Boston University Panhellenic Recruitment 2015
Families’ Guide to Sorority Life

Boston University is home to an ever-growing Sorority and Fraternity Life community. Currently there are more than 1,100 women in BU Sorority Life and Sorority and Fraternity Life represents about 7.7% of the undergraduate student body. Being a member of this vibrant community helps many students adapt to the scholastic and social challenges posed by life at a large university. In addition to finding a home away from home, members of our community gain valuable leadership skills, raise money for philanthropies, volunteer countless hours of service, and consistently exceed the all-campus GPA.

What is formal recruitment?

Formal recruitment is a 5 day program where interested women (referred to as Potential New Members or PNMs) get to meet women from all the Panhellenic chapters at Boston University. On day one they will visit all ten chapters. As the program goes on PNMs will visit fewer chapters but for a longer period of time learning more about the chapters and meeting more of the current chapter members. The goal of formal recruitment is to extend a bid (invitation to join a chapter) to every interested woman. While there are no guarantees in the process, historically 99% of the women who remain in the program until the end are offered a bid.

All PNMs attend events during formal recruitment weekend called "parties" during which they visit the various sorority chapter rooms. These parties take place during the course of four nights. During the first round of recruitment, PNMs will attend parties in each organization’s room for fifteen minutes each. The theme of the first night focuses on the Panhellenic community as a whole. This process is repeated three more times as PNMs narrow down the organizations they are interested in, and the organizations narrow down the PNMs they'd like to offer bids to. During the second round of recruitment, each woman can only visit a maximum of 8 sororities for a half hour each to learn about each chapter’s philanthropy and during the third round, each woman can visit a maximum of 5 sororities for forty five minutes each to learn about
each chapter’s sisterhood. On preference night—the last night in which chapters share a small ritual ceremony with PNMs—each woman can visit a maximum of 2 sororities for one hour each, but some PNMs may attend only one preference party.

**How does the process work?**

The concept of mutual selection describes the underlying philosophy and practice of sorority recruitment. The term mutual selection means that your daughter has the right to select those organizations which interest her, and those organizations have the same right in selecting potential new members (PNMs) which interest them. We use a computer system to manage these selections and everything is confidential.

**Who is going to assist my student through the process?**

Once your student begins recruitment, she is placed into a recruitment group and given a current sorority member as a Panhellenic Counselor (we refer to them as Pi Chis). This woman is diassociated from her chapter during recruitment and her role is to guide the women through recruitment and answer any questions or concerns your daughter may have about joining a sorority while being unbiased.

**Where is recruitment held?**

There is no sorority housing at Boston University; therefore, formal recruitment is held at the Marriott Copley.

**When is formal recruitment?**

Formal recruitment is held during a long weekend before the beginning of spring semester

**What is Bid Day?**

On Tuesday of formal recruitment, each organization distributes bids to PNMs. A bid is a formal invitation to join a sorority. *Boston University Panhellenic Council does not guarantee that every woman will receive a bid.* We encourage you and your student to be aware of this fact and to consider this when going through the recruitment process.
**What is Bid Day?**

On Tuesday of formal recruitment, each organization distributes bids to PNM. A bid is a formal invitation to join a sorority. *Boston University Panhellenic Council does not guarantee that every woman will receive a bid.* We encourage you and your student to be aware of this fact and to consider this when going through the recruitment process.

- **What if my student doesn’t get a bid? How will she know?**
  
  If your student is not extended a bid during formal recruitment following preference round, a member of the Panhellenic Recruitment Team will contact her to let her know prior to bid day celebrations.

- **What if my student has class/a conflict on Tuesday evening?**
  
  If your student has class on Tuesdays, we will call her to inform her which chapter offered her a bid. She will have the option to join her own chapter’s individual bid day event after class concludes.

**What advice can I give my student before she attends recruitment?**

We encourage each PNM to keep an open mind throughout the recruitment process. Women interested in joining any sorority have a much higher chance to be placed when compared to a woman who only wants to join a sorority. When a woman enters the recruitment process with a preconceived notion that sorority "ABC" is the best, most popular, or the only choice for her then she intentionally prefers this sorority above all others. Once again, this approach will substantially diminish the likelihood of receiving a bid to that or another organization on campus.

It's also important to note that sorority recruitment events do not involve men or alcohol and are closely monitored by the Student Activities Office, local alumni, and (in some cases) a representative from the inter/national organization.

Please feel free to contact Recruitment Director, Dana Finley, with any questions about the recruitment process at burecruitment2015@gmail.com.
Frequently Asked Questions

What are the benefits of joining a sorority?
Beginning college is one of the biggest life changes that an individual will experience. Joining a sorority chapter can help make the transition easier. The sorority experience is multifaceted and offers numerous opportunities. Forming friendships with the members in their chapter often helps make the campus seem smaller to students. For many members, these chapters become homes away from home, and the friendships developed become life-long.

In addition to friendship and brotherhood/sisterhood, every chapter is dedicated to enhancing leadership development, promoting academic achievement, and providing service to the campus community. In addition, the vast majority of sorority women participate in other campus organizations, peer mentoring programs, sport teams, and other areas of campus life.

Crucial to any type of campus involvement is a primary commitment to academics and successfully developing solid time management skills. It is up to the student to determine the level of involvement that they want to have in the organization as well as what kind of experience it will be for them, both as an undergraduate and during their lifetime membership.

Will joining a sorority adversely affect a student's grades?
Students often find managing their time difficult when moving from the highly structured high school environment to the freedom of college. Sorority membership can assist in that transition by offering scholarship programs that may include study partners, mandatory study hours, and time management workshops. A student can also access the network of chapter members who already know how to use campus resources like the Mugar Library, Writing Center, computer labs, and academic advisors. Nothing, however, can take the place of a disciplined and academically-focused student to ensure success in college.
How much time is required to be a member of a chapter?
The time commitment varies from chapter to chapter, but the first semester is time intensive as the students participate in the chapter's New Member Education Program. The time spent in this program should provide an opportunity to develop leadership and time management skills, learn about the history of the organization, and develop friendships among the new member class, as well as the rest of the chapter. Generally the program includes a weekly meetings, time spent with other members, and scheduled study hours for coursework.

Each chapter has weekly chapter meetings and other mandatory events (philanthropic, service, initiation) throughout the year that are generally planned in advance in order to promote reasonable time management. As with any organization, the time commitment increases as a student assumes leadership responsibilities.

Are sororities expensive?
Joining a fraternity or sorority does involve a financial commitment. Generally, the most expensive semester of membership is the first, during which a one-time initiation fee is paid to the national organization and the membership badge is purchased. These dues go directly to services that will positively impact your student. In most organizations, new members pay a slightly higher “new member fee” in their first semester before being initiated and then in the semesters after, pay regular semester dues. Dues will depend on which organization she joins.

Some organizations offer payment plans in order to help spread the cost over several smaller payments.

Students should discuss with their parents how the issue of finances will be approached in sorority membership prior to recruitment.
Chapter Financial Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>New Member Dues</th>
<th>Initiated Sister Dues</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alpha Delta Pi</td>
<td>$593</td>
<td>$413/fall, $313/spring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alpha Epsilon Phi</td>
<td>$635</td>
<td>$350/semester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alpha Phi</td>
<td>$590</td>
<td>$332.50/semester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delta Delta Delta</td>
<td>$696</td>
<td>$325/semester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delta Gamma</td>
<td>$632</td>
<td>$342.50/semester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gamma Phi Beta</td>
<td>$550</td>
<td>$375/semester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kappa Alpha Theta</td>
<td>$587</td>
<td>$337/semester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kappa Delta</td>
<td>$572</td>
<td>$410/semester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sigma Delta Tau</td>
<td>$600</td>
<td>$375/semester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sigma Kappa</td>
<td>$425</td>
<td>$290/semester</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What about hazing?

Boston University has a zero-tolerance policy regarding hazing for all student organizations. Hazing, or any activity that subjects members to harassment, ridicule, intimidation, physical abuse, or sleep deprivation is entirely contrary to the values and purposes of Sorority Life. Sorority members are educated on the dangers by both College staff and officers of the national organizations. If you ever feel that an individual is participating in any inappropriate activities, in a fraternity or sorority or any other student organization, please contact either the Dean of Students Office or the Student Activities Office immediately.
What is my role as a parent?

- Students need support throughout the process of recruitment and during their new member period. Be supportive and involved by learning as much as you can about sorority life by asking questions of your student as she meets members in fraternities and sororities.
- Keep an open mind. Fraternity and sorority life is not for everyone. Just because you may have been a fraternity/sorority member does not mean that it is the right choice for your student. On the other hand, sorority life at Boston University is a tight knit community and different from other communities. If wasn’t for you during your college days, it doesn’t mean it won’t be right for your student.
- Talk to your student beforehand about the financial obligation. Determine who will pay for what and where the limits are.
- Do not become overly involved in the sorority recruitment process. This is your student’s decision. There will be plenty of activities and events for you to attend or even help plan once your student joins one of our organizations.

Additional Resources for Parents or Students

- [http://thesororitylife.com](http://thesororitylife.com)
- [http://www.sororityparents.com](http://www.sororityparents.com)
- [http://wwwnpcwomen.org](http://wwwnpcwomen.org)
- [http://bu.edu/greeklife](http://bu.edu/greeklife)