

HAZING ALTERNATIVES AND FACTS

Facts About Hazing

1. 82% of deaths from hazing involve alcohol (via Hank Nuwer)
2. Hazing is often about power and control
3. Just because a majority of members in an organization are not involved in a hazing incident doesn't mean the organization is not responsible
4. Hazing is not just associated with Greek Life or Athletics, it occurs across a wide spectrum of organizations
5. You can never be sure you know the physical or mental background of an individual and what the effects of hazing might be for that person both immediately and long term

Myths About Hazing

1. *Hazing Builds Unity.* Hazing builds animosity between people and does nothing to foster trust, unity or respect. It simply makes better hazers.
2. *The new members want to be hazed.* Really? Then why don't you advertise it in your Rush?
3. *I went through it, so they should too!* One class can break the "tradition" of hazing- it just takes some courage and integrity to do what is right.
4. *I'll never get caught or turned in!* If you haze, there will be a time when even your friends will have to choose between you and their integrity and well-being. It is in their best interest to report the hazing, no matter who is involved. Also, someone may decide to come forward even after college and you can still be held accountable.
5. *If they agree, then we're not hazing.* WRONG! Since peer pressure leads students to consent, the focus is on what you do, not whether they said you could.
6. *Hazing motivates new members to be better.* Hazing motivates no one. It hinders academic achievement, destroys self-esteem and causes emotional strain and physical harm.

Alternatives to Hazing

Most important, remember that all activities planned with new members should be done *with* new members, not them doing something *for* the active members. There are many creative ways to change from hazing to a non-hazing chapter.

- FOSTER UNITY: New members work together on a community service project, new members plan a social or athletic event with another new member class, attend on campus events (i.e. Torero Program Board, Associated Students, student organizations).
- DEVELOP CHAPTER UNITY OF BOTH NEW MEMBERS AND ACTIVES: Involve new members on chapter committees, hold new member/member sports events with mixed teams of new members and actives, and have active chapter/new member class retreat. Plan events in partnership with Outdoor Adventures (i.e. Ropes course, hiking, rock climbing). Invite Alumni to Homecoming and have an alumni BBQ. Host active and new member lunches/dinners at the SLP.
- PROMOTE SCHOLARSHIP: Take advantage of university academic and tutoring services, designate study hours, invite university speakers to discuss test-taking skills, study methods, etc.

- DEVELOP PROBLEM-SOLVING ABILITIES: Have new members discuss chapter weaknesses or community issues such as poor rush, apathy, and poor scholarship, and plan solutions that the active chapter or community might then adopt.
- DEVELOP LEADERSHIP SKILLS: Visit a ropes course to work on group cohesiveness, communication and leadership skills. Encourage participation in campus activities outside of the organization. Encourage new members to get involved in chapter committees and IFC projects. Create officer apprenticeship positions for new members – assign them to shadow a current officer in their position related to their leadership interests.
- INSTILL A SENSE OF MEMBERSHIP: Plan special events when the entire chapter gets together to attend a movie, play, or church service. Plan a "membership circle" when actives and new members participate in a candlelight service in which each person has a chance to express what membership means to them. Encourage new members to plan a family weekend.
- BUILD AWARENESS OF CHAPTER HISTORY: Invite an older member to talk about the chapter's early days, its founding, special chapter traditions, and prominent former members. Have new members interview active members about their involvement with the chapter and on campus. Create mixed teams of actives and new members to compete in chapter trivia nights.
- KNOWLEDGE OF THE GREEK SYSTEM: Invite leaders of IFC, Panhellenic, and/or Advisers to speak on Greek governance including their goals and expectations of the Greek system.
- AID CAREER GOALS: Use college resources for seminars on resume writing, job interview skills; various careers. Invite alumni involved in local businesses to come discuss internship and career opportunities
- INVOLVE NEW MEMBERS IN THE COMMUNITY: Get involved with campus and community service projects. Plan fund-raisers for local charitable organizations. Plan a new member or joint service trip to Mexico in partnership with CASA or University Ministry. Organize team service outings (i.e. soup kitchen, park clean up's)
- IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH OTHER GREEKS: Encourage new members to plan social or service projects with other new member classes; work together to plan joint social or service activities.

Sources

<http://www.phimudelta.org/nohazing2.html>
<http://hazingprevention.celect.org/home>
<http://www.stophazing.org/>
<http://www.hazing.college.harvard.edu/>
<http://hazing.fsu.edu/>
<http://hazing.cornell.edu/>

Resources

Haze the Movie:
<http://www.snagfilms.com/films/title/haze/>
 Hazing Prevention.Org:
<http://hazingprevention.celect.org/resources-and-links>