

New Members: *Are They Really Getting It?*

Developed by
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Consider these Questions:

What is the purpose of New Member Education?

Who Thinks What?

- A. National
- B. Alumni/Alumnae
- C. Chapter Members
- D. New Members

What do our colleges and universities see is the purpose of New Member Education?

What are we actually teaching our New Members? What should we be teaching them?

Are they getting what they were promised during Recruitment?

What is the role of the big sister or big brother?

Is it to spend time with their little sister or little brother?

Why don't members want to be big sisters or big brothers? Time? Money?

Are big sisters or big brothers our best members?

Especially for the women, what is the purpose of all of the gifts that they receive during their new member education? Is there competition? Can some of what we do currently be changed?

What are today's New Members looking for from their sorority or fraternity experience?

Are they still around when they are seniors? Why or why not?

Why did they join? Do we ever ask them?

How do we help them to want to make a lifetime commitment to our organizations? Do they really understand what this means?

Do we share ritual, sisterhood, brotherhood and commitment with them?

Suggested Ways to Improve the New Member Experience

*Educate the chapter members about the role of the new member program - make certain that they understand that each one of them is responsible for the new members' experience and education

*Review the new members activities and calendar with the chapter members so that everyone is on the same page - don't just assume that they know

*Plan some activities early on that will have the chapter members and new members get to know one another i.e. sundae party, team building, etc.

*If your chapter is too large, plan activities with big and little sisters such as team building, bingo, karaoke, etc.

*Set a budget or specific gifts that can be given to a new member by her big sister - it's not about the gifts, it is about the time that they spend together

*Have the big sister or big brother purchase the little sisters' or brothers' badge or help to share the cost of the badge with the little sister/little brother

*If it is okay with your sorority's or fraternity's policy, have the big sister or big brother and new member write

in journals and share those with one another

*Have the chapter compile a favorite quote book to give to the new members

*Have the alumnae/ni sponsor a retreat for the chapter and the new members

*Invite one or some of your older alumnae/ni to speak to the new members

*Invite the fraternity/sorority advisor to speak to the new members

*Use music to create memories for the new members

*Explain the importance of ritual - how a person can live their ritual without knowing what is said in the ceremony

Other Suggestions:

THE GREEK THAT'S WRITTEN THERE

Author Unknown

It makes little difference the size of your badge, whether it's large or small.
And if it is plain or brilliant with jewels is of no concern at all,
But the vows that you took along with your badge,
Have you worn them constantly, quietly,
deep in the heart of you where no one looks in to see?
Have you touched the stars you reached for once in your own small piece of sky?
Have you striven for the honorable, the beautiful, the high?
What difference, then the shape of the badge, be it diamond or heart or square
The important thing is how much do you love the badge that you chose to wear?



STAR FISH STORY

As an old man walked along the beach at dawn one morning, he noticed a young girl up ahead of him picking up starfish and flinging them into the sea. Finally catching up to the girl, the man asked her why she was doing this. The girl answered that the stranded starfish would die if left there in the morning sun.

"But the beach goes on for miles, and there are millions of starfish," quibbled the old man. "How can your effort make any difference?"

The girl looked down at the starfish in her hand before throwing it into the safety of the ocean waves. "It makes a difference to this one," she said.

THE BRIDGE BUILDER

William Allen Droomgoole

An old man, going a lone highway,
Came at evening, cold and gray,
To a chasm, vast and deep and wide.
Through which was flowing a sullen tide.
The old man crossed in the twilight dim;
The sullen stream had no fears for him
But he turned when safe on the other side.
And built a bridge to span the tide.

"Old man," said a fellow pilgrim near,
"You are wasting strength with building here;
Your journey will end with the ending day;
You never again must pass this way;
You have crossed the chasm, deep and wide
Why build you the bridge at evening tide?"

The builder lifted his old gray head
"Good friend, in the path that I have come," he said,
"There followeth after me today
A youth whose feet must pass this way.
This chasm that has been naught to me
To that fair-haired youth may a pitfall be.
He, too must cross in the twilight dim;
Good friend, I am building the bridge for him."



**New Members Learn
What They are Taught by
YOU!**

YOU NEVER KNOW

Helen L. Marshall

You never know when someone
May catch a dream from you.
You never know when a little word
Or something you may do
May open up the windows
Of a mind that seeks the light-
The way you live may not matter at
all,
But you never know - it might.
And just in case it could be
That another's life, through you,
Might possibly change for the better
With a broader and brighter view,
It seems it might be worth a try
At pointing the way to the right -
Of course, it might not matter at all,
But then again - it might.

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