



# Fort Bend

## Alumnae Panhellenic

### **Frequently Asked Questions About Sororities and Recruitment**

*More detailed answers, and more questions and answers, can be found in our Recruitment Workbook.*

#### **What is a sorority?**

A sorority is a social organization of women bound together by sisterhood, common goals and aspirations. Common experiences build ties that last a lifetime. Sororities endeavor to enhance your educational experience by emphasizing intellectual, interpersonal and social development.

#### **How much does sorority membership cost?**

Costs vary among sororities on each campus and among universities. Costs are more the first year due to initiation fees. Fees can cover anything from only dues to several meals per week, philanthropic activities and social activities. A first year average is usually \$1,200 and the second year average is \$850. Your university Panhellenic should provide this data.

#### **Do all sororities have houses, and what does it cost to live in one?**

Living in a sorority house costs about the same as a dorm, but availability of housing varies by university, and some universities, such as Baylor and Texas Tech, do not have houses.

#### **What about grades?**

Most sororities have GPA requirements, and while these can differ from one sorority to another, a high school GPA of 2.5/4.0 is the usual minimum, and usually the requirement is higher for extending a bid of membership. Sororities enforce GPA requirements and offer study sessions, tutoring and other programs. Students who take advantage of the academic opportunities available and properly balance their time between academic and extra-curricular pursuits will find that Greek membership will enhance their academic performance.

#### **How much time does a sorority require?**

On average, expect to contribute two to four hours per week for meetings and mandatory activities. Optional activities such as holding an office, attending social events, playing on an intramural sports team, or helping out with various projects will take additional time.

#### **What about hazing?**

All National Panhellenic members have "No Hazing" policies and take strict actions against any chapter that participates in any hazing activity. The charge is taken very seriously and not tolerated. Local Alumnae serve as advisors to the active chapters and oversee the program known as Risk Management.

#### **Aren't sorority members very cliquish?**

No sorority asks you to limit your friendships or activities to within its doors. Your involvement in a wide range of interests contributes to the overall diversity of the sorority, and it will be encouraged. You will find the same mixture of people and the same breakdowns in a sorority as you have found all through your life. Students of all majors, interests and backgrounds are affiliated with a sorority.



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### **What about sororities and organizations I've heard of that are not listed as NPC members?**

Every campus has a mix of organizations that are religious-, ethnic- or interest-based. We can only describe and represent those organizations that make up the 26-member NPC. We encourage you to explore all groups on your campus, and look into the activities, traditions, history, requirements and hazing policies of any groups that you may be interested in.

### **What is Sorority Recruitment?**

Sorority Recruitment, formerly known as "Rush," is a formal process for potential members to meet women of the sororities and for the sorority women to meet the potential members. Recruitment varies among college campuses; number of sororities and number of participants are the biggest difference. Most universities hold Recruitment the week before classes begin or at the start of the second semester.

### **Who is eligible for Recruitment?**

You can participate in Recruitment if you are enrolled as a full-time student with freshman or higher class standing. Note: Texas A&M Blinn Team members can now participate in Recruitment. Additionally, UT CAP students transferring as sophomores and second-year Team members are considered under the sophomore quota.

### **What about waiting until I am a sophomore to participate in Recruitment?**

If you are truly interested in being in a sorority, we encourage you to participate as a freshman. Sophomores are considered under a different quota. For example purposes only: if quota is set by Panhellenic at 50 new members for each sorority, sophomore quota may be 2. If a campus has 10 sororities, 480 freshmen will receive bids; 20 sophomores will -- if that many, because sororities are not required to extend bids to sophomores. We wish this situation did not exist, but it does, and we want you to know in advance before you make a decision to wait. However, if you are waiting, we will do our best to help you have a positive outcome.

### **Why and how do I register with the university Panhellenic?**

Registration with the university Panhellenic is required to participate in Recruitment; otherwise they do not know you are coming. There usually is a nominal fee. Most universities have the Recruitment information online.

### **What if I live in a county that adjoins Fort Bend, but doesn't have a Panhellenic?**

#### **Can I still register with Fort Bend Panhellenic?**

You are welcome to register with Fort Bend Panhellenic and receive our support.

### **I attend high school in Houston, but live in Fort Bend County. Which Panhellenic do I register with?**

When looking for information about you, the campus sororities will contact the Local Reference Chairs in your hometown area. Therefore, we recommend that you register with Fort Bend. Once we have your registration, we pass on your information to the Local Chairs, who are then able to quickly respond to the sorority inquiries.



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### What are References?

A Reference (also called a RIF, Recommendation or REC) is your introduction to the university chapter. However, ***it does not guarantee an invitation to membership in that sorority.*** It is written by an alumna (a person no longer in school) of that sorority. A Reference helps the sorority get to know you in advance by providing information on your activities in high school or college, your interests and your scholastics. An alumna that writes your Reference does not need to be a graduate of the university you will attend. **You only need one Reference per sorority.**

### What are Letters?

A Letter (Letter of Support) is written by a person that knows you well; it gives the chapter more in-depth information about you. These are helpful, but not necessary. You may have several Letters per sorority or none.