



Alumnae Panhellenic Welcome Program

The National Panhellenic Conference encourages Alumnae Panhellenics to plan an event to recognize collegiate women who are transitioning to alumnae status and welcome them to continue their sorority involvement through the Alumnae Panhellenic. The “Alumnae Panhellenic Welcome Program” can provide a positive networking opportunity to connect graduating seniors with local alumnae and is a valuable example of lifelong membership.

The purpose of the Alumnae Panhellenic Welcome Program is to:

- Celebrate graduating seniors.
- Transition graduating seniors to alumnae.
- Educate seniors on the Alumnae Panhellenic experience.
- Connect College Panhellenic members with their local Alumnae Panhellenic.

How to prepare for the program:

- Speak with a local College Panhellenic Council during the spring term about membership in the Alumnae Panhellenic.
- Invite College Panhellenic officers and seniors from each member organization to an Alumnae Panhellenic meeting.
- Plan the welcome program in an enjoyable atmosphere by hosting the event at a member’s home, at a restaurant on campus, etc.

The program can be adapted to the needs of the Alumnae Panhellenic. The program can be an informal gathering of collegians and alumnae to provide networking and information about the local Alumnae Panhellenic. Or the program can be a formal gathering (such as a luncheon or dinner event) with the inclusion of the ceremony to welcome collegiate members into the Alumnae Panhellenic through ritual.

Consider the following example program as a guide to recognizing collegiate women transitioning to alumnae status. Adapt the program to meet the needs of the Alumnae Panhellenic and the resources available to support such an event.

Other tips to consider:

- Provide collegians with a handout about Alumnae Panhellenic membership, including information about dues and upcoming events.
- Pair collegians with alumnae from various member organizations to discuss the alumnae sorority experience.
- Consider providing a gift to the graduating collegiate women by visiting the NPC store.
- Provide an opportunity to support the NPC Foundation as a continued commitment to the sorority experience.

For more information or ideas, please contact your NPC area coordinator or the NPC office.

Example program:

Welcome and introductions

Welcome participants and have all individuals introduce themselves.

NPC history, mission and vision

Consider providing the following context for NPC history, mission and vision:

Made up of 26 member organizations, the National Panhellenic Conference is the world's largest umbrella organization specifically charged with advancing the sorority experience. Through its advocacy, NPC seeks to enlist nearly 5 million sorority women in its efforts to showcase the transformational power of the sorority experience.

As values-based organizations, the 26 members of NPC live their missions, with their members providing millions of dollars in philanthropic support to dozens of worthy causes and contributing millions of additional hours in community service. From supporting victims of sexual assault to leading bystander intervention programs to fighting for body-positive campus cultures, sorority women are at the forefront of solving some of the most pressing challenges facing collegiate women today.

NPC also supports a national network of College Panhellenic and Alumnae Panhellenic associations that are crucial to nurturing healthy fraternity and sorority communities. Through its programs and initiatives, NPC encourages the sharing of information, resources and best practices to ensure the sorority experience continues to meet the needs of today's women.

The purpose of Alumnae Panhellenics is to:

- Inform sorority women of current trends.
- Promote the sorority experience.
- Improve the Panhellenic image.
- Stimulate a continuing interest in Panhellenic involvement.

Read from the Panhellenic Creed

... We, as Fraternity Women, stand for service through the development of character, inspired by the close contact and deep friendship of individual fraternity and Panhellenic life. The opportunity for wide and wise human service, through mutual respect and helpfulness, is the tenet by which we strive to live.

Inspiration and reflection

Just as collegiate women come together to strengthen the Panhellenic and campus community, alumnae women come together to promote the sorority experience and to serve the communities where we have established Alumnae Panhellenics.

We all have committed to the values, personal growth, service and friendships offered by our member organizations. As Panhellenic women, we extend that commitment through our greater Panhellenic values and lifelong membership.

Introduction of speaker

Consider selecting a speaker who can offer testimony to sorority membership and the alumnae experience.

Ceremony

A table covered with a white cloth. The laurel wreath sits on the table. In the middle of the wreath is a large white candle with the Alumnae Panhellenic insignia/logo that is lit. A candle representing each of the NPC member organizations on the campus is placed on the outside of the wreath.

Panhellenic alumnae representative:

We, the members of _____ Alumnae Panhellenic are pleased to welcome you into the Panhellenic Alumnae circle.

As alumnae we represent many backgrounds, responsibilities and careers. We are, however, united in the common concern for others and the ongoing growth of values.

Each of you has received a gift from your sorority — that of personal growth, leadership development, philanthropic opportunities and lifelong friendship. We charge you to continue to grow and develop these gifts as you move beyond these collegiate years. We trust you will never forget your sorority members and remember sorority membership is a lifetime experience.

We ask each of you to think about your sorority ritual, the values and ideals that you pledge to uphold and continue for a lifetime. Our laurel wreath represents the National Panhellenic Conference and its circle that has no beginning and no end. As each sorority is asked to light a candle in the wreath, notice that no sorority is first or last, but we are all equal position, value and importance.

The words below are read for each sorority represented on the campus:

I call upon (name of representative of sorority chapter) to please step forward and, from the Panhellenic candle in the center of the wreath, light the candle that represents (name of sorority).

(Repeat for each member organization.)

As these candles are lit, I ask each of you to remember your ritual and open your heart and mind and embrace the Panhellenic spirit as you move into alumnae membership.

Our wreath is now completely lit. Stay true to your ideals and never forget the bonds of Panhellenic sisterhood. Stay in touch with each other for a Panhellenic sister is a gift to the heart, a friend to the spirit and a golden thread to the meaning of life.

Closing

We look forward to welcoming you to our Alumnae Panhellenic community. Wherever you may live, whether or not your individual sorority has a local alumnae organization, you are always welcome to join in Panhellenic sisterhood. It is important to stay true to what makes our member organizations unique, but let the alumnae experience be a way to celebrate what keeps us united in our common purpose.