



# Resolved to Educate

## Educational support for: Events with Fraternities and Other Student Organizations

In 2019, the NPC Board of Directors updated its policy regarding events with men's fraternities and other student organizations (including non-social sororities), to assist chapters with event planning. NPC policies are standards and procedures created by an NPC vote, usually to address recurrent problems or operating issues that local Panhellenics face. Policies are to be followed as they reflect the combined knowledge and experience of the 26 autonomous member organizations.

Policy (2013, 2019) NPC member organizations agree to advise their collegiate chapters to plan or participate in events with men's fraternities and other student organizations only when those men's fraternities and other student organizations are not suspended for reasons of organizational misconduct **and** are:

1. Men's fraternity chapters or colonies recognized and in good standing with both their inter/national organization and the college/university; or
2. Men's fraternity chapters or colonies recognized and in good standing with their inter/national organization, but which have voluntarily withdrawn from recognition by the college/university with no disciplinary action pending, or have had recognition denied or rescinded by the college/university for reasons other than organizational misconduct; or
3. Men's fraternity chapters or colonies recognized and in good standing with their inter/national organization, but where the entire Interfraternity Council community lacks recognition from the college/university; or
4. Local fraternities and other student organizations recognized and in good standing with the college/university.

NPC member organizations agree to advise their collegiate chapters that the planning and execution of any event with a men's fraternity or other student organization shall:

- Reflect positively on the sorority experience and support NPC's shared values; and
- Be conducted with men's fraternities and student organizations whose members respect the dignity and safety of the Panhellenic community and its individual members.

### Why is this policy important?

- The safety of our members is of utmost importance. Events with no risk management procedures in place can escalate out of control and jeopardize the well-being of participants.
- Participation in events with unrecognized fraternities or student organizations may violate organizational and campus social and risk management policies, and may result in sanctions.
- Recognized fraternity chapters have the support of their inter/national organizations and an obligation to follow organizational risk management and social policies and practices. Fraternities unrecognized by their inter/national organizations do not and often operate outside the scope of legal and safe behavior. It is also highly unlikely that a fraternity unrecognized by its inter/national organization has insurance coverage.

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### What is considered an event?

Most inter/national organizations and institutions define how many members can be in attendance before an activity is considered an official “event” and it is important to know what those policies state. However, even attendance by individual members may be interpreted, legally and in public perception, as “sponsoring” or “co-sponsoring” an event.

It is better for safety and liability reasons to err on the side of caution and make certain that any and all events, even those that involve only a few members, comply with campus and organizational risk management requirements and standards.

Chapters should communicate with their inter/national organizations regarding all events.

### How can your College Panhellenic educate chapters/members on this policy?

A collective approach by a Panhellenic community is powerful. When all groups and individual members on a campus agree to stand together in following this policy, change can and will happen. We value the fact that sororities are social organizations; however, your organizational leaders have developed and enacted this policy for the overall safety of your community. Work together on these issues to send a unified message to the campus community on the consequences of participation in these activities.

Encourage the leadership of each sorority chapter to understand their inter/national organization’s policies regarding risk management and event planning. In addition, take the time to have each chapter educate one another on the standards and expectations. From there, the College Panhellenic Association will be equipped to work collectively for the well-being of the community.

### Who to look to for support in advising chapters

If chapters are struggling to understand this policy they should contact their inter/national organization to get additional information/clarification. If the College Panhellenic is looking for support or guidance they are encouraged to reach out to their College Panhellenic area advisor or the NPC office.

If chapters are violating this policy they should be held accountable through the College Panhellenic judicial process. The College Panhellenic is encouraged to reach out to the chapter/member’s headquarters staff, the organization’s chief Panhellenic officer and the College Panhellenic’s area advisor for assistance if behavior and actions continue to be a problem.