

# How to Rush a Sorority

by Leah Keefe

Sorority recruitment is the process, held at the beginning of each spring semester, that every collegiate woman must go through in order to **pledge** a sorority. At Virginia Tech there are twelve **Panhellenic** Sororities, located in **Oak Lane**, and you must **rush** all of them in order to get a **bid** from one. The recruitment process helps allow **Potential New Members (PNMs)** to talk to **sisters**, see what values each sorority has, and get a feel for what type of women belong to each **chapter**. It also allows sorority sisters to get to know the PNMs to see if they would be a good fit or not. The process of sorority recruitment works by going through an easy sign up, and then attending two weekends of recruitment, where you will visit each house and narrow down your options by ranking. Finally you will get a bid to one of these sororities and this is where the pledging process begins. This 'How To' will not only tell you how to rush a sorority, but will also include tips and details for fellow Hokies, making recruitment an easier, less stressful process, because you will now know what to expect!

## Before Recruitment

### Sign Up

Fill out the Registration Form by going to HokieSpa>Student Organizations Menu>Fraternity and Sorority Life.

### Meet your Rho Gamma

You will be sent an email on where and when to meet your **rho gamma** and **rho gamma group**. This meeting will be before winter break and will start preparing and guiding you through what to expect during recruitment. Here, you will also meet the other students in your group.

*\*Tip:* Become friends with the girls in your group, as you will be spending a lot of time with them, and some may even become your future sisters!

### Return from winter break and attend the kick-off event

You will need to come back early on the Tuesday before break is over. Wednesday morning you will report to Squires to check in. A few hours later, a speaker will go on and the rho gammas get you excited for recruitment and remind you of what to talk about, what to wear, and what to look for in a sorority. This is when **strict silence** begins.

## During Recruitment

### Report to assigned bus stop

Each woman will be given a bus stop by their rho gamma via email location that correlates with where they live on campus. If you live off campus, park in the Derring Lot and a bus will be sent to pick you up there. Once there, board the bus and will be taken to Oak Lane.

*\*Note:* Expect to wait in line for about five to ten minutes before you can board and try and arrive to the stop earlier rather than later.

## Report to holding house

Once the bus arrives at Oak Lane report to your **holding house** (rho gamma will tell you the house over winter break via email). Once here, find and sit with your rho gamma group. At the holding house, you receive your list of parties.

*\*Note:* It is very crowded and you have to sit on the floor so if you are wearing something nice you may want to bring a blanket to sit on.

## Attend Parties

Depending on the round, you attend up to a certain number of parties. When you walk in, the sisters are lined up at the door ready to greet you. They are clapping and singing loudly, and one approaches you and directs you where to go. Once inside, you engage in casual conversation with two to three sisters for about ten to fifteen minutes each.

*\*Tip:* If you get shy talking to new people, don't forget all the sisters went through this too and know how you feel. Don't be nervous, confidence is key.

## Open House Round

This round consists of two identical days, but each day the sorority houses you go to change. At the end of the first day of open house round you do not rank. This is because the round is incomplete and you visit the other half of the sororities the next day. The dress for this round is casual (can be seen below). You can expect to talk to about three people and it will include lots of small talk about hometown, major, etc. Try to have a memorable conversation (it will be a more entertaining experience for you and the sister will remember it).



Image 1



Image 2

## Philanthropy Round

In this round you attend up to nine parties that are 35 minutes each. The dress for this round is more business casual attire or even a skirt and nice blouse. A short video is shown to you at each party containing pictures and information about the chapter's **philanthropy** and philanthropies they participate in. Though there is still some small talk, this round includes

more talk about each specific chapter. You may even participate in a small craft that ends up helping out their philanthropy!



Image 3



Image 4

### *Sisterhood Round*

In this round, you attend up to six parties that are 45 minutes each. The video shown on this day highlights sisterhood moments and events, living in the house, and what the members have gotten out of the sorority. The sisters may talk to you about memories made, bonds formed, and things they have done together. This round is a little bit more personal and you are also be given a tour of the house! The dress for this round is more formal. A dress or skirt and shirt will look great.



Image 5



Image 6

### *Preference Round*

This round consists of three parties that are one hour each. You talk to the same sister the entire time, most likely someone you have talked to and connected with in a previous round.

Things like traditions are talked about and testimonies by current sisters are read. The dress for this round is cocktail attire.



Image 7



Image 8

*\*Note:* In between parties you have to wait for 15 minutes in the freezing cold. Bring warm clothes to put on, a change of shoes if you are in heels, and maybe even blankets. Rho gammas take attendance and put you in alphabetical order during the wait, in order to make sure everyone is there, and prepare you to enter the party. You can also use this time to write down notes, to refer to while you rank, on what you thought about the house you just visited and women you talked to there.

## Return to holding house

After attending all of the parties for the day you go back to your holding house to reflect on the day, rank, and then are dismissed to leave. When you return, you cannot talk to anyone and are supposed to be thinking about your specific opinion of each chapter. You are given a piece of paper to unofficially rank the sororities on where you thought you would best fit.

## Officially Rank

Once ready, you privately meet with your rho gamma and put your rankings into the official online matching system on a computer. When complete, return to your seat until a bus arrives and you are dismissed.

*\*Note:* You rank all of the sororities you visited and the sororities rank all the women who attend parties at their house. If you ranked them high enough and they ranked you high enough you will go back to the house in the next round. If one of your top choices does not ask you back, a bottom choice from your list will then be brought up to fill the space, so you may have to return to some houses you ranked towards the bottom.

## Take bus back to campus until next round

You may have to wait a little for a bus to arrive, but once you are dismissed you are free to board the bus and go back to campus.

*\*Tip: In between rounds make sure to get a lot of sleep and do not talk to your friends about chapters so you can be sure to make an unbiased decision.*

## Repeat previous steps for each round

*\*Note: Beginning the second round, as party lists start decreasing in size you may not see one of your top choices on the list, do not be discouraged, you may just not have been the right fit or maybe they could see you somewhere else.*

## Bid Day

### Report to squires

All of the women will meet at Squires. Once there the sorority each of the rho gammas is in is revealed.

### Receive bid

You meet with your rho gammas and they hand you an envelope with your bid inside. Open it to see which sorority you got a bid to. Get excited, they hand-picked you out of hundreds of girls and this is where you will be spending your next four years!

### Go to house

Board the bus with all of the women who are going to be your new sisters. Arrive at your house and run inside! You are greeted by all of the sisters, everyone is excited, music is playing, and all of the initiated members are welcoming you to your new home!



Image 9



Image 10

# Glossary

**Bid:** Formal invitation to join a sorority.

**Chapter:** Smaller group specific to the university of a larger national organization.

**Greek:** Word describing anything involving the fraternity or sorority system and groups that are named by the Greek alphabet.

**Holding House:** Fraternity Houses in Oak Lane where the women stay while they are not attending events. One main room is used to house the women and it contains all of the members from ten to fifteen rho gamma groups.

**List of Parties:** List of what houses to go to at what time. This list is unique to each potential new member and she will get a new one at the beginning of each day depending on which houses she is going back to.

**Oak Lane:** Part of Virginia Tech's campus that holds all of the on campus sorority and fraternity houses.

**Panhellenic:** University specific groups of the National Panhellenic Council. Virginia Tech has 12 Panhellenic sororities and the Panhellenic Council is the overseeing body for these groups.

**Philanthropy:** Fun events the chapter holds, for other groups to attend, to raise money for its cause. Each chapter has a national philanthropy organization and philanthropy event specific to their chapter.

**Pledge:** Uninitiated members that received and accepted their invitation into the sorority.

**Potential New Members:** (PNMs) Women going through the process of recruitment.

**Rho Gamma:** Unaffiliated sisters of the Greek Community who assist and guide the women going through the recruitment process. These ladies disaffiliate from their chapter to represent Panhellenic and the Greek community, and help PNMs rank and make an unbiased decision on where they belong.

**Rho Gamma Group:** Group consisting of fifteen to twenty potential new members.

**Rush:** Synonym or slang term for recruitment.

**Sisters:** Initiated members of the sororities.

**Strict Silence:** Period when rho gammas are not allowed to speak to anyone from their chapters and potential new members are not allowed to talk to or contact any initiated sorority sisters. This period ends on bid day.

## *Image References*

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