

# Rush offers insight into Greek life

## Formal recruitment for IFC fraternities will begin Aug. 20.

By Lindsey Luxon  
Staff Writer

For many students, campus Greek life is a way to meet new people and participate in community service events.

Fraternities and sororities encourage community service, academic achievement and leadership development.

The Greek community offers more than 50 different organizations. About 17 percent of undergraduate students participate in fraternities and sororities.

Formal recruitment for the Interfraternity Council begins Aug. 20 and ends when bids are extended Aug. 31. The Panhellenic Council formal recruitment will be held Aug. 31 through Sept. 6. Many Greek

organizations also recruit during the spring semester.

The Greek Alliance Council represents organizations based on special interests, including religious and cultural interests, and can recruit based on those values.

Formal recruitment, or rush, gives students the opportunity to explore Greek life without feeling pressured to join a particular organization.

"The first week (of rush) is typically more informal, whereas the second week will get more into the invitation-only events," said Tyler O'Neal, IFC vice president for recruitment.

Students can visit fraternity or sorority houses to meet the current members during rush. Rush events do not involve alcohol to ensure that students are safe and engage members on a more personal level, O'Neal said.

All 22 IFC chapters must meet a minimum GPA requirement of 2.7 to avoid probation. Starting this fall, fraternities must also have

at least the campus average GPA to recruit first-semester freshmen, according to Aaron Bachenheimer, director of the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life and Community Involvement.

IFC President Jack Partain said the recruitment process for fraternities will be strictly regulated by the IFC this year to give freshmen a better opportunity to learn about chapters.

"Even if you decide not to pledge, it's a great way to meet people and network," he said.

"Nothing about rush is binding. You can go out and explore your options for two weeks."

Students interested in the formal recruitment process can register for Panhellenic Council or IFC recruitment by going to the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life website. Information for the Greek Alliance Council and other Greek organizations is also available on the website.

Contact the University Editor at [university@dailytarheel.com](mailto:university@dailytarheel.com).

# Experiences in college are more than Greek life

I'm a legacy. Not a legacy from UNC — Dad's from the University of Georgia and Mom went to Bowling Green State in Ohio. But Mom was a Chi Omega, and that — coupled with my blonde hair and undying love for sundresses — prompted many to ask, "Will you rush, Taylor?"

I knew the answer was 'no' long before I even applied to college. Greek life wasn't for me. Not to say that it won't be for you. Joining a sorority or fraternity offers a great networking opportunity and a variety of new friends and new experiences.

Maybe you're sitting at home thinking, "How am I going to make these connections if I don't rush?" Don't worry. This campus offers more than enough opportunities to make friends, get involved and start working toward your future.

I joined The Daily Tar Heel my freshman year, thinking it would be a way to learn more about journalism. It was that and so much more. As a campus and town newspaper, it became



Taylor Hartley  
Opinion Editor

a great way to make friends and learn more about the University and the town of Chapel Hill. Not only did it open doors to various internships, but it helped me find a way to turn my love of writing into a career.

But even if you're not looking to become a reporter, you can find your niche at UNC. If you're looking for a loud, proud cause, look into volunteering for Dance Marathon. You'll get a chance to dress in a brightly colored T-shirt and attend a ton of different events, raising money for the North Carolina Children's Hospital. Then in February, you'll dance for 24 hours at Fetzer Gym with a hundred of your closest friends.

Relay for Life is also a huge

cause on campus. You can help organize the event, or you can get a bunch of suitemates together, form a team and find ways to fundraise throughout the year.

And as far as connections go, UNC Career Services is great at helping you find the internship or job to fit your desires and degree. Make sure you check out some of their workshops and job fairs — it may be four years down the road, but its never too late to start thinking about what happens after your time at UNC.

There are a million and one ways to surround yourself with people at this university. Join Young Democrats or College Republicans to get out the vote this election season. Become a regular at a group fitness class. Audition for a play at the student run theater company, LAB! Theatre. Play Quidditch — yes, I said Quidditch.

Greek life definitely has something to offer. But if you feel that's not for you, there are plenty of other ways to become a legacy at Carolina. There's something here for you. All you have to do is find it.

# Greek life provides students with friendship, networking

The beginning of freshman year is the time you want to start establishing your social network. You'll be in high spirits from the golden, transitional summer after high school graduation, looking forward to making new friends in college and thrilled about the four years that lay ahead of you.

Greek rush week was the beginning of that journey for me. It laid the foundations for this coming-of-age transition into the real world. It is a very welcoming experience where friendship and opportunity await.

During fall rush, you will make friends. You will meet people, regardless of which organization, if any, you choose to join. And you'll discover the joy of being a Tar Heel with tailgates, free dinners and trips to the lake.



Jake Filip  
Editorial board member

If you end up choosing to pledge a Greek organization, it will be a large commitment of your time during your first semester in college — a commitment that's certainly not for everyone.

But it is worth it to explore something that might end up having a very meaningful effect on your life.

Greek organizations offer a powerful network of individuals and alumni, and you'll find that your goals — whether they include host-

ing a philanthropy event, hunting for a job or throwing a party — all lay within reach, given the manpower of such organizations.

One of my fraternity brothers was able to establish a basketball tournament to raise money for the National Tay-Sachs and Allied Diseases Association. His passion came from losing a sister to Tay-Sachs. His support came from his fraternity members who were able to make the event successful.

Of course, Greek life is not for everyone. Statistically speaking, only 17 percent of the undergraduate student body belongs to a Greek organization.

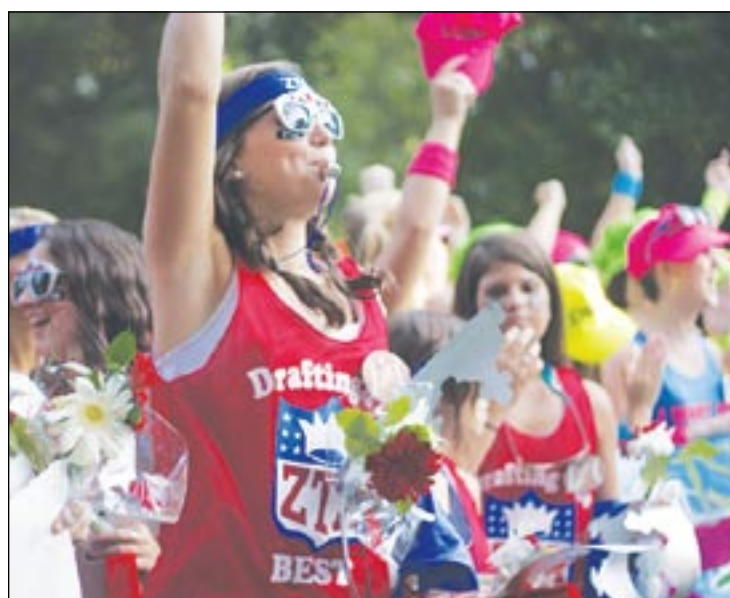
Through my personal experience, Greek life is for those with youthful dreams of adventure, seeking to live out their college years shaking the foundations of what they once thought to be

impossible.

And with 55 different Greek organizations to choose from — some coed, some multicultural, some filled with football players or student body presidents — there is plenty of choice and diversity within these organizations, regardless of personality or background.

Greek life is always worth a look, which is why rush week is great. Remember, rushing does not require you to pledge a Greek organization. You can go through rush and decide not to pledge.

But if you do, keep in mind that it will be a great four years you won't regret. You will make friends. You'll develop a sense of brotherhood with the people in your house. And at the end of your Carolina career, you'll have formed a strong network of connections.



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Bid Day in mid-September ends the Panhellenic Council's recruitment process as students are given their bids in the arboretum.



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