

Hazing – True or False?

For hazing to occur, there must be a climate that accepts it. This climate creates an atmosphere where new members must “earn” the right to be initiated. It fosters the belief that one class of members is better than another group. When this climate prevails, members forget that under our laws, once a bid is accepted, a new member must only complete the *Theta for a Lifetime* modules and pay her fees in order to be initiated. They forget that the potential new member they cherished and desperately wanted during recruitment has already been selected for membership.

Sometimes big sisters or older members plan questionable activities that are not on the member orientation calendar. The poor judgement of a few does not necessarily mean that the chapter is not at fault. Remember that in order for hazing to occur, a climate that accepts it must be present.

Member orientation should be a time for learning about Kappa Alpha Theta and the joys of sisterhood. The Fraternity’s mission statement should be fulfilled from the moment a new member pledges herself to Kappa Alpha Theta.

Hazing Categories

Subtle Hazing

Actions that are against accepted sorority standards of conduct, behavior and good tastes. An activity or attitude directed toward a new member or an act, which ridicules, humiliates or embarrasses.

Harassment Hazing

Anything that causes mental anguish or physical discomfort to the new member. Any activity or activity directed toward a new member or activity, which confuses, frustrates or causes undue stress.

Dangerous Physical Hazing

Anything which may endanger the life or health of a new member. Any action or activity which has the potential to cause bodily injury or permanent psychological damage.

College Chapter Handbook

Examples for each category can be found in the *College Chapter Handbook*, which is online at www.kappaalphatheta.org

Kappa Alpha Theta Mission Statement

Yesterday, today and tomorrow, Kappa Alpha Theta exists to nurture each member throughout her college and alumnae experience and to offer a lifelong opportunity for social, intellectual, and moral growth as she meets the higher and broader demands of mature life.

HAZING QUIZ

ANSWER TRUE OR FALSE TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

1. Chapters are allowed to make their new members go on scavenger hunts to find their mentor or big sister.
2. It is all right to line up new members and ask them questions about themselves and their families.
3. Anyone who is not a senior must use the "back" entrance to the facility.
4. New members should know something about every active member before they can be initiated.
5. If a new member class has been bad, they should be punished by the active members. Active members can postpone initiation.
6. New members should have to compose and sing a song in front of the active members.
7. New members should have to take an exam showing their understanding of the Fraternity before they can be initiated.
8. Tradition: "If I had to do it, so should they."
9. New members must do all facility chores.
10. Under no circumstance should a new member be allowed in the "secret" chapter room.
11. Only new members should be scheduled to answer the telephone and front door.

If your chapter answered any of these questions TRUE...
YOUR CHAPTER MAY BE HAZING ITS MEMBERS.

What Do You Think?

1. What kind of “climate” do you have in your chapter?
2. Are new members treated differently than other members are?
3. Do new members in your chapter need to earn the right for initiation?
4. What can you do to create a better “climate” in your chapter?