

Big Sister Orientation Meeting

PURPOSE

WHO: SDC lead meeting/meeting of active members who are interested in serving as a big sister.

WHAT: A meeting to discuss the eligibility, expectations and important dates for the big/little program.

WHEN: 10-15 days prior to bid day in each semester when new members are welcomed into the chapter. Holding a meeting prior to the start of the program is critical to ensuring you have enough volunteers and they each meet the eligibility requirements.

WHY: The role of the big sister is a major commitment and expectations should be outlined ahead of the Phi Program beginning. Your big/little program may look or feel different than the experience they were provided. It is important they understand what you are trying to achieve.

REMEMBER

BIG SISTER PROGRAM SHOULD:

- Be focus on and built around mentorship
- Allow enough time for the pool of big sisters to get to know the new members before making a selection
- Ensure a fair matching process with the priority preference going to the new member (see additional resource)

BIG SISTER PROGRAM SHOULD NOT:

- Get wrapped up in gift giving and glorifying the big sister
- Include alcohol in any form, including consumption prior to or following any big/little event
- Overshadow the educational components of the Phi Program

AGENDA

- I. The Role of the Big Sister – A big sister in Phi Sigma Sigma is a commitment to serve as a lifelong mentor, guide and friend to a chapter sister. The relationship is intended to be supportive at a peer level. A big sister may have more experience in the chapter, but that should not get in the way of the pair sharing a relationship where each person is treated as an equal. A big sister should always strive to set a positive example. This is a leadership position within the chapter and should not be taken lightly.
- II. Expectations – present the big sister expectations contract and have members take turns reading aloud, processing each item with one of the following questions:
 - a. What does that look like?
 - b. Why is this important?
 - c. Will someone share an example of this?
 - d. How would you go about making sure that happens?
- III. Eligibility – in order to ensure big sisters can make mentoring the newest

members a priority and that they themselves are prepared for the role. We will have specific eligibility requirements.

- a. Required GPA:
 - b. No ongoing standards issues
 - c. Currently paid on all Fraternity and chapter dues
 - d. Active in the chapter for one term beyond the semester in which they are paired
- IV. Meeting Potential Little Sisters – discuss the opportunities that will be provided to them to meet new members prior to making selections
- V. Matching Process – walk through the matching resource provided
- VI. Events - Have the dates, times and locations already determined as a part of your program planning. They are not up for negotiation once presented. Deviations from your approved program will require HQ approval.
- a. Week Leading Up to Reveal
 - i. Time & Location:
 - ii. Event Details:
 - iii. Limitations (*gifts/spending*):
 - b. Reveal
 - i. Time & Location:
 - ii. Event Details:
 - iii. Limitations (*gifts/spending*):
 - c. Big Sister Commitment Ceremony:
 - i. Time & Location:
 - ii. Event Details:
 - d. Sapphire Sister Ceremony:
 - i. Time & Location:
 - ii. Event Details:
 - e. Week of the Sphinx:
 - i. Time & Location:
 - ii. Event Details:
 - f. Initiation:
 - i. Time & Location:
 - ii. Event Details:
 - iii. Limitations (*gifts/spending*):
- VII. Questions
- a. Should you be offered suggestions or experience push back be polite and simply respond with, “thank you for your suggestion” or “would you mind staying back after and we can discuss in more detail?”

Remember, you are prepared qualified and ready for all that is ahead!