

# New Membership Education

## Group Activities

- At our annual house retreat each fall, the new members attend the membership's goal setting session, and then are required to set their own goals as a pledge class with the guidance of the pledge trainer. These goals include grade point average, community service hours, campus involvement, number of socials, spiritual growth, athletic achievements, and other things they want to achieve as a pledge class.
- Educate the new members regarding chapter operation. One of the best ways to learn is by example. That being said, a point was made to give the new members the best understanding of the business operations of the chapter. This was achieved through presentations by chapter officers, our House Mother, and alumni and members of our Association Board.
- Involve new members in chapter business. Upon joining the chapter, new members were immediately assigned to key committees within the house.
- Make FarmHouse song part of the New Member Education.
- What FarmHouse means to me. Before a new member is activated, he is required to write an essay on the significance of FarmHouse Fraternity in his life. The essays are then read as each new member signs his name into the chapter register during activation.
- New member service project.
- Big Bro/Little Bro. Pledges are paired up with an Active Member with common interests to be the liaison between the Pledges and the Active Chapter. The Big Brother is responsible for his Little Brother getting his study hall hours done as well as monitoring the overall progress of Pledgeship.
- Pledge Retreat at the beginning of the pledging period.
- New Members are provided with a manual outlining objectives and expectations of the New Member Education Program.

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## **Member Involvement**

- Active Shadowing Program. This program offers new members the opportunity to shadow active members in leadership roles.
- Encourage increased participation in extra-curricular activities
- Active members promote involvement.
- Organization of new member committees

## **Personal Development**

- Gentleman Lessons. At every Pledge Meeting, new members are taught important social skills such as dinner etiquette and proper behavior when in the presence of females.
- Guest Speakers at Meetings. Every pledge meeting focuses a different guest speaker. Speakers vary from alumni, to university officials, to chapter officers.
- New Member Educator/New Member “One-on-One” Time: designed to get a feeling of how each New Member is feeling about the program on a weekly basis.
- Professionally - participate in Resume/Cover Letter/Interview Workshops presented by active members and Alumni, New Member informational speeches for active chapter.