PARENT GUIDE TO THE GREEK COMMUNITY

Welcome to the University of Southern California’s greek community! Greek life at USC offers a unique and unforgettable experience, providing members with a support system and countless opportunities to get the best out of their college years. For decades fraternities and sororities have provided their members with scholarship programs, community service opportunities, leadership training, and interpersonal growth. Today we are proud to say that tradition is stronger than ever. With over 60 fraternities and sororities and more than 100 years of well-founded history, USC’s greek community will offer your son or daughter friendships and memories sure to last a lifetime. The Office for Fraternity and Sorority Leadership Development is committed to upholding this tradition of excellence, and therein helping students enjoy a well-rounded college experience that focuses on academic and individual development through greek participation. Our goal is to provide a positive experience for every member of our greek community.

Parent Involvement
At USC, the greek community provides endless opportunities for parents to be just as involved as their students. Most chapters have an active parents club that hosts various family events throughout the year. For those with the desire to be more involved, the Intersorority Parents Council and Interfraternity Parents Council plan four meetings with university speakers throughout the academic year, provide support to greek programming, and give scholarships to outstanding greek members. These programs, along with many others, are just a few of the reasons why USC’s greek community is unique, allowing parents to be more engaged and contribute to their student’s personal development in a positive environment.

Office for Fraternity and Sorority Leadership Development

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Fraternity and Sorority Leadership Development

USC Student Affairs
Joining a Fraternity or Sorority

Fraternities and sororities organize a process of meeting prospective members, called "rush," "recruitment," or "intake." The week-long process introduces interested students to the current members of the chapter, and gives unaffiliated undergraduates the chance to learn what makes fraternities and sororities unique organizations. Participating in the process provides students with the opportunity to talk with current members of the chapter. Students who participate in recruitment are not required to join any greek organization.

How much does it cost?

Each fraternity and sorority is supported by dues paid by its members. The cost is slightly more during the first year due to one-time initiation fees. These dues are used to fund the operating costs of the chapter, and gives unaffiliated undergraduates the chance to learn what makes fraternities and sororities unique organizations. Participating in the process provides students with the opportunity to talk with current members of the chapter. Students who participate in recruitment are not required to join any greek organization.

Academics and Greek Life

Academic achievement is a principal focus of all fraternities and sororities at the University of Southern California, and as a result the men and women of the greek community are held to high scholastic standards. USC requires that fraternity and sorority chapters maintain a 3.0 grade point average to be in good standing with the university, and consequently greek chapters also have active faculty advisors who provide a connection to the professors and academic community on campus. With all of these factors in mind, it is no wonder that the USC greek GPA has consistently exceeded the all-undergraduate average.

Greek Service to the Community

Fraternities and sororities have unanimously committed to serve the Los Angeles community through volunteer and philanthropic work. Greek organizations participate in community projects that include volunteering at local elementary schools, raising money for children's foundations, implementing clean-up efforts in areas adjacent to the USC campus and sponsoring awareness seminars for the entire university. The greek community raised over $220,000 by logging over 20,000 service hours on over 90 projects in 2009-2010. An additional brochure lists the various community projects of USC's fraternities and sororities.

How big a time commitment is being greek?

Participating in a greek-letter organization is like participating in any co-curricular activity; it requires a time investment. However, research shows that students who are involved in their college communities are more likely to graduate and report greater satisfaction with their college experiences. In fact, the graduation rate for greek-affiliated students is 20% higher nationally than non-affiliated students. Best of all, students in the greek community at the University of Southern California have the opportunity to have a well-rounded college experience that includes academic excellence and campus involvement as well as a thriving social scene.

Hazing

The national organizations, the USC administration and state law prohibit any action taken or any situation created (whether on or off fraternity or sorority premises) that may produce mental or physical discomfort or embarrassment for a member. Hazing has not and will not be tolerated at the University of Southern California.

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The parents club of Alpha Phi provides support to each member that is vital to the success of each member. Parents from near-by offer a home away from home to women from outside Los Angeles and even helping support our Kappa Kaddshack philanthropy, the Kappa Parents Club truly helps to enrich our lives everyday, and we couldn’t be more grateful! — Mackenzie Miers, Kappa Kappa Gamma

In addition, to helping with daily operations and special events, the Parents Club has given our chapter much needed structure. I am all for parent involvement because it makes the President’s job a lot easier and makes the entire chapter better. — Eric Giebel, Pi Kappa Alpha

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