Standards
Adopted December 2003; revised July 2014

Minimum expectations

The leadership of the 26 women’s inter/national sororities comprising the National Panhellenic Conference (NPC) endorses the positive contributions of their organizations to campus life, student development and host institutions. Each NPC member organization is committed to partnering with host institutions for the success of their organizations. To affirm the high standards of each organization, the inter/national presidents submit the following as minimum expectations for collegiate chapters.

Chapters will enhance and promote each member’s learning and development by:

1. Positively affecting intellectual development
Each NPC member organization places high value on education, academic performance and intellectual development.

Minimum chapter standards:

- Meet or exceed the campus all-women’s grade point average.
- Provide academic programming to new members and initiated members, such as recognizing scholastic achievement and promoting academic success resources.
- Prioritize programming with student learning objectives and offer a balanced calendar that honors a member’s primary focus as a student.
- Develop positive relationships with university faculty members.
- Recruit women in good academic standing.

2. Being socially responsible
Each NPC member organization:

- Integrates its values, mission and standards throughout its collegiate chapter organizational and programming structure.
- Educates its chapter members on all inter/national policies and expectations pertaining to alcohol, substance abuse and underage drinking.
- Encourages alcohol-free social activities.
- Requires a policy of alcohol-free and illegal substance-free facilities for all housed chapters.
- Provides a standards process by which a chapter holds its members accountable for their behavior.

Minimum chapter standards:

- Provide education on alcohol and other drugs at least once a term.
- Enforce inter/national policies on alcohol and social event planning guidelines/policies.
- Provide at least one values-based education program annually.
- Partner with the university to provide a healthy and safe collegiate experience for chapter members that is grounded in the core values and mission of the host institution and the inter/national organization.
- Provide ritual programming and opportunities to experience the values-based purpose of the organization in action through member ceremonies and practices.
3. Developing leadership skills and abilities
Each NPC member organization values developing, supporting and mentoring leaders.

Minimum chapter standards:
- Offer at least one leadership development activity annually.
- Attend regional leadership conferences and/or inter/national convention when offered.
- Attend campus leadership programs when offered.
- Encourage chapter members to use their leadership skills to benefit other campus organizations, activities and projects.
- Have at least one advisor, who should be available for consultation with university officials as needed.

4. Respecting human dignity, wellness and student safety
Each NPC member organization places high value on respect for others, human dignity, cultural diversity and self-worth.

Minimum chapter standards:
- Adhere to inter/national policies regarding hazing.
- Execute a new member program consistent with the inter/national organization’s values that positively introduces new members to the fraternity/sorority community.
- Participate in at least one program annually on the value of human dignity.
- Participate in at least one program annually that promotes a climate of diversity and inclusion.
- Participate in at least one program annually that addresses women’s health, wellness and/or student safety.
- Comply with the fire/safety inspection regulations (housed chapters) of its inter/national organization and the host institution.

5. Developing citizenship through service and outreach
Each NPC member organization values community and philanthropic service.

Minimum chapter standards:
- Engage in a minimum of one community service/philanthropic project annually according to inter/national policy.
- Support campus service/philanthropic projects when feasible.
- Acknowledge and promote positive relationships with the greater university community.
- Participate in and support College Panhellenic/governing council meetings, programs and events.
- Abide by all federal, state/province and local laws, campus policies, regulations and community standards.
About the National Panhellenic Conference

The National Panhellenic Conference (NPC), founded in 1902, consists of 26 inter/national sororities. Statistics show that NPC represents a total membership of nearly 5 million women. NPC supports its member organizations by promoting values, intellectual development, leadership, friendship, citizenship and cooperation. In addition, NPC fosters cooperative interfraternal relationships among member organizations and their collegiate and alumnae associations, in partnership with host colleges and universities to maintain the highest performance standards.

NPC structure

NPC is a conference. Member organizations participate by choice and mutually agree to uphold Unanimous Agreements, a series of resolutions designed to guide actions with fairness and equity. A delegation from each of the 26 inter/national member organizations meets regularly to reaffirm and/or approve NPC Unanimous Agreements, policies and best practices. The NPC Manual of Information and website are primary information sources pertaining to procedures and outcomes. A committee structure addresses issues including those related to Alumnae and College Panhellenics, board development, finance, extension, strategic planning, housing, recruitment.

College Panhellenic Associations

The 26 member organizations maintain over 3,200 active collegiate chapters on more than 670 college and university campuses in the United States and Canada. On campuses hosting a minimum of two collegiate chapters, NPC maintains a College Panhellenic Association composed of all NPC member organizations represented on the campus. A special NPC advisor helps new College Panhellenic Associations form. When the proper structure is established, the College Panhellenic receives an official letter of approval from the NPC Panhellenics chairman. College Panhellenic Associations are local coordinating bodies responsible for Panhellenic operations in accord with NPC Unanimous Agreements, policies, procedures and best practices.

Holding chapters accountable

Each College Panhellenic Association has a judicial board and procedures, as outlined in the NPC Unanimous Agreements. The College Panhellenic judicial system addresses violations that reflect unfavorably on the Panhellenic community, and chapters may be held accountable for the actions of their members. Procedures provide a fair process that might include discussion, mediation, hearing, appeal and recommended sanctions. The NPC Manual of Information gives more information about each process and is clear that sanctions cannot impede a member organization’s right to recruit.

Summary

The 26 inter/national sororities comprising NPC are values-based organizations committed to the personal growth and development of their members. Each has a process by which its own chapters are held accountable. Traditionally, NPC member organizations have high expectations and hold their chapters to high standards, independent of any campus-based relationship documents. NPC member organizations are responsive campus partners and have demonstrated effective and responsible self-governing. As privately incorporated entities, NPC member organizations have the right to self-govern. Our vision focuses on partnering on general leadership and student and chapter development issues while reserving the rights of private organizations to oversee chapter management processes and internal functioning.