

PARENT AND FAMILY EVENTS

Family, parents, and loved ones are those who have helped shape and mold your members. Remaining in touch with parents and family members will be a valuable asset for your members all throughout life. The following are ideas for involving families directly with your chapter.

PARENT APPRECIATION NIGHT

Invite parents back for a special recruitment event in conjunction with a Parents Night/Weekend. Feel free to invite the parents of prospective members. Parents whose sons are having a positive experience will be credible resources. Be sure to give them factual information about the chapter in the event a parent or prospective member asks them about the chapter.

House Tour: After a thorough all-chapter clean up, take out all the old composites, scrap books, and memorabilia for parents to peruse after their house tour.

Membership Map: Some chapters have a permanent display with a large map of the United States or the state where the school is located in their chapter house, suite, or kiosk. Put tiny flags with members' names and attach to straight or push-pins into the place on the map where each member lives. This is a quick and very visual way to help parents see where other members are from.

Directory: Pull together a professional directory of members, their campus and permanent addresses. Be sure to include the names of their parents in the event that parents want to connect with each other after the chapter activity.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Invite parents to educational programs that the chapter sponsors. Consider utilizing the professional and personal experiences of your members' parents as well. They may be well known resources in their field and could provide an excellent workshop for the chapter.

TALENT NIGHT

Many campuses hold a college/university-wide talent competition. If you have members performing or competing, this would be an ideal activity for parents. If the chapter has a great deal of talent in its membership, consider showcasing their skills during a special parents program.

INTERFRATERNAL EVENTS

Many chapters hold traditional activities that develop school spirit and pride. Some campuses provide educational programs and conferences for the members. Some chapters have large philanthropic events raising money in a creative manner. Consider inviting parents to these programs to help them get a feel for the campus in addition to your chapter environment.

SCHOLARSHIP NIGHT

If your chapter has a strong scholarship recognition program, this is an ideal opportunity to recognize your members as well as promote your members' academic abilities. Parents would enjoy seeing who has the most improved grades, highest grades, scholarship recipients, and Dean's List honorees. They will better understand and appreciate the fraternity's commitment to academics at this type of program.

COMMENCEMENT ACTIVITIES

Hold a special reception for graduating seniors and their parents. If your chapter has a special non-ritual alumni ceremony, invite parents to watch their sons commit themselves to life-long dedication to the fraternity.

ALUMNI & PARENT CAREER NIGHT

Invite your alumni and parents to an event for juniors and seniors. Ask parents what current employers are looking for in a strong candidate. Members will benefit from seeing both male and female professionals in their chosen fields. They can ask candid questions which relate specifically to their field.

INITIATION

Consider inviting fathers/grandfathers for alumni initiation into the brotherhood. This is a very special way for parents to support their son and develop a life-long commitment to the Fraternity.

ETIQUETTE LUNCH/DINNER

Members should utilize the vast experiences of the parents of their brothers. They can offer advice on job search strategies, review resumes (especially for members who are in their professional fields), and conduct mock interviews for the seniors. Just as alumni can support the undergraduate members in this manner, parents can provide similar resources. Consider hosting a business etiquette program during the meal so your members are prepared for luncheon or dinner interviews.

WORK WEEKEND

Many chapters plan a workday where parents work alongside with their sons to make minor home repairs, work on the yard, and develop the landscaping.

LIFE SKILLS WORKSHOP

Host a Life Skills Workshop in which parents teach the members how to cook, balance their budgets, buy or lease a car, discuss health insurance, and find their first apartment.

ATHLETIC EVENT

Any type of informal team sporting event could be a fun way for people to get to know each other. Some groups play softball or ultimate frisbee. It doesn't matter if you're a good athlete, it just gives members and parents the chance to play and have fun with others.

FOUNDERS' DAY/CHAPTER ANNIVERSARY

Special chapter occasions are excellent opportunities to involve alumni, parents, community, and university representatives. Consider activities that will help the attendees appreciate the work of the founding fathers and how the chapter has developed over the years.

GOLF TOURNAMENT

This is an event that involves the whole family. Set up a scramble tournament mixing pairs of fathers or mothers with sons. Think about various awards that could be given during the course of the tournament: longest drive, closest to the pin, lowest score, highest score, etc. Provide fraternity memorabilia to the award winners.

MAJOR COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY SPORTING EVENT

Not only are parents becoming more connected to your chapter, they are developing a great sense of pride in your institution. Group tickets could be purchased for a special parents event. Help identify your group with signs and banners at the game.

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

Think about how special your brotherhood made each new member feel when you extended a bid to the new member. He was excited to join your chapter and felt strongly about the decision he just made. Some parents were skeptical. Some parents were wary. Some were not supportive of their son's decision. This is an opportunity for the chapter to show the parents of new members how they made the right decision. Let parents know the rights and responsibilities of new members. Start changing their perception of your chapter to a positive, productive one. Inform them of the community service, academic development, leadership, social, recreational, and educational aspects of the chapter. Give them the most accurate and well-rounded picture of your chapter.

OTHER IDEAS

- Parents and Family Barbeque on Family Weekend
- Invite Families to Philanthropic Events
- Freshman Move-In day