NATIONAL PAN-HELLENIC COUNCIL

OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY
Welcome!

Dear OSU Student,

I, Matthew Newsome, as the president of the National Pan-Hellenic Council would like to welcome you to Oklahoma State University and thank you for your interest in the National Pan-Hellenic Council at OSU.

The National Pan Hellenic Council, better known as NPHC, consists of representatives of the established Divine Nine fraternities and sororities recognizing the need for coordination and cooperation in activities of intercollegiate Greek-letter fraternities and sororities. We enrich the OSU community through community service and philanthropic activity and actively support individual organization endeavors on campus. We work to serve the people and strengthen unity and equality here in the OSU-Stillwater community.

I hope this booklet helps you decide your future path. I strongly encourage you to consider each individual fraternity and sorority to determine if any of them are right for you. If you have any questions feel free to contact the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Affairs or me at matthew.newsome@okstate.edu

Fraternally,
MATTHEW NEWSOME, PRESIDENT
NATIONAL PAN-HELLENIC COUNCIL

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Executive Officers

The National Pan-Hellenic Council executive officers are elected by their peers to lead the council. Their responsibilities include event planning and publicity for the council, providing education and avenues for accountability for the member organizations, managing the council’s assets and representing the National Pan-Hellenic Council at regional conferences, on university committees, on campus, and in the Stillwater community. The executive officers work with other governing councils to promote strength and unity among all members of fraternity and sorority life.

Questions?

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Awards

The National Pan-Hellenic Council received awards for its achievements in Academic Achievement and Council Management. NPHC also received the Wardhammer Kaleidoscope Award, which is presented to one member council, from among all size divisions, that has demonstrated initiative and innovation in addressing a new or ongoing issue facing its Greek community. National Pan-Hellenic Council received this award for its Stroll for Charity series. Additionally, the fraternity and sorority community at Oklahoma State also received the Gamma Sigma Alpha Regional GPA Award for the fall 2014 semester. This award is presented to the fraternity/sorority community whose grade point average is higher than its campus undergraduate GPA. OSU’s Greek community has received this honor 18 times since 2004.
How do I join?

Each organization within the National Pan-Hellenic Council has a Membership Intake Process (MIP) that differs from chapter to chapter. This is why it is important to get to know each organization to understand their unique process. Each organization will have different set of membership requirements for academic success, community and college involvement. Please note that all organizations have a cost associated with membership, along with time commitments. Undergraduate students who are interested in joining a National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC) organization must meet specific membership criteria. This includes but is not limited to:

- 12 completed college credit hours at Oklahoma State University
- 2.5-3.0 college GPA or higher (varies by organization)
- Completed application for membership along with any additional information the organization of interest may require
- Community service hours may also be required
- Attendance at an interest/informational meeting for the organization of your interest
- You must be in good standing with the University and the Office of Student Conduct and Education
- Attendance at intake Orientation

Get a plan for academic success in place!

Create relationships with your professor by visiting during their office hours. You also may need them for letters of recommendation.
- The LASSO Center (lasso.okstate.edu), Writing Center (osuwritingcenter.okstate.edu), Mathematics Learning Success Center (math.okstate.edu/mlsc) and tutoring centers within your major college can also help you stay on top of your academics!

Get out in the community!

The Service-Learning Volunteer Center can provide information about numerous of community service projects in Stillwater. (volunteer.okstate.edu) Community service is a huge part of NPHC fraternity and sorority life, and organizations will be looking for prospective members who have committed their time to making the world around them a better place. Note some organizations require a certain amount of community service hours in order to join.

FAQS:

How does housing work for NPHC organizations?

Members of NPHC organizations are free to decide their own housing options rather than having required housing.

How will it affect my grades?

The all-Greek average GPA at OSU is consistently higher than the non-Greek average GPA. Additionally, each organization has academic requirements. They will support each member through programs and mentors as they strive to meet the organizations standards.

Who can join an NPHC organization?

Each individual has the opportunity to bring something unique to any group. Although these organizations were founded on the basis of a specific underrepresented population, membership is not restricted to persons of a certain background. Prospective members who meet the academic requirements set forth to those espoused by the organization can be offered membership.

Helpful Resources

University Counseling Services: 320 Student Union | 405-744-5458 ucs.okstate.edu
Student Conduct: 328 Student Union | 405-744-5470 studentconduct.okstate.edu
Center for Sovereign Nations: 104 Life Sciences East | 405-744-1085 sovnationcenter.okstate.edu sovnationcenter@okstate.edu
Ombuds: 224 Student Union | 405-744-6627 president.okstate.edu/ombudsperson ombuds@okstate.edu
Institutional Diversity: 408 Whitehurst | 405-744-9154 diversity.okstate.edu jason.kirksey@okstate.edu
Office of Multicultural Affairs: 240 Student Union | 405-744-5481 icac.okstate.edu | oma@okstate.edu

Student Disability Services:
315 Student Union | sds.okstate.edu
405-744-7116 (Voice) | 405-744-9860
accessibility@okstate.edu

OSUPD:
224 North Orchard St. | 405-744-6627
police.okstate.edu | Download: Orange Shield App

Leadership and Campus Life:
211 Student Union | 405-744-5488
lcl.okstate.edu
Terms to know

**ACTIVE:** The term used to indicate a fraternity man or sorority woman who has been formally initiated by his or her chapter.

**ALUMNI:** An initiated member who is no longer an undergraduate student.

**BROTHER/SISTER:** Term used by active members in a fraternity/sorority when referring to each other.

**CALLS:** A unique vocal expression attributed to an organization. Calls are special to members and should not be replicated by non-members.

**CHAPTER:** The men or women comprising each local collegiate group of a national fraternity or sorority.

**COLONY:** A new fraternity or sorority that is working to receive a charter from the national organization to which it is affiliated. When a charter is received, they become a chapter of that national organization.

**CROSSING:** A term used to indicate that a new member has been fully initiated into a group.

**DIVINE NINE:** There are nine historically Black Greek-letter organizations (BGLOs) that comprise the National Pan-Hellenic Council. Collectively, these organizations are referred to as “The Divine Nine.” Each of these fraternities and sororities is rich in history.

**FRATER:** Another term used to refer to one’s fraternity brother.

**FRATERNITY/SORORITY:** A group of men/women bonded together for educational and social purposes. Each strives to provide a point of reference from which each individual can evaluate his/her own desires and achievements as well as his/her own feelings of worth as a contributing member.

**GRADUATE ADVISOR/CHAPTER:** An individual or group of alumni working to advise the local undergraduate chapter; this group is affiliated with the national organization and not the university.

**HAND SIGN:** A symbol or gesture made with the hands to signify an organization. Hand signs are special to members and should not be replicated by non-members.

**HAZING:** A negative form of conduct that focuses on mistreating, demeaning or otherwise degrading the personal worth of another individual. Hazing is prohibited by all national fraternities, the State of Oklahoma, Oklahoma State University and the OSU fraternity and sorority community.

**INFORMATIONAL:** A forum for individuals interested in seeking more information about a particular fraternity or sorority.

**INITIATION:** The formal ceremonies, or ritual, by which new members complete membership into a chapter and receive full membership privileges.

**INTAKE OR MEMBERSHIP INTAKE:** The term groups use to bring new members into an organization. Each Multicultural Greek Council and National Pan-Hellenic Council group determines when they will conduct intake. Each group can be assisted in this process by their graduate chapter and/or graduate advisor. In general, MGC and NPHC groups require sophomore status and a 2.5 cumulative GPA for someone to go through intake.

**LEGACY:** Someone whose mother, father, sister or brother are members of a particular group. Some consider an aunt or an uncle a legacy also.

**LINE:** Group of individuals going through the membership intake process. Another term is new member class.

**LINE BROTHER/SISTER:** Members who went through the membership intake process together.

**NATIONAL OR INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS:** The governing organization of a fraternity/sorority.

**NEOPHYTE:** A term some organizations use to refer to a new member of a fraternity or sorority.

**NEOPHYTE SHOW/NEW MEMBER PRESENTATION/PROBATE:** Interchangeable terms used to describe the public announcement of the newest members’ crossing (initiation).

**NEW MEMBER:** A potential member who has accepted the bid of a fraternity or sorority and has taken the first step toward full membership, but has not yet crossed.

**NATIONAL PAN-HELLENIC COUNCIL (NPHC):** The governing organization of the nine historically African-American Greek-letter organizations. This acronym also refers to the local governing council of an institution.

**PHILOSOPHY:** Charitable projects or donations sponsored by a fraternity or sorority.

**POTENTIAL NEW MEMBER:** An unaffiliated man or woman who participates in intake.

**RITUAL:** The activity by which a fraternity or sorority brings into membership its new members who have met initiation requirements; the traditionally secret ceremonies of a fraternity or sorority.

**SOROR:** Another term used to refer to one’s sorority sister.

**STROLLING:** Organization members move together in a line expressing pride for their organization. In this line, members may express their pride through use of their organization’s call, sign or historical information, ritual/custom dances, etc. All of this is done through movements that are unique to a particular organization and should not be mimicked.

Greek Alphabet

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NPHC ORGANIZATIONS

**Alpha Phi Alpha**
COLORS: BLACK & OLD GOLD
- National Founding: December 4, 1906 at Cornell University
- Local Chapter Founding Date: April 20, 1913
- National Philanthropy: March of Dimes
- Chapter Programs: Bananas for Books, Ice Cold Clothing Drive, Freedom of Speech
- National Website: http://www.alphasouthwest.org

**Phi Beta Sigma**
COLORS: ROYAL BLUE & PURE WHITE
- National Founding: January 5, 1911 at Indiana University
- Local Chapter Founding Date: May 15, 1913
- National Philanthropy: Operation BigBookBag, St. Jude's Children’s Hospital
- Chapter Programs: So You Think You Can Shimmy, Kosmic Klash Step Shop, Diamond of the Semester
- National Website: http://www.kappaalphapsi1911.com

**Kappa Alpha Psi**
COLORS: CRIMSON & CREAM
- National Founding: January 5, 1911 at Indiana University
- Local Chapter Founding Date: April 5, 1911
- National Philanthropy: Healthy Kappa/Healthy Communities, Sudden Infant Death Syndrome Awareness
- Chapter Programs: So You Think You Can Shimmy, Cosmic Klash Step Shop, Kradentals Diamond of the Semester
- National Website: http://www.kappaphi.com

**Zeta Phi Beta**
COLORS: ROYAL BLUE & PURE WHITE
- National Founding: January 19, 1920 at Howard University
- National Philanthropy: March of Dimes, Zetas Helping Other People Excel
- National Website: zphib1920.org

**Sigma Gamma Rho**
COLORS: ROYAL BLUE & ANTIQUE GOLD
- National Founding: November 12, 1922 at Howard University
- National Philanthropy: Operation BigBookBag, Breast Cancer Awareness, Youth Symposium
- Chapter Programs: So You Think You Can Shimmy, Cosmo Klash Step Shop, Kradentals Diamond of the Semester
- National Website: sgbrho1922.org
Safety Education & Hazing Prevention

ALCOHOL POLICY

- The possession, use and/or consumption of alcoholic beverages is absolutely prohibited while on chapter premises. During an official fraternity event, or in any situation sponsored or endorsed by the chapter, alcohol consumption must be in compliance with any and all applicable laws of the state, county, city and university.
- No alcoholic beverages may be purchased through the chapter treasury nor may the purchase of alcohol for members or guests be undertaken or coordinated by any person in the name of or on behalf of the chapter. The purchase and/or use of bulk quantities of such alcoholic beverage (i.e. kegs, party balls, etc.) by any chapter’s members or new members or the purchase of bulk quantity of alcoholic beverages by an individual for a chapter is prohibited.
- No chapter may co-sponsor or co-finance a function where alcohol is purchased by any of the host chapters, groups or organizations.
- No chapter members/new members, collectively or individually, shall purchase for, serve to or sell alcoholic beverages (to include 3.2 beer or stronger) to anyone under the age of 21 years.
- No chapter may co-sponsor an event with an alcohol distributor, charitable organization or tavern (where tavern is defined as an establishment generating more than one half of annual gross sales from alcohol) where alcohol is given away, sold or otherwise provided to those present.
- All recruitment/intake activities associated with any chapter, without regard to location, will be dry recruitment functions.
- Open parties where alcohol is present, meaning those with unrestricted access by non-members of the fraternity, without specific invitation, shall be prohibited.
- No “drinking games” in any form shall be permitted, tolerated or encouraged.
- No alcohol shall be present at any new member program activity of the chapter.

HAZING CODE

Hazing in any form at Oklahoma State University is absolutely forbidden. Hazing is defined as any activity which recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental health, physical health or safety of a student for the purpose of initiation or admission into, or affiliation with, any organization operating subject to the sanction of the public or private school or of any institution of higher education in the state of Oklahoma. In addition, the Student Code of Conduct document prohibits any form of racial, ethnic and sexual harassment.

NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

The governing councils of the fraternity and sorority community and each member chapter are required to follow the policies listed on this page. Any violation will result in a judicial board hearing. Copies of both the Alcohol Policy and Hazing Code can be found on the Fraternity & Sorority Affairs website at gogreek.okstate.edu. The governing councils of the fraternity and sorority community and Oklahoma State University, in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Higher Education Act), do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin or ethnicity in any of their policies, practices or procedures.

RESPONSIBILITY

Sororities and fraternities are held to high standards by their national organizations, advisors and the university. There are trainings that prepare members to be responsible and behave in a manner that reflects their values.