

Introduction

General Fraternity and Seniors

The general fraternity can play a key role in cultivating the lifelong commitment of members. Through the development of key practices, you can increase the likelihood that your members will continue to be connected to the fraternity as alumni.

This section will provide you with ideas you can do for seniors and a sample letter to give to seniors as they enter their senior year. The other sections of this resource include programming ideas for chapters, reflection activities for seniors to complete on their own, and sample seminars that can be conducted for the chapter's senior members.

The possibilities for embracing seniors are endless. Commit the resources to developing a strong program for your seniors and you will be pleased with the results.

Idea pages

Senior Packets

Provide graduating seniors with a packet including the following:

- *a statement of recommitment to the lifelong bonds of fraternity*
- *information on services available through the fraternity (insurance, credit cards, loans)*
- *volunteer opportunities through the fraternity*
- *change of address cards*
- *foundation donation information*

Young Alumni Programs

Create opportunities for young alumni to remain involved in the fraternity. Many organizations require that alumni be out of school a certain number of years before they take on a chapter advisor position. However, you can still involve young alumni in learning the ropes of being a chapter advisor through a mentoring program or you can utilize their skills at various leadership conferences and meetings of the fraternity.

Continue to acknowledge the value of each member in the years immediately following graduation. The dividends will pay off in the future.

Relocation Information

We often cite the fact that you can move anywhere in the country and find a fellow fraternity member in or near your new city. This person is someone who can help you adjust to a new community and find your way around town.

Work with your alumni to find volunteers who are willing to be a contact for a member who is moving to their city. Establish easy expectations for these volunteers such as:

- *make one phone call or email to the person*
- *offer assistance in helping the member find the resources s/he needs*

When you receive a change of address card for a member, forward the information onto the volunteer in the closest city.

Career Network

Create and publicize a career network of your alumni. Find people who are willing to provide internship or shadowing opportunities as well as answer questions about their given field of work. Include phone numbers, emails and mailing addresses. Provide this list to all juniors and seniors.

Senior Ritual

If your organization does not currently have one, develop a senior ritual for your members to go through upon graduation. It can serve as an opportunity to reflect on the values and ideals and make a commitment to the fraternity upon graduation.

Senior Circle (Foundation)

Provide an opportunity for seniors to begin donating to the foundation. Set a level of giving and provide recognition for seniors who achieve this level of giving (i.e. provide a special pin, recognition in the fraternity magazine).

Career Related Resources

Develop resources on resume writing, cover letters, salary negotiation, tips on applying to graduate school, helpful hints on taking preparation tests (LSAT, MCAT, GRE, GMAT) and other pertinent topics. Give these resources to each chapter to use in their membership development programming.

Graduate School Scholarships

Offer scholarships to seniors going on to graduate/professional school.

Senior Newsletter

Target a monthly or quarterly newsletter at seniors. Include career development tips, information on graduate school, showcase alumni in different career fields, and spotlight some of the fraternity's outstanding seniors.

Sample letter to Seniors

Mailed to all members as they enter their senior year

October 1, 2001

Dear Brother/Sister:

Congratulations on reaching your senior year! You probably can hardly believe that your undergraduate career is coming to an end. The good news is your opportunities with the fraternity/sorority are just beginning.

Remember your initiation when you made a promise to lifelong membership in ABC? You may not have realized what exactly that meant and that is why I want to take the opportunity to share with you how the fraternity/sorority can continue to be a part of your life after graduation.

One way you can continue to benefit from the fraternity/sorority is through our member benefits programs. As an ABC, you can take advantage of the following opportunities:

Insert information on member benefits programs here.

Another way to remain involved is simply through keeping your address current with the headquarters. As a result, magazines, press releases and other pertinent information can reach you in a timely manner. You will be able to read about your chapter's latest successes as well as current initiatives of the general fraternity/sorority.

Volunteer opportunities abound within ABC! You can serve on leadership college faculties, as a presenter of educational program and regional conferences, and as an advisor to a chapter near where you live. You can also serve on different task forces and committees of the fraternity/sorority and help chart the future direction of our organization.

Finally, you can donate to the educational foundation. Your annual contributions will help support the educational advances of ABC and keep us the leader in the fraternity/sorority world. There are many convenient ways for you to continue your support of the fraternity/sorority. Please look over the enclosed brochure detailing our educational foundation.

Once again, congratulations on reaching the end of your undergraduate career. Please know that we wish you the best of luck as you embark on the next phase of your life.

Sincerely,

Fred Fraternity
Executive Director of ABC

transitions

A resource of the North-American Interfraternity Conference ©2001