

New Member Education

Information Packet

ΦΚΨ ΣΔΤ ΠΔΧ ΣΣΣ ΜΣΥ

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Office of Greek Life

X3591

State University of New York College at Oneonta

Congratulations! New Member Educator is one of the most important positions in Greek Life. You are responsible for demonstrating to the New Members the ideals and requirements of Greek students. You are also responsible for educating the New Members on acceptable behavior, and ways to stay safe and healthy through their college years.

As the New Member Educator you need to be:

- Enthusiastic
- Punctual
- Organized
- Caring
- Involved
- Knowledgeable
- Observant
- Engaging

GOALS

- **Encourage positive interaction between initiated members and new members, remember that they are your new brothers and sisters**
- **Maintain high scholastic standing for all new members, at least a 2.50 GPA**
- **Schedule activities that are fun, informative, and meaningful**
- **Promote an understanding of the fraternity or sorority**
- **Use on and off campus resources to make the new member program the best that it can be**
- **Attend all required on campus new member meetings**

Things to Think About

- It is important to build pledge class unity but, chapter unity is more important
- New members are representatives of your organization
- What are you teaching your new members? “What” to think or “how” to think?
- Educate new members to be better people, not better members or pledges
- You should be developing leaders, not training followers
- Learning does not end with activation into the organization. Education should be ongoing

Important Questions

- 1. What do you hope to accomplish during your new member program?**
- 2. How do the activities that occur during the new member education program affect the long term success of the chapter?**
- 3. What broad topics should be included in a new member program?**

4. List 3 events or components you like about your new member program that you want to continue. Why are these events or components positive for the organization?

5. List 3 things that you could stand to change in your new member program. How can these things be changed?

6. List anything that has to stop in the new member program. How are you going to make sure that these practices stop?

USE YOUR RESOURCES!!!

The college provides numerous valuable resources that will help you in planning and conducting each New Member meeting.

- **Greek Life Advisor**
 - The Greek Life Advisor is always willing to help you figure out any problems, and find ways to make the New Member program interesting and informative. Do not hesitate to come to her with any problems, concerns, or just to chat.
 - Contact the Angie Eichler, Greek Life Advisor at X3591
- **CADE (Center for Academic Development and Enrichment)**
 - CADE can provide guest speakers on a variety of topics, including resume writing, study skills, and time management.
 - Contact CADE at X3010
- **Use you Peers**
 - Don't be afraid to talk to people in other organizations to find out what works well for them. Ask them if they would be willing to plan an event for the New Members to get to know each other.
- **Chapter Advisors**
 - Your chapter advisor are here to help you! They can help present programs and help plan events for your chapter.

- **CHOICES (Choosing Healthy Options in the College Environment Successfully)**
 - CHOICES can provide guest speakers to educate your New Members.
 - Contact Rebecca Harrington at X3540
- **College Camp**
 - College Camp can be an excellent setting for a retreat, team building exercises, or just a place to hang out.
 - College Camp is located only 1.5 miles from campus on 284 acres of former farm and woodland.
 - There is no charge for students to use the camp for New Member Education activities.
 - For College Camp reservations contact (607) 436-3157
 - <http://collegecamp.oneonta.edu>
- **Challenge Courses**
 - There are many team building challenge courses offered at College Camp, such as a ropes courses.
 - An activity such as a ropes course encourages New Members and Initiated Members to work together, and it can be really fun and exciting.
 - Challenge Course Reservations- (607) 436-3455

Acceptable New Member Activities:

- A retreat
- BBQ
- Potluck dinners
- Movies
- Sports games
- Day trips
- Bowling
- Roller-skating
- Making a scrapbook
- Philanthropy events
- Playing cards
- Go to the gym together
- Concerts
- Theater- on campus Plays
- Camping
- Learn organization's history
- Develop leadership skills
- Attend diversity workshops
- Form an intramural sports team
- Watch TV together
- Make a jeopardy-style game about the organization's history
- Bake cookies
- Play games (Apples2Apples, Pictionary, Charades)

Keep in mind that not every New Member activity needs to be some sort of scheduled activity. There are numerous super easy ways to involve your New Members in your organization!!

- **Have New Members attend weekly chapter meetings**
- **Sit with your New Members at lunch**
- **Invite New Members to hang out with you, watch TV or a movie**
- **Form study groups with your New Members and Initiated Members who are in the same classes**
- **Attend library hours with your New Members**
- **Sit next to your New Members in classes**
- **Involve your New Members in any activity that your fraternity/sorority is participating in: community service events, fundraising, etc.**

As the New Member educator, it may be very important to break negative habits and ideals that your organization may hold towards New Members. You must realize that at every point during the New Member process your New Members are not only your future brothers and sisters, but also your friends. They should never be treated as anything less, and it is your responsibility to ensure that the New Member process is enjoyable and safe for them.

Unacceptable New Member Activities:

- **Consumption of alcohol**
- **Drug use**
- **Forced consumption of food**
- **Forcing New Members to do any sort of calisthenics**
- **Forcing New Members to dress alike, or wear embarrassing clothing**
- **Requiring New Members to carry any item they would not normally possess, i.e.- rocks, paddles, bricks, eggs, fish, etc.**
- **Preventing New Members from sleeping/ Designating when they can/cannot sleep**
- **Required periods of silence**
- **Forcing New Members to greet/address initiated members**

For more examples of unacceptable hazing practices, refer to the College at Oneonta Hazing Information Booklet