourself being a part of.
Preference Round

Party Length: 55 minutes
Maximum of two parties attended
Thursday, August 24th, 2017

This is the day to really focus on what you want to gain from joining a Panhellenic sorority. An invitation to Preference Round means the chapter is very interested in having you become a member. These events focus on sisterhood, friendship, ritual and the core values of the chapter.

Wear a cocktail dress with heels or wedges, perhaps a dress you would wear to an evening wedding.

Take a moment to look around the room at each of your parties; these women could be your new sisters. Make sure you feel comfortable.

Formal recruitment ends with Bid Day!
This the day Bid cards will be distributed by the Rho Gammas.

Wear a white T-shirt, shorts and comfortable shoes. You will receive a T-shirt with your letters from your chapter.

This is a very exciting day! Expect lots of hugs and photos as you join your new chapter.

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Terms to know

Active - The term used to indicate a sorority woman or a fraternity man who has been formally initiated by his or her chapter.

Alumna - A sorority member who has graduated from college.

Badge - The symbol worn by a initiated member of a Greek organization.

Big Sister - An initiated member of a sorority who serves as a mentor to a new member.

Chapter - The women comprising each local collegiate group of an national sorority.

Chapter Advisor - An alumna who establishes and maintains a close advisory relationship with a chapter and serves as a teacher, counselor & friend.

Dues - These are membership, philanthropic and other fees paid each semester to a chapter in order to be a member in good standing.

Initiation - Formal ceremony by which new members complete membership into a chapter and receive full membership privileges.

Legacy - The daughter or sister of an initiated member.

New Member - A student in her first semester of membership in a sorority before being initiated.

Philanthropy - The chapter’s specific charitable organization(s) to which they donate money and volunteer hours.

Potential New Member (PNM) - A woman who is going through the recruitment process.

Quota - The number of women each sorority may pledge in a formal recruitment process.

Recruitment - A series of events offering members and potential new members the opportunity to get to know each other.

Ritual - Traditional ceremonies of a chapter.

Rho Gamma - A sorority member who has disaffiliated from her chapter to help PNMs go through recruitment. She will serve as a mentor, counselor and friend.

Sister - An initiated member.

Strict Silence - Time when PNMs and active members of a sorority are not allowed to communicate either verbally, electronically, etc. outside of Panhellenic recruitment events.
Frequently Asked Questions

What if I only want to be in a certain sorority?
Only wanting to be a member of one specific sorority or only considering a few sororities can severely limit a potential new member’s options for membership and can lead to disappointment. Panhellenic discourages choosing a sorority based on stereotypes or others’ opinions. We encourage you to keep an open mind & make a decision that is right for you.

Do I need to attend every party I am invited to?
Yes! The purpose of recruitment is for you to gather as much information as possible about the various sororities, so you can make the best decision possible when choosing which chapter to join. If you intentionally miss parties, you could get released from recruitment. Let your Rho Gamma know ASAP if you absolutely cannot attend a party.

What if I don’t have a recommendation letter?
These letters are written to introduce you to the chapter members, they are not required nor will guarantee you a bid to a certain chapter.

When can I live in the sorority house?
Women must be eligible to move off SFA campus prior to moving into a sorority house. This includes women elected to executive officer positions. Eligibility to live off campus is 60 course credit hours or 21 years of age, whichever comes first. Members of Alpha Chi Omega, Delta Delta Delta, Delta Zeta and Zeta Tau Alpha are required to live in the sorority house for a minimum of one year. Executive officers of all chapters are required to live in the sorority house throughout the duration of their term.

What is Recruitment?
Recruitment is the process by which fraternities and sororities on campus introduce themselves to prospective new members. Each day you will attend parties at various sororities. As the week progresses, you will attend to fewer parties for a longer period of time. This will allow you the opportunity to devote more time to the women in the chapter you feel the strongest connection to.

What are the benefits of joining a sorority?
When joining a sorority you are also joining the Greek community. You will gain supportive friends, leadership opportunities, philanthropic projects, community service, career opportunities are just a few of the amazing benefits of joining a sorority.

Does Greek Life take up a lot of time?
Greek membership takes up as much time as you are willing to invest. You will have the choice as to what to participate in outside of mandatory chapter events. Greek woman have perfected the art of time management between jobs, academics and sorority life.

What is Continuous Open Bidding or Informal Recruitment?
Continuous Open Bidding (COB) begins as soon as Formal Recruitment ends. In the fall and spring, eligible chapters are able to extend bids to women who do not receive bids on Bid Day. It is important to know that only chapters that fall under chapter total are eligible to COB, therefore not every chapter might be eligible.

What if I don’t get invited to attend the maximum amount of chapters during each round?
During the recruitment process, the number of chapters a PNM will visit each day will vary from one woman to the next. The number of events is not important; it is the conversations and people you are interacting with that are important.

What is Greek Week?
Greek Week is all about coming together as a Greek Community to support one another. During Greek week, all Panhellenic chapters along with other Greek organizations participate in sports, stroll-offs and much more! This is the perfect time to deck out in Greek apparel and show off your Greek pride.

If I am going through recruitment as a sophomore or going through again, am I at a disadvantage?
Many women choose to go through recruitment as a sophomore or junior for various reasons. As long as you have the required GPA you should not have a problem. For those going through recruitment a second time, there is a chance that chapters that released you the first time through might release you again. You should keep an open mind and discuss all the activities in which you have been involved over the past year as well as let the sororities know why you are going through a second time.

What if I discover the sorority I’ve selected is not the right one for me?
Once you’ve accepted a bid to a sorority, the new member process is designed to make sure you are ready to make a life-long commitment to an organization. If before initiation you decide that you are not ready for the commitment, you can break your pledge from the organization. If you would like to participate in recruitment again, you can do so at the time of the next formal recruitment. Once you have accepted a bid from an NPC organization, you must wait until the next formal recruitment to be eligible to receive another bid from an NPC organization.
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