PARENT’S INVOLVEMENT

Sending a child to college can be a challenging and stressful time in a parent’s life. As a part of the Sorority and Fraternity Life family we want to make sure you have all the information you need about your child getting involved in the Sorority and Fraternity Community at the University of South Dakota. We feel it is important that you, the parent, be educated about the enriching experience that your son or daughter will find by being involved in a sorority or fraternity at USD.

Staying involved with your child as they pursue their education can be rewarding for both of you. Many parents also become involved in their child’s Greek community and sorority/fraternity activities. USD’s active parents club has an active chapter on campus that hosts various events throughout the year. Most chapters plan a Mom’s Weekend and Dad’s Weekend, where parents are invited to campus to visit and meet their student’s chapter while participating in planned activities. Parents are encouraged to support their students throughout their entire experience at USD, especially in their child’s efforts in the Sorority/Fraternity Community. These programs, along with many others, are just a few of the reasons why USD’s Sorority/Fraternity community is unique, allowing parents to be more engaged and contribute to their student’s personal development in a positive environment.

DID YOU KNOW

• Greek students rate their college life happier than other collegians.
• Greeks are more involved in activities & community groups after college.
• Greeks are more likely to graduate than other collegians.
• All but two United States Presidents since 1825 have been Greek.
• 85% of United States Supreme Court Justices since 1880 have been Greek.
• 71% of the men and women in Who’s Who in America have been Greek.
• 85% of all Fortune 500 Executives have been Greek.

MY ROLE AS A PARENT

Take time to find out more about the Sorority/Fraternity community at USD. Ask questions about what the organizations can offer your child and allow your son or daughter to make the best decisions for themselves. Once your child has made the decision to join a fraternity or sorority make sure to be supportive of their decision and to ask questions about their fraternal experience. There will also be opportunities for you to come to USD for Parent’s Weekend and many other things.

If you have a disability and need assistance to participate, please contact Disability Services 48 hours prior to attendance of the event at 605-677-6389 or email disabilityservices@usd.edu. This document is available in alternative formats, upon request from Disability Services.

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JOINING A SORORITY OR FRATERNITY AT USD
Joining a Sorority or Fraternity at USD is an important decision for your student and is one that you should be comfortable with as well. If your student joins a fraternity or sorority he or she will have the opportunity to develop both personally and professionally in a variety of ways. All aspects of Sorority and Fraternity Life at USD have been designed to enrich and enlighten students, in order to build better men and women through the fraternal experience.

The Sorority/Fraternity experience bestows upon your student the ability to receive hands on training in the operation and management of an organization. Whether you manage chapter budgets, serve on the executive board, or serve at the community’s soup kitchen, the Sorority/Fraternity experience will develop life skills that allow your student the opportunity to reach personal goals.

TIME COMMITMENT
The time commitment varies from chapter to chapter and student to student. New members participate in their chapter’s educational program, during which they develop leadership and time management skills, get acquainted with the new member class as well as the rest of the chapter, and become involved in Sorority/Fraternity activities and organizations. Each chapter has weekly chapter meetings, annual philanthropies, service projects, and chapter events. Chapter members are encouraged to become involved in campus activities and leadership positions inside and outside of the chapter while always remembering that academic commitments come first.

RECRUITMENT
Recruitment is a time of mutual selection between sorority and fraternity chapters and potential new members. Not only do the organizations select new members, but the potential members select a chapter they want to be affiliated with. If a student chooses to participate in recruitment activities they are under no obligation to join a Sorority /Fraternity chapter. At the end of recruitment the chapters will extend a bid/formal invitation. If a student accepts the bid, then they will be affiliated with the organization.

SAFETY AND RISK MANAGEMENT
Every sorority and fraternity chapter in the country has instituted a NO HAZING policy. All twelve of our Sororities and Fraternities have risk management policies and procedures they are required to follow through their national organization.

The University of South Dakota has additional policies that each chapter is required to follow. If you are concerned, please ask plenty of questions about the process.

There is simply no place for hazing. Hazing is detrimental to a positive college experience and will NOT be tolerated in the Sorority/Fraternity experience.

ACADEMICS AND OUR FOUR PILLARS
The four pillars associated with Sorority/Fraternity Life at USD are Friendship, Citizenship, Leadership and Scholarship. Academic success is not only important to your student’s success but their chapters as well.

Many of our chapters have GPA requirements. Members are encouraged to attend study sessions, and have the opportunity to seek tutors or study buddies. As part of the new member program chapters often provide programs and workshops to assist in a successful college transition.

MEMBERSHIP
Once a student accepts an invitation to join the chapter they will be oriented to the chapter through member education which includes: meetings, philanthropic/community service, study tables, educational programs, social events and brotherhood and sisterhood events.

These programs are structured to not interfere with academic responsibilities and the new member education process is both informative and fun. Since the programs are designed to be informative and fun, activities such as physical or mental hazing will not be tolerated. Hazing is prohibited by all (inter)national Greek letter organizations and the University of South Dakota.

ALUMNI INVOLVEMENT
The alumni at the USD play a major role in advising the chapters. Each chapter has an advisor or advisory team who assist the chapter leaders and members with operations, as well as providing guidance when needed. The chapters also have a house cooperation board that is comprised of alumni that supports the chapters by planning for housing updates and aesthetic improvements.

The alumni are a knowledgeable and dedicated group that provides guidance, problem solving, development and networking opportunities. Our hope is that your student has an enjoyable experience and becomes apart of our supportive Sorority/ Fraternity alumni!