

Positive New Member Education Programming Ideas

Objectives/Learning Outcome	Program/Activity Ideas
To instill an understanding of, and appreciation for, the principles upon which the fraternity/sorority was founded	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have pledges discuss how to employ the organizations creed or founding principles in their daily lives
To provide an understanding of the local and national history, traditions, programs, organization and governance structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribute materials on history, traditions, etc. to pledges, with weekly assignments • Give weekly quizzes on the material • Have game-show style competitions to test knowledge about the organization • Have regional or national officers speak to the chapter • Go on road-trips to view nearby chapters
To better acquaint new members with each other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have pledges interview each other • Have pledges complete and share “lifelines” listing the high points and low points in their lives
To better acquaint new members with initiates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have pledges and initiates interview each other • Create personal discussion cards with questions (categorized in low, medium and high risk) for members to share answers • Have each member share two truths and one lie about themselves with the group and have the groups guess which one is the lie
To develop friendships, loyalty, and brotherhood/sisterhood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have chapter retreats designed to get the members to know one another • Have periodic gavel/candle passes where members share while they value their membership in the organization • Have reverse gavel passes where the member with the gavel doesn’t speak while the others share what they value about the person holding the gavel

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To acquaint new members with alumni and provide networking opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invite alumni to make presentations to the pledge class • Assign alumni as mentors for the pledges (match according to career interest if possible)
To encourage and motivate pledges to achieve their academic potential and prepare for future careers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have pledges set personal academic (GPA) goals and utilize progress reports completed by instructors • Require pledges to visit an academic counselor/advisor • Conduct workshops on study skills • Organize study hours in the library • Give rewards for earning A's on tests, etc. • Have workshops on preparing resumes, interviewing for jobs, etc.
To develop and enhance leadership skills and problem-solving abilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Divide the pledge class into small groups, provide each group with a case study, and ask each group to solve the problem as if they were the officers of the chapter • Have pledges participate in a chapter goal setting exercise
To develop and enhance time management skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct a time-management seminar • Purchase daily planners for the pledges
To teach members membership recruitment techniques and strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have the pledges organize a mock rush/recruitment event and have the initiates play the role of skeptical potential members
To educate new members about the Greek community and improve Greek relations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invite campus officials such as the Greek Advisor, Dean of Students, Greek Council president, student government officers, etc. to speak to the pledge class • Assign each pledge a campus official to interview and make a report of the interview to the other pledges • Organize dry pledge class exchanges with the pledge classes of other organizations • Require the pledges to attend and observe a Greek Council meeting

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To instill a spirit of community service and helping the less fortunate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have the pledges participate in a service project (beach clean-up, visiting a retirement home, organizing a sports competition for underprivileged children, sponsoring a blood drive, etc.)
To learn to work together as a team to achieve common goals and develop an understanding of group dynamics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct team-building and/or communications exercises. Check with your Greek Life or Student Activities office for materials or order the “Brotherhood Building Activities” manual from the North-American Interfraternity Conference
To make new members knowledgeable regarding policies of the campus, local chapter and national organization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribute local and national bylaws and campus policies. Have pledges take sections and make presentation on each section to the other pledges.
To educate new members regarding all aspects of chapter operations, including financial management, organizational structure, and job descriptions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assign each pledge to serve as an assistant for a chapter officer and/or assign pledges to chapter committees • Have officers make a presentation to the pledges explaining their duties • Conduct a chapter financial workshop – explain the chapter budget and make financial obligations clear
To provide education and create awareness on topics such as substance abuse, risk management, sexual assault, diversity issues, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invite speakers from the campus counseling center, health services center, multi-cultural center, student activities office, police department speak to the chapter
To develop etiquette, social skills, personal responsibility and a strong sense of values and ethics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a etiquette presentation • Have members create and share a personal code of arms and/or creed that highlights the values they cherish • Invite older members of an opposite-gender organization to discuss dating relationships, social graces, etc.
To teach new members how to run an effective meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invite the pledges to sit in on chapter business meetings • Have a workshop on parliamentary procedure
To teach new members how to plan and organize events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assign the pledges to organize a community service project, dry social event, etc.

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To develop a sense of pride in the organization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organize house improvement work parties with both pledges and initiates • Have the pledges design a classy T-shirt which they wear at special events and all wear to class on designated days
To encourage new members to take advantage of the many opportunities that exist on the campus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend a camps event (cultural performance, athletic event, etc. together). • Encourage each pledge to become a member of another campus organization. • Invite student leaders to speak to the pledge class about involvement opportunities
To provide social and recreation opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organize a sporting event with the pledge class of another organization • Organize a sporting event between little brothers/sisters and big brothers/sisters • Have a dry social event (beach party, picnic, bowling, etc.)
To ensure that new members are meeting the organization's standards and requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual performance evaluation interviews with the Pledge Education Committee • Weekly consultation meetings with the Big Brother/Sister • Refer pledges who violate chapter policies to the chapter judicial or standards board