

Events offer a chance to test Greek life

Events such as formal recruitment let students “test the waters.”

By Kelly Williamson
Staff Writer

While at first the Greek letters adorning the houses around Chapel Hill may seem like alien glyphs, for some students, these will become symbols of their college experience.

Seventeen percent of students at UNC are members of a fraternity or sorority, which is a decision often made during the first two years at school.

Aaron Bachenheimer, director of the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life and Community Involvement, said new students will have ample opportunities to learn about Greek life before participating in recruitment.

“Incoming freshmen should take advantage of all opportunities to learn more about fraternities and sororities, and it starts at orientation,” he said.

On the second day of summer orientation for all new students, the office will host an information session for potential recruits.

For anyone who can’t attend these sessions, the office will also have a table at FallFest, as will many of the individual chapters of sororities and fraternities.

Jack Partain, Inter-Fraternity Council president, said the most important thing for people interested in joining an IFC fraternity to know is to register online during the summer at the council’s website.

“They’ll get their names distributed to all 21 chapters, and then the chapters start contacting them almost immediately about rush events,” Partain said.

Formal recruitment events begin shortly after the semester begins.

“After that you go into formal recruitment, which is two weeks of individual chapter events, including dinners at houses, golfing, paintball,” he said, after which participants will receive a bid to a fraternity.

Students interested in joining a sorority can also register

online beginning May 15, said Ana Samper, president of the Panhellenic Council.

“There are many opportunities to test the waters and participate in formal recruitment, and nothing obligates you to join an organization just for participating,” Bachenheimer said.

Students who may not be ready to commit to a fraternity or sorority their first semester will have another opportunity to rush informally in the spring as well.

Partain said that the social aspect is one of the most obvious reasons for joining a fraternity or sorority.

“It’s a way to make a lot of great friends, especially for people who may not know a lot of people coming into Carolina,” he said.

Fraternities and sororities also actively raise money and help their community through partnerships with various charities.

Partain said the IFC fraternities on campus gave more than

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20,000 hours to volunteer work last year.

“A lot of stereotypes are that Greek life is only social, but they are some of the most involved students on campus,” Samper said.

Bachenheimer said many negative stereotypes of Greek life stem from TV and movies.

“Incoming students should take all stereotypes and preconceptions and put them aside and let Carolina Greek students show them what fraternity and sorority life is really about,” he said.

Contact the University Editor at university@dailytarheel.com.



DTH/MELISSA KEY
A group of fraternity houses on campus. Seventeen percent of UNC students join a fraternity or sorority.

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