USD Sorority Recruitment Guide

1903

SORORITY & FRATERNITY
LIFE
Dear Potential New Member,

Welcome to the University of South Dakota and thank you for choosing to participate in Formal Recruitment this fall.

We, as members of Panhellenic Council, are the governing body for all of Sorority Life. During recruitment week, we are disaffiliated from our respective chapters to help you choose the chapter that is right for you. We have had an amazing experience being part of Sorority and Fraternity Life and hope that the knowledge from our experiences will help you with your journey through Formal Recruitment.

Formal Recruitment can be an overwhelming time for women. We want you to know that we have all been there and want to help you in any way possible. In addition, Gamma Chis, who are disaffiliated women from their respective chapters, are here to guide you through the recruitment process. Though each chapter has different values and character, each one is based on the same core pillars: scholarship, friendship, citizenship, and leadership. Choosing a chapter is a big decision, but as long as you are yourself, you will find your perfect fit. The women in these chapters will help you grow and reach your full potential.

Again, welcome to USD and Vermillion. We are excited to meet you and help you through the recruitment process.

Sincerely,

Shaniah Koops
PHC Vice President of Recruitment
Potential New Members Bill of Rights

A potential new member has the right to...

- Be treated as an individual.
- Be fully informed about the Recruitment Process.
- Ask questions and receive true and objective answers from Recruitment Counselors and members.
- Be treated with respect.
- Be treated as a capable and mature person without being patronized.
- Ask how and why and receive straight answers.
- Have and express opinions to Recruitment Counselors.
- Make informed choices without pressure from others.
- Be fully informed about the binding agreements implicit in the Preference Card signing.
- Make one’s own choice and decision and accept full responsibility for the results of that decision.
- Have a positive, safe, and enriching Recruitment and New Member experience.
Helpful Hints:

**Be confident.** We want to know the real you, so be confident in yourself. Recruitment week will not only be easier, but also more enjoyable. Just be you!

**Be courteous and prompt.** Recruitment parties are scheduled to begin and end at certain times. Please contact your Gamma Chi if you are going to be late for any party.

**Consider the financial responsibilities** involved when joining a sorority. Discuss this with your parents *BEFORE* you make your decision to join a chapter.

**Confide in your Gamma Chi.** She can be your best friend during Recruitment week. She is there for you! Feel free to discuss any problem with her or ask her any questions you may have.

**Common Q & A’s:**

**If I go through Recruitment, am I obligated to join?** No. Many women choose to go through Recruitment to meet people and make new friends. Recruitment is the opportunity for you to visit the sororities, get a glimpse of Sorority Life, and assess whether or not you would like to be a part of the USD Sorority Life experience.

**How do the sororities decide who to invite back for each party?** Just as you will have to make a decision about some sororities, they too make decisions in which potential new members would be the best fit for them. In the end, everyone who participates in recruitment has something to offer a sorority.

**What if I have trouble choosing between sororities?** Difficult decisions are a very common dilemma. Potential members should not look at this as a problem. Most women can be happy in any of the sororities on campus. Keep in mind that sororities have to make decisions too. A sorority should be a second home, a place where you feel comfortable and welcome. Your intuition, experiences at each event, and personal goals, desires and values should guide you in your decision making.

**I have heard that sororities have various reputations – how do I handle this information?** The only opinion of a chapter that should matter is *yours*. Each chapter is different from campus to campus and from year to year. If you allow someone else’s perceptions to influence you, then you may not feel satisfied with your choices during Recruitment. Remember that each chapter is made up of many different women with different talents and qualities that compose the entire group. Any questions regarding rumors or inappropriate comments should be directed toward your Gamma Chi or a Panhellenic Executive Officer.

**What if I only want to be in a certain Sorority?** Potential new members often experience the greatest disappointment by beginning the Recruitment process believing they belong in a specific sorority. Sorority membership is more than wearing certain Greek letters. Don’t make a decision...
based on stereotypes or other opinions. Keep an open mind and make a decision that is right for you. When you join a sorority at USD, you are also joining the Sorority and Fraternity community.

What if I turn down a bid I receive? If you receive a bid and decide not to accept it, you will not be able to participate in Recruitment for one calendar year, and will not be able to participate in Continuous Open Bidding, Spring 2016. However, we urge you to think carefully before making a decision to turn down a bid; emotions can temporarily cloud your thinking and judgment. Please give yourself and the sorority a chance before rejecting a bid.

What is the cost to go through recruitment? The registration cost for fall formal recruitment is $75 before August 1st; or $85 after that date but before August 8th. Registration for recruitment will close on August 8th and no late registrations will be accepted after that date. This registration cost includes housing, meals during recruitment, recruitment activities, a guidebook and a Panhellenic t-shirt.

How do I sign up? You can register for fall formal recruitment at usd.mycampusdirector.com
Day 1: Sisterhood/Philanthropy Round

What to expect:

This round is designed to help potential new members get to know each chapter individually by learning about their values, sisterhood, and national and local philanthropies.

What to wear:

Shorts and the provided 2016 recruitment t-shirt are suggested for this night. Because we will be doing a lot of walking in between chapters, we encourage comfortable, tasteful walking shoes (not heels).

What to keep in mind:

- This is the only night you will go to each chapter. Make sure you learn as much as you can about each of the chapters and their values, and keep an open mind about each chapter.
- Be yourself. Each chapter wants to get to know you as much as you want to get to know them.
- Have fun, relax, and try to make new friends with common interests.
Day 2 Round 1: House Tour Round

What to expect:
Potential new members will be going back to up to three houses for house tours today. You will get a tour around each chapter and will also be given a short presentation about the financial obligations that come with joining their chapter.

What to wear:
Dress causal is the dress for this event, so a skirt with a nice top or a sundress would be acceptable. Again, heels are not recommended, but it is your choice.

What to keep in mind:
- During this round you will narrow your choices down to two chapters, so start getting an idea of what chapter you feel most comfortable at.
- Try not to let others change your opinions of a chapter. Every chapter has something amazing to offer their members.
- Ask members the tough questions. How do their values as a chapter relate to yours? These questions can help you make decisions about whether or not they are the right fit for you.
Day 2 Round 2: Preference Round

What to expect:

Preference Night is the most emotional and reflective evening of Recruitment Week. You will attend up to two chapters, and the chapters will show you a sacred part of their sorority. This is your final round of recruitment, and you will need to make a final decision.

What to wear:

You may choose to wear the same outfit you had in the morning, or you may change into a more cocktail-style dress. The choice is entirely yours. Women in the chapters will be wearing either all black or white, so if that would make you feel uncomfortable, try to stay away from those colors.

What to keep in mind:

- Choosing a chapter is a big decision, so do not feel silly if you are emotional. All of the women you meet have been in your shoes before, so just follow your heart and you will make the right decision.
- Gamma Chis, the Panhellenic officers and an unbiased alumni network will be here to help you in whatever way you need. Do not be afraid to ask us if you need someone to talk to.
- Not every friend you’ve made at USD or before will join the same sorority but friendships last across chapter lines. Sorority Life is about long lasting friendships both in your chapter and others.
Day 3: Bid Day

What to expect:

Bid Day is the day in which you discover what chapter you are in. This is the day that makes the emotional week of recruitment worth it. After revealing the Gamma Chis’ chapter affiliation and receiving your bid card, you will go to your respective chapter to be welcomed into their chapter. Activities will continue through the evening, so you can meet your new sisters and pledge class.

What to wear:

Typical attire is to wear a tasteful tank top and shorts. Most chapters will take Bid Day pictures, so be prepared for those.

What to keep in mind:

Have fun! You have the wonderful opportunity to connect with your new sisters. Enjoy every moment.
Alpha Phi
Nickname: A Phi
Philanthropy: Women’s Cardiac Care
Symbol: Ivy Leaf

Alpha Xi Delta
Nickname: A Xi
Philanthropy: Autism Speaks
Symbol: Quill

Pi Beta Phi
Nickname: Pi Phi
Philanthropy: First Book
Symbol: Arrow

Kappa Alpha Theta
Nickname: Theta
Philanthropy: CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates)
Symbol: Kite
Final Preferences/Beyond Recruitment

Once you have attended your Preference Night events, you will be taken to the computer lab to submit your final preferences which indicate the chapter you wish to pledge in order of preference. Since Recruitment is a mutual selection process, each chapter will also preference. Later that night, the lists will be matched through a computer bid-matching program.

When filling out your preferences online, your first preference should be the chapter in which you would most prefer to join, with the other chapter coming in second. If you do not receive a bid from your first choice preference, you may receive a bid from your second chapter.

Contact with Chapters- From the time you enter your preferences on Preference Night until you receive your bid card on Bid Day, you are not to have any contact with chapter members. Also, after you finish Preference Night events, please observe a strict silence until you have completed your preferences. We strive to have as little outside influence for every woman going through recruitment as possible, so each woman can make the decision that is right for her.

Single Intentional Preference- You may choose to list only one preference, but you must understand this will limit your potential to join any other NPC group during formal recruitment should you not be placed with your single choice.

Unmatched Bids- On occasion, some women may not be extended a bid. These chances are very low as long as you attend all chapter events you are invited to. This results from how chapters and individuals list one another on their preference lists. If you do not receive a bid, you are eligible to join a chapter through an informal recruitment process.

* If you signed your preference card and were matched to a bid, you are bound to that bid for one calendar year. Should you not accept this bid, you are ineligible for Informal Recruitment for one year.

The New Member Experience- Once you have pledged a sorority, you will obtain new member status. This is a time for you to get to know your sisters, and learn the traditions and history of your new sorority. You will be guided through the first few months of Sorority Life by your new Member Educator and become prepared to be an initiated member. It takes time to get fully involved in your sorority, but the more activities you participate in, the easier it will be for you to get adjusted.

Initiation- Initiation takes place after you have successfully completed the requirements of your New Member session. Initiation is when you will learn the secrets and rituals which bind all women in your chapter at USD as well as across the country.

Moving into the Chapter House- After living on campus for your first year at USD, you are eligible to request a Greek release, which allows you to move into your individual chapter house. This is the time when women feel like they feel become a true member of their chapter. If you go through recruitment as an upperclassman, depending on if space is available in the chapter you join, it is possible to move in at semester time. This would need to be a conversation you had with your chapter’s president.
2016 Women’s Formal Recruitment Schedule

* Please try and arrive 15 minutes early to check in with your Gamma Chis.

**Tuesday, August 15th**

- 8am-11am: Resident Hall Check in for Women going through Recruitment
- 3pm: Recruitment Kick-off/Meet with Gamma Chis (Aalfs Auditorium)
- 4:30pm-10:30pm: Chapter Functions (Sisterhood Round)
- 10:30pm: Preferencing (McKusick)

**Wednesday, August 16th**

- 8:30am: Gamma Chi Group Meetings (Old Main in Farber Hall)
- 9am-12:30pm: Chapter Functions (House Tour Round)
- 12:40pm: Preferencing (McKusick)
- 1pm: Lunch in MUC
- 5pm: Dinner in MUC
- 6:10pm: Group Meetings (Old Main in Farber Hall)
- 7-9:10pm: Chapter Functions (Preference Round)
- 9:15pm: Preferencing (McKusick)

**Thursday, August 17th**

- 12:00 pm: Bid Distribution/Gamma Chi Reveal
  - Chapter Bid Day Celebrations to follow

**Friday, August 18th**

Freshman Move-in Day
Important Contact Information

The Recruitment Chair is… Shaniah Koops
Can be contacted at… Shaniah.Koops@coyotes.usd.edu

The Panhellenic President is… Maggie O’Brien
Can be contacted at… Maggie.Obrien@coyotes.usd.edu

The Sorority and Fraternity Life Advisor is… Laura Roof
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