The Family’s Guide to Sorority Life At Roanoke College

The Greek Community Welcomes You To Join in Your Student’s Sorority Recruitment Journey!
Dear Parents and Families,

Your Roanoke College student has requested that you receive this information regarding the Sorority Formal Recruitment process. Entering college has undoubtedly been an exciting and challenging time in both your and your student’s life. I hope you both have found Roanoke College to be a great place for her to be, with opportunities to get involved in numerous ways. As a professional staff member in the Division of Student Affairs, I have encouraged all of our students to become involved in a number of activities outside of the classroom in order to have a rewarding and well-rounded college experience. We sincerely hope you see sorority membership as a good addition to your student’s educational experience.

Unlike many colleges and universities, Roanoke College takes a very “hands-on” approach with the members of the Greek community. Both the fraternity and sorority communities are advised by full-time professional staff members who work for the Division of Student Affairs. Having constant communication and support from the administration has undoubtedly increased the success of each of the Greek chapters on our campus.

We believe that participation in a sorority will benefit your student’s development into an adult through the many opportunities offered therein. Each sorority offers a unique experience, but many of the ideals are universal. For example, your student is sure to experience an emphasis on community service, academic success, friendship, and leadership during her time as a sorority women at Roanoke College.

It is now the time for you to learn all you can about the sorority recruitment process in order to be an educated and supportive person for your student though this first phase in her sorority experience. This packet contains information that will help you understand the process in which she will be participating in mid-January. If at any time you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me personally. My contact information can be found below.

Happy Holidays,

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What is a Panhellenic Sorority?
Panhellenic Council is the governing body of all the recognized women’s social sororities on campus. They provide oversight and guidance to the sororities, program functions and special events for the Greek community, and run the Formal Sorority Recruitment process each January.

What sororities does this include?
Alpha Sigma Alpha
Chi Omega
Delta Gamma
Phi Mu

What is Sorority Formal Recruitment??

Formal Recruitment is a process in which eligible women attend daily recruitment events, which helps Potential New Members (PNMs) and active sorority members aquaint themselves with one another. Throughout the week, your student will have one-on-one conversations with sorority women, as well as watch presentations, to learn more about the sororities’ values and activities.

Membership selection is a “mutual process”. This means that throughout the week, the PNMs and the chapters will consider several factors when making decisions. We want your daughter to end up joining the sorority that is the best “fit” for her. This process helps make that a reality.

More information on details of the process follow on the next page of this packet.
FORMAL RECRUITMENT 2011
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

THURSDAY, JANUARY 13
POTENTIAL NEW MEMBERS (PNMS) RETURN TO CAMPUS NO LATER THAN NOON.

FIRST ROUND EVENTS—6:00-9:15pm
EACH PNM VISITS ALL FOUR SORORITIES.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 14
SECOND ROUND EVENTS—2:00-5:00pm
EACH PNM VISITS UP TO THREE SORORITIES.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 15
PREFERENCE ROUND EVENTS—3:00-5:30pm
EACH PNM VISITS UP TO TWO SORORITIES.

PNMS SIGN PREFERENCE CARDS, SHOWING THEIR PREFERENCE OF WHICH SORORITY THEY WISH TO JOIN.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 16
BIDS DAY

BID CARDS ARE HAND-DELIVERED BY PANHELLENIC COUNCIL EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS AND THE GREEK LIFE COORDINATOR TO YOUR STUDENT BETWEEN 1:00-2:15pm

BID ACCEPTANCE/ANTI-HAZING SESSION 2:00pm

“THE RUN” AND “REVEAL”
NEW CHAPTER MEMBERS WILL “RUN” TO THE CHAPEL WHERE THEY WILL MEET THEIR NEW SISTERS! 2:30pm
Benefits of the Sorority System

Scholarship - Sorority women have consistently scored above the all-women's academic grade point average. Each chapter has their own academic excellence plan, encouraging their members to excel in the classroom. Career development programs are sponsored for Panhellenic woman. Faculty Appreciation Day is also held each year during which sorority women are able to honor appreciated faculty members. Sorority women in their junior and senior years have the opportunity to join the Order of Omega, a national honor society for members of the Greek community who exhibit outstanding academics and involvement in the Greek community.

Leadership - Many sorority women held leadership positions while they were in high school, and Greek life offers members the chance to continue to develop their leadership skills. However, leadership roles in High School are not a requirement.

Women can hold positions ranging from Alumni Weekend Chair to President at both the chapter and campus levels. In fact, many great leaders today including Former Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O’Conner and Civil Rights Activist Coretta Scott King were each members of a sorority as college undergraduates.

Philanthropy/Community Service - Each sorority has an individual philanthropy that they support throughout the year. Philanthropic activities include such things as Children's Miracle Network, Special Olympics, Service for Sight, Make a Wish Foundation, and many others.

In addition, each sorority requires its members to participate in community service activities throughout the year.

Social Involvement - Sorority members participate in sisterhood activities and retreats. The women may take a trip to a local park, a shopping venture at Wal-Mart, or they might simply share a pizza in their living quarters. No matter what the activity, your daughter is sure to have fun as friendships continue to grow. Social events such as theme socials, cookouts, formals, and dated functions are also popular. Whether the women are sporting their best disco gear for a seventies social or dancing the night away at their sorority formal, you can bet that memories are in the making. You can't forget Roanoke College traditions such as Alumni Weekend where events are filled with games, spirit competitions and fun...
During recruitment, it is very important that your student keep an open mind, and look for a group of women with whom she can feel most “at home”. The four days of recruitment may have moments which can be stressful, confusing, or tiring, and you may be called on by her for support.

Just as the chapters are narrowing down the list of women who they will extend event invitations to, your student will be narrowing down her list of chapters to which she wishes to learn more about. It is important for her to attend all recruitment events she is invited to, as this will increase her chance of receiving a bid to a sorority.

Your student may have an idea of which sorority she wants to join as she enters into recruitment. Encourage her to keep an open mind throughout the entire process, because having hopes set on only one chapter might lead to disappointment during the process.

Participating in the recruitment process is not a guarantee that your student will receive an invitation to join a sorority, nor does it require that she has to accept an invitation to join a sorority.

Finally, encourage your student to wear warm clothes during recruitment. She may have to walk outside going to and from events, and it is likely to be very cold!
Financial Obligations

One question that many families have when their daughter is considering joining a sorority is, “How much is this going to cost?” Whether you pay their dues, help pay their dues, or have your student pay for her own dues, there is a financial commitment that comes along with joining a sorority.

Each chapter sets their own dues cost each year and budgets to the penny what each dollar goes to pay for within the chapter. Dues typically pay for social functions (dances, sisterhood events, etc.), new member fees (pin, national fees, initiation fees), member development (workshops, training sessions, academic incentives, etc.), and other programs and events that each chapter puts on throughout the year.

For the first semester your daughter is a member of a sorority, the dues are higher because of the initial costs of joining (the gold or silver pin, the sisterhood events, the initiation fee to the national organization, etc.) This first semester set of dues ranges from $450-$780, depending on which sorority your student may join.

For the semesters following the first that your student is a member of a sorority, the dues are reduced. Dues typically range from $300-$450 each semester.

While this may seem like a lot, research shows that sorority members spend significantly less than the average student on entertainment and other social outlets because of the provided events from the sorority and Greek Life.

Academic Requirements

The College does not set a GPA requirement for students to participate in the Formal Recruitment Process. However, each chapter sets a minimum GPA for women to join. This typically ranges from a 2.4-2.5 previous semester average on a 4.0 scale. Some chapters have more stringent academic requirements, and your daughter should be familiar with these requirements prior to returning to campus to participate in recruitment.

Once initiated into the sorority, each chapter requires members to maintain a high GPA in order to remain an active member in the organization.
Alcohol Policy

The Roanoke College sorority system opposes the misuse of alcohol and maintains that all chapters, individual members, and guests abide by all local, commonwealth, and federal laws. Guidelines for social events involving alcohol are mandated by the national headquarters of each of our organizations. Additionally, possession of alcohol on our sorority’s chapter premises is prohibited.

Policy on Hazing

Roanoke College prohibits hazing, as defined by the National Panhellenic Conference. Hazing is defined as "any action taken or situation with or without the consent that recklessly, intentionally or unintentionally endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student, or creates risk of injury, or causes discomfort, embarrassment, harassment or ridicule or that willfully destroys or removes public or private property for the purpose of initiation or admission into or affiliation with, or as a condition for continued membership in, a chapter or colony of an NPC member [sorority]."

Again, if you have any comments, questions, or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Lindsay Faulstick in the Office of Student Affairs.

We believe that families are a crucial component in the success of our college students. Participation in their academic and social progress is beneficial to your daughter, the College, and to you!