

# Considerations for Planning or Approving Pledge Retreats

- A. The purpose of the retreat must be educational with the intent of teaching information in a relaxed informal atmosphere. Suggested sessions may include:
- 1) General Fraternity history and Delta Sigma Pi history.
  - 2) Chapter and Fraternity operations.
  - 3) Risk Management, Insurance and Conduct Policy, Bylaws and other policies.
  - 4) Chapter and Fraternity goals.
  - 5) Motivational topics.
- B. The time allotted for social events should be no greater than 50% of the total time of the retreat from arrival to departure. Suggestions include:
- 1) Teamwork sessions by trained professionals.
  - 2) Volleyball, croquet, board games, sing-a-longs.
  - 3) Cookout, homemade ice cream, s'mores, movie and popcorn.
- C. Who is in charge?
- The Regional Vice President, District Director or Chapter Advisor should attend a pledge retreat. The Vice President-Pledge Education and/or Chapter President are the organizers of the event and must ensure the availability of program materials as well as having safety precautions in place. An agenda (hour by hour) must be prepared (see A & B above) and approved in advance by the Regional Vice President with copies filed at the Central Office as part of the Pledge Education Program.
- D. Avoiding problems must be a priority to ensure a successful pledge retreat. Avoiding the following will help, especially with planning "get to know you" games.
- 1) A pledge retreat is for pledges only. A chapter retreat is for collegiate members. Neither is for alumni, friends, and dates. The Advisor or a National officer should be requested to attend.
  - 2) Relay and team events that pose high risk of injury shall not be approved. Examples include trust falls and head spins with a bat.
  - 3) Events may not be held that pose high risk of sexual harassment. Examples include popping balloons between chests, spin the bottle, strip poker, suck and blow card game, twister, and tackle football. All sports shall be suitable for co-ed participation.
  - 4) Increased awareness of health risks dictate that some events are not appropriate when it is possible that germs may be spread. Examples to avoid include: passing lifesavers with a toothpick mouth to mouth, passing straws mouth to mouth and using shared drinking containers.

E. Setting limits as precautionary measures.

- 1) Enforce all sections of the Risk Management, Insurance and Conduct Policy – be constantly aware of hazing risks and alcohol control.
- 2) Clearly communicate the arrival and departure times and any special transportation or food arrangements.
- 3) Do not create teams that may appear discriminating. Promote the inclusion of all.
- 4) Communicate and collect any fees due for the event in advance.
- 5) Determine medical concerns, special diets, use of prescriptions, etc. by any participants and identify an emergency contact for all participants.
- 6) Be certain a first aid kit is available.
- 7) Check with the school and with the Fraternity insurance carrier on insurance requirements if the event is off-campus.

F. Overnight event:

- 1) Overnight Pledge Retreats are not permitted.