



Socially Distanced/Virtual Bid Day Resource

Purpose of Bid Day

Bid Day is the culmination of the primary recruitment process. It is an opportunity to welcome new members to the sorority community as well as build Panhellenic spirit and unity. Every campus/community celebrates Bid Day with different traditions.

College Panhellenic Responsibilities

The College Panhellenic has a specific set of responsibilities related to Bid Day:

1. Set the schedule for the day.
2. Manage bid distribution.
3. Provide a general community welcome.

The program will vary and may include a recruitment counselor reveal, a brief highlight video and/or an official Panhellenic welcome message.

Bid Distribution Ideas

Virtual bid distribution is a new addition to Bid Day considerations. Many campuses making this shift are doing this by:

1. Planning a few waves of Bid Day in small groups depending on the number of potential new members (PNMs) receiving bids.
2. Creating a video welcome address and/or a scripted reveal of recruitment counselors.
3. Organizing PNMs into breakout rooms by chapter during the welcome address and/or recruitment counselor reveal.
4. Having a recruitment counselor or chapter representative welcome new members in breakout rooms and provide instruction for chapter Bid Day plans.
5. Using consumer products or online service providers (e.g., Paperless Post) if extending bids electronically to make the invitation to membership more visually attractive than a plain email.

This is an opportunity to get creative while keeping PNM needs at the center of the conversation.

Chapter Responsibilities

Each chapter also has a set of responsibilities related to Bid Day:

1. Create a welcoming environment for new members.
2. Provide connection with initiated members.
3. Orient new members to sorority life.
4. Provide information about new member education, events, expectations and next steps.

Some ideas for chapters for Bid Day follow. As a reminder, all events should follow guidance from your inter/national organization, campus and local health department.



Planning Process

Here are some steps to determine what Bid Day will look like for your community:

1. Determine your budget.
2. Determine your format (i.e., virtual or socially distanced).
3. Determine who should/can be in attendance.
4. Outline the event—what’s the new member’s experience from start to finish?
5. Communicate your decisions to members, PNMs and stakeholders.

Socially Distanced Ideas

In-person celebrations will look a little different this year. Continue to monitor and comply with local health department and campus regulations throughout the planning process to make sure you are operating within guidelines.

- Collect contact information for new members.
- Share details on future meeting dates, times and locations.
- Drive a car parade between residence halls and drop gifts at the curb.
- Create activity stations that can be completed in small groups.
- Cluster new members based on residence halls so they can create community in their living environments.
- Hang decorations on new member residence hall room doors. Be sure to check whether hanging signage is permitted and/or whether non-residents are allowed in residence halls as entry may be limited to residents-only this year.
- Play yard games or relay races in small groups for fun and to get to know each other.
- Send a follow-up communication after the event with all information in one place.
- Instead of group photos of the entire new member class, consider taking individual photos by a chapter banner or sign welcoming the new members.

Virtual Ideas

Virtual celebrations will be more common this year. Just because members are apart, doesn’t mean that Bid Day can’t be fun and exciting!

- Collect contact information for new members.
- Share details on future meeting dates, times and locations.
- Drive a car parade past new member residence halls.
- Order and mail yard signs to new members homes.
- Hang decorations on new member residence hall room doors. Be sure to check whether hanging signage is permitted and/or whether non-residents are allowed in residence halls as entry may be limited to residents-only this year.
- Create a fun background to use on your video platform of choice.
- Order e-gift cards redeemable for food during the celebration.
- Create icebreakers or play an e-game such as Mad Libz or Jackbox.tv.
- Distribute a welcome kit with contact info, dates, social media handles, etc.
- Share a curated playlist with new members to listen to later.



Families/Caregivers and Bid Day

On some campuses families/caregivers want to celebrate with their students when they join a sorority. Some come for the reveal, some hope to participate with the chapter and some want to do both! It can be special to celebrate Bid Day with a parent or caregiver, but for a variety of reasons, this may look different than in previous years.

Below are some common questions and potential answers to share.

Can I watch my student open her bid?

Many campuses are shifting their bid distribution ceremonies to virtual platforms. Given platform limitations, it isn't possible to accommodate for parent/guardian attendance. If in-person Bid Day is possible with social distancing measures, the College Panhellenic may choose to limit visitor access to the ceremony to ensure the health and well-being of potential new members (PNMs) and chapter members. If guests are allowed, be sure to follow all health and safety guidelines including wearing a mask and practicing social distancing.

Will she be “running home” on Bid Day this year?

Due to the pandemic, many Bid Day traditions are changing or being put on hold. “Running home” puts new members and initiated members in close contact with one another and usually drives large crowds of spectators each year. Both of these scenarios have been linked to outbreaks of illness over the past four months. In the interest of health and safety of parents, students and alumni, most schools have chosen to opt out of this in-person tradition to maintain the health and safety of all involved.

Can I go to my student’s chapter to celebrate?

Again, many chapters and inter/national organizations are pivoting to virtual Bid Day celebrations. Given platform limitations, it is most likely that guests will not be able to join in for the chapter celebration.

If in-person activities are possible, the chapter may still limit guest access to the celebration in accordance with local health and safety guidelines and/or housing corporation restrictions. If guests are allowed, be sure to follow all guidelines including wearing a mask and practicing social distancing.

So what can I do?

Wanting to celebrate with your student is normal and exciting. Some alternatives to attending an in-person Bid Day include:

- Recording a video note of congratulations and celebration.
- Sending a care package with affiliation gifts and her favorite snacks.
- Writing a hand-written letter of congratulations and support.
- Celebrating this momentous occasion with your student at another time.
- Video chatting (e.g., FaceTime, Google Hangouts) or calling your student during a virtual reveal.