

How To Rush a Fraternity

Description

Fraternities have been at Virginia Tech since November 11, 1873 when Pi Kappa Alpha, Epsilon chapter was organized. By definition a fraternity is a brotherhood or a distinct or formal organization and sometimes a secret society. To become a brother in any fraternity one must rush the fraternity and go through the pledging process.

The whole process works to break a large group down into a small group, a pledge class, usually around twenty people. This assures that the brothers are able to recruit individuals who they see fit into their fraternity's standards and beliefs. The process takes place over two to three weeks and consists of social events including dinners, bonfires, sports, and other events. These events begin the third week of each semester and ending in the last weeks of the semester. Those who follow this process tend to be freshman or sophomores and occasionally a handful of juniors looking to get involved in philanthropy events and extracurricular activities.

The rush process works in several parts. The first and most important is registration, this allows you to receive a bid after open rush. Then you attend Greek 101, an information session to learn about the whole Greek community and about each fraternity; then there is open rush, a bunch of social events to meet the brothers and make an impression on them. This is followed by closed rush an invite only event that typically includes interviews and a social gathering. Then bid night, where you find out which fraternities offer you a bid to rush. You are then given a few days to think about your decision about which or if you want to pledge a fraternity, this is considered Bid Acceptance Day. Finally the pledging process and initiation where you finally become a brother of the fraternity.

Glossary

Brother – A person who is already in the fraternity

Closed Rush – An invite only invite, reaching this gives you a better chance of receiving a bid

Fraternity - A brotherhood, a social group, or a secret society

Inter Fraternity Council (IFC) – The group in charge and oversees all things concerned with fraternities

Leadership Fraternity – A group who is focused on leadership and achieves that through brotherhood activities

Non Hazing Campus – Pledge(s) cannot be harmed or threatened in any way, if they feel so they should report any issues to IFC

Pledge – Any person who has accepted a bid but has not yet been initiated

Professional Fraternity - A group made up of individuals of the same major focused on community activities and leadership

Rushies – Individual who is participating in the Rush process

Social Fraternity – A group focused on building relationships with other fraternities and sororities through philanthropy and social events

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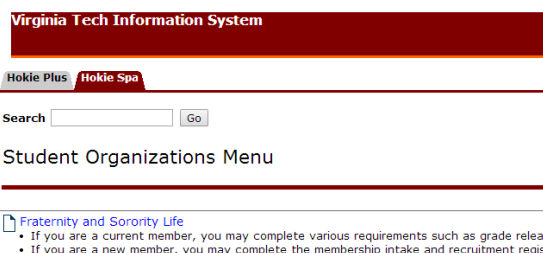
1) **Registration** – This is the most important step in the rushing process, without this you will not be able to receive a bid and will not be allowed to pledge a fraternity. This simple yet crucial step can be found on HokieSPA under the Sorority and Fraternity Life.

TIP: It is easier to accomplish this task before you come to Blacksburg and get caught up in work.

[1]

2) **Attend Greek 101** – This is an information session put together by the Inter Fraternity Council (IFC) and is intended to show prospective new brothers what each fraternity stands for, what their philanthropy is, and answer any questions that possible pledges may have.

TIP: first, dress to impress this is your first chance to make an impression on the brothers who will be deciding if you get a bid or not. Second, walk around and try to talk to every fraternity, you do not have to try and rush everyone but if you talk to all of them you have a better chance of finding the right fit.



[2]

3) **Open Rush** – This is a two week period where every fraternity schedules about four to seven social events for rushies to attend. These are the perfect time to meet and interact with the brothers of each fraternity.

TIP: In a social setting it is important to try and make an impression on every brother so they remember you, but you only have so long to talk to as many brothers as possible; **DO NOT** sacrifice quality for quantity, you have plenty of events to meet brothers but a good target is about fifteen – twenty brothers per event.



[3]

4) **Closed Rush** – This is an invite only event, congratulations on making it to this event, but you are not in a fraternity yet. This event can range from dinner with brother and advisors, to an interview by a panel of brothers asking various questions, the only thing that is constant in all of these events is that each fraternity gives a presentation. These presentations are set to make you want to be a brother of their fraternity and should make you say that you can see yourself in that fraternity.

[4]



TIP: You are not in the fraternity yet, do not think just that you got an invite you are guaranteed a bid. This is your last chance to make an impression before the brothers vote and make a final cut on who to give a bid to.

5) **Bid Night** – This is the beginning of the pledging process. You are encouraged to stay in your place of residence between six and ten pm, this allows the fraternities to come to you and present you with your bid and celebrate your acceptance. You will receive a call from a brother informing you to please come outside your building where they are all waiting to present you with your bid.

TIP: DO NOT watch the clock, it drags out the time and \makes you worry, there is nothing to worry about and there is nothing else you can do to change your chances of receiving a bid.

6) **Bid Acceptance** – On your HokieSPA page under the student organization, on the Sorority and Fraternity Life your bids will be listed. This leaves you to pick upon your bid(s) and sets you up to start your pledging process.

TIP: Brothers will not talk to you in depth around campus; this is to allow you, and only you to think about the decision on hand.

[5]

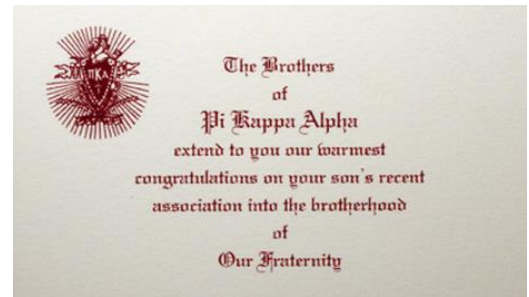


Image Sources

- 1- Screenshot from hokiespa
- 2- Google image – Dress for success
- 3- Google Image – talking around water cooler
- 4- Google Image - Conference
- 5- Google Image – Fraternity Bid