



# Resolved to Educate

## Educational support for: Events with recognized fraternities

In 2013, the NPC Board of Directors clarified its policy regarding events with recognized men's fraternities, 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. The expectation is that they be followed, because they reflect the combined knowledge and experience of the 26 autonomous member organizations.

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

1. Chapters or colonies recognized and in good standing with both their inter/national organization and the college/university; or
2. Chapters or colonies recognized and in good standing with their inter/national organization, but have been denied recognition or have had recognition rescinded by the college/university for reasons other than organizational conduct; or
3. 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 recognized and in good standing with the college/university.

### 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.

The Fraternal Information and Programming Group (FIPG), of which most NPC organizations are members, defines an event as "... any situation sponsored or endorsed by the chapter" or any situation "an observer would associate with the fraternity."

Although an exact number of attendees may or may not be stated in organizational policy, 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.

### Why is this policy important?

- Recognized fraternity chapters have the support of their inter/national organizations and an obligation to follow organizational risk management and social policies and practices. Unrecognized groups do not, and often operate outside the scope of legal and safe behavior. It is also highly unlikely that an unrecognized group has insurance coverage.
- 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 may violate organizational and campus social and risk management policies, and may result in sanctions.

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### 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 the standards and rules, change can and will happen. We value the fact that sororities are social organizations; however, your organizational leaders have developed and enacted policy for the overall safety of your community. Challenge the Panhellenic and IFC to work together on these issues and to send a unified message to the fraternity/sorority community on the consequences of participation in these activities.

### Ways to handle infractions of this policy

Chapters should be held accountable through the Panhellenic judicial process. The College Panhellenic is encouraged to reach out to the chapter/member's headquarters staff, the organization's NPC delegate and the College Panhellenic's area advisor for assistance if behavior and actions continue to be a problem.