COMMITTEES & IDEAS

Committees are a very beneficial part of the operations within each chapter. They are designed to relieve some of the pressure from the Chapter Executive Committee and keep other members involved in chapter operations. It is recommended that committees give reports at the chapter’s meetings. Below are some of the common committees and their responsibilities.

Scholarship
1. Maintain records of members’ grade point average and number of credit hours enrolled. Notify Chapter Executive Committee of members who are not in accordance with chapter policies on grade point average and enrollment status.
2. Implement programs to improve and reward scholastic achievement.
3. Inform chapter of scholarship opportunities.
4. Handle all academic probation members.

Professional Development
1. Plan and implement all chapter professional development and leadership activities. This includes securing necessary items, location (if applicable), scheduling times, and ensuring member involvement.
2. Maintain record of all members’ activities in other organizations, including degree of involvement, offices and awards. This is very useful for National Awards.

Philanthropy
1. Plan and oversee all service projects conducted by the chapter. This includes securing necessary items, location (if applicable), scheduling times, and ensuring member involvement.
2. Ensure that the number of projects completed is in accordance with the Sorority’s Bylaws.

Sisterhood
1. Plan and oversee all chapter social functions with outside organizations. This includes securing necessary items, location (if applicable), scheduling times, and ensuring member involvement.
2. Ensure that social activities are in accordance with the National Bylaws and Risk Management Policy.

Fundraising
1. Plan and implement all chapter fundraising activities. This includes securing necessary items, location (if applicable), scheduling times, and ensuring member involvement.

Rush & Recruitment
1. Plan and implement all chapter rush and recruitment activities. This includes securing necessary items, location (if applicable), scheduling times, and ensuring member involvement.
SCHOLARSHIP IDEAS

Sigma Alpha Sorority has four pillars: scholarship, leadership, service and fellowship. To emphasize the importance of scholarship, Sigma Alpha Sorority encourages the implementation of a well-developed scholarship program for each collegiate chapter. Each chapter must remember to tailor their program for their specific chapter. The National Sorority Board of Sigma Alpha closely monitors the grades of all of its collegiate members. Each year, the Annual Report contains the grades of the collegiate members.

The National Sorority Board of Sigma Alpha believes that scholarship is key factor to chapter success. Each year at National Convention, the following awards are given:

- **Outstanding Scholarship Award** is presented to the chapter with the highest GPA. This is determined by the Annual Report submitted each year.
- **Most Improved Scholarship Award** is presented to the chapter with the most improved GPA over the previous year (fall term to fall term). This is determined by the Annual Report submitted each year.
- **Emerald Scholar Awards** recognize collegiate members (or alumni who graduated the spring or summer term prior to Convention) who hold a 3.75 (4.0 scale) or higher cumulative GPA through the previous fall term. This is determined by the Annual Report submitted each year.

Collegiate Chapters must utilize the resources located on campus to help achieve their scholarship goals. Ideas have been collected from other chapters and complied in the list below.

- Agricultural Scholarship Database
- Test & Notes Bank
- Attend study sessions each week
- Sister Tutoring Sessions
- Sister Study Buddies
- Scholarship Awards
- Big/Little Sister Scholarship Awards
- “Geek of the Week” or “Geek of the Year” award given out to the member who did the most study hours for the week (pop, candy, paper, etc. used for the award)
- To encourage members to attend class, members answer roll call at meetings by saying BETA when they attend all their classes the week before and PRESENT when they missed any classes
- “Skippy Jar” – draw a name of someone who hasn’t skipped class for a prize
- Members put a penny in a chapter jar for each hour of class they miss
- GPA competition with another organization
- Study Tip Sheet
**Professional Development Ideas**

Sigma Alpha Sorority has four pillars: scholarship, leadership, service and fellowship. To emphasize the importance of leadership or professional development, Sigma Alpha Sorority encourages chapters to have at least one professional development program each semester that is tailored to your chapter’s specific chapter goals. Each year, each chapter must include in their Annual Report a detailed description of all professional development programs conducted during that year.

The National Sorority Board of Sigma Alpha believes that professional development is key factor to chapter success. Each year at National Convention, the **Outstanding Professional Development Program Award** is presented to the chapter with the most successful program of professional skill and knowledge development. However, this award must be applied for by the chapter.

Collegiate Chapters must utilize not only their resources located on campus, but also those in the community to help achieve their professional development goals. Ideas have been collected from other chapters and complied in the list below.

- Host a resume workshop for sisters or the entire college/university. Sisters could submit a resume that could be compiled into a Resume Book and distributed at your university’s career fairs and/or submitted to the university’s career services office.
- Hold mock interviews to assist graduating sisters in gaining interview experience.
- Host guest speakers in the areas of parliamentary procedure, finances and investing, time management, study skills, stress management, graduate school preparation, agricultural industry speakers, job interviews, taking the GREs, Ag College President, Peace Corps, etc.
- Hold a lecture series (i.e. “Brown Bag Luncheons”) where area professional women are invited to join sisters for lunch to discuss their careers in agriculture. Hold professional nights where they invite speakers to discuss careers and give pointers to sisters.
- CPR Certification
- Self-Defense Workshop
- Etiquette Dinner
- Hold a personality test workshop to learn how to use the results to communicate effectively with others.
- Host or co-host an Annual Agricultural Symposium
- Pull an agricultural issues topic from a grab bag at every meeting then discuss the topic for a certain amount of time to keep up with current agricultural issues.
- Plan a Professional Development Weekend, which is a trip to take tours of agriculture industry. This weekend could also have service and sisterhood components as well.
- Hold coffee hours on campus for their professors in the College of Agriculture to converse with professors and staff on a casual basis about the growing and changing agricultural industry, careers in agriculture, and opportunities for graduate school.
PHILANTHROPY IDEAS

Sigma Alpha Sorority has four pillars: scholarship, leadership, service and fellowship. To emphasize the importance of service or philanthropy, Sigma Alpha Sorority’s national philanthropy is Ag in the Classroom (AITC). According to the National Bylaws, each chapter must complete three service projects during each year that beneficial to the university and/or community, and one project must be directly affiliated with the AITC. Each member is required to participate in at least two service projects and each membership candidate class must participate in one service project. Each year, each chapter must include in their Annual Report a detailed description of all philanthropy projects conducted during that year.

The National Sorority Board of Sigma Alpha believes that philanthropy is key factor to chapter success. Each year at National Convention, the Outstanding Public Service Award is presented to the chapter with the most successful philanthropy project. However, this award must be applied for by the chapter.

Collegiate Chapters must utilize not only their resources located on campus, but also those in the community to help achieve their philanthropy goals. Ideas have been collected from other chapters and complied in the list below.

- Ag in the Classroom
- National Ag Week activities
- Small Animals Day
- Petting Zoo
- Educational Programs to 4-H, FFA, or Girl Scouts
- Volunteer time or donate to a local Women’s Shelter or Food Bank
- Adopt-a-Family at Christmas
- Adopt-a-Highway
- Campus Cleanup
- “Crop Walk” – harvesting crops to raise money for needy children
- Canned Food Drive
- Donate time to help area farmers paint barns, fences, etc.
- Fall Harvest and Foliage Tour – conduct little farmer’s theater, harvest bingo and pedal tractor obstacle course
- Farm Safety 4 Just Kids
- Habitat for Humanity
- “Hooked on Fishing not Drugs” fishing tournament
- Horse Show at a Therapeutic Riding Center
- Into the Streets – local program where the public goes out into the community and works on restoring unsafe structures and cleanup
- Make a Difference Day – work with university related service projects in honor of National Make a Difference Day
- Plant flowers at Senior Living Center
- Race for a Cure
- Raise funds and participate in the March of Dimes Walk-a-Thon
- Special Olympics
- Visit nursing homes, youth shelters, or hospitals during the holiday seasons
**SISTERHOOD IDEAS**

Sigma Alpha Sorority has four pillars: scholarship, leadership, service and fellowship. To emphasize the importance of fellowship or sisterhood, Sigma Alpha Sorority encourages chapters to have at least one sisterhood activity each semester that is tailored to your chapter’s specific chapter goals. Each year, each chapter must include in their Annual Report a detailed description of all sisterhood activities conducted during that year.

The National Sorority Board of Sigma Alpha believes that sisterhood is key factor to chapter success. Each year at National Convention, the **Outstanding Sisterhood Award** is presented to the chapter with the most successful sisterhood activities. However, this award must be applied for by the chapter.

Collegiate Chapters must utilize not only their resources located on campus, but also those in the community to help achieve their sisterhood goals. Ideas have been collected from other chapters and complied in the list below.

- Hayride
- Sisterhood Sleepover & Makeovers
- Yoga
- Movie Nights
- Dinner Dates
- Hiking/Camping
- Pasta Potluck
- Pancake Dinner (with AGR)
- Sisterhood Awards Ball
- “Camp Sigma Alpha” – where you act your shoe size, not your age. The camp is filled with sisterhood activities, makeovers, and probably plenty of giggles.
- Thanksgiving/Holiday Dinner
- Bowling Night (with AGR)
- “Adopt-A-Week” – one sister hosts an event once a week (dinner, movie, etc)
- MC/Active Retreat
- Ice Cream Social
FUNDRAISING IDEAS

Sigma Alpha Sorority has four pillars: scholarship, leadership, service and fellowship. Although fundraising is not a pillar, fundraising is important to continue the efforts of each chapter. To emphasize the importance of fundraising, Sigma Alpha Sorority encourages chapters to have at least one fundraising event each year that is tailored to your chapter’s specific chapter goals. Each year, each chapter must include in their Annual Report a detailed description of all fundraising events conducted during that year.

Collegiate Chapters must utilize not only their resources located on campus, but also those in the community to help achieve their fundraising goals. Ideas have been collected from other chapters and complied in the list below.

• Ag “Stud” – host a college contest where contestants are nominated
• Date Auction
• Deck the Halls Competition (Greek house Christmas decorations contest-houses donate money)
• Ag Campus Cookout – serve food (i.e. hamburger, chips, and a cookie) one day on campus. Be sure that the entire faculty knows about the event. Plan ahead and you may be able to get sponsorships on items such as chips or drink.
• College/School Stickers & T-Shirts – create and sell items with the school and/or logo on them to students, alumni, etc. However, be sure to check with you college/school about the name and logo usage regulations.
• Recipe Books – have members submit recipes and put a book together to sell to family, friends, faculty, etc.
• Silent Auctions – collect items to be auctioned off from members, friends, etc. These items can also be donated by local businesses.
• Tupperware/Pampered Chef/Home Interiors/Yankee Candles – these companies have a fundraiser program for organizations to sell their items. Contact a local sales representative or check out their websites for more details.
• Bath & Body Works – get paid for working at their stores stuffing baskets.
• Raffles – sell chances to win a prize, which can be donated, purchased, or homemade. Be sure to check local/state regulations for doing a raffle.
• Dog Wash – hold a dog wash where a fee is charged to wash someone’s pet.
• Ice Cream Stand – sell ice cream in conjunction with an event. Teach the community how ice cream is made and about the dairy industry.
• Flower Sales – buy flowers and sell them on campus. Hold close to holidays such as Valentine’s Day and Sweetest Day.
• Garage Sales – have members donate items to sell and hold a garage sale for the chapter.
• Park Cars – work at a local fair or college/university event to park cars. Some places allow you to take the proceeds from the day’s event.
• Concession Stands – work your athletic departments concession stands for sporting events and earn money.
• Clean-Up Detail – check with your campus athletic department regarding clean up at
stadiums following games and events. Many will pay organizations to clean up the stadium.

- Goody Bags – send a letter to parents of your member offering to provide a Finals Week Goody Bag for their daughter. Fill the bags with all sorts of things (healthy and “junk” foods) and deliver them to the members the week before finals.

- Car Smash – buy a Junker car and paint it appropriately. Sell three chances for quarter for people to “vent their frustrations” by smashing the car. Works well when tied in with events such as Homecoming or Greek Week.

- Poster Map – create a 30” x 40” combination calendar and campus business area map. For a fee, local businesses are shown on the map portion (18”x40”). The calendar (12” x 40”) lists campus functions. Posters can be given out at registration for students for free or small charge.

- Cow Pie Lotto – great when done with a livestock show or rodeo. Box off an area to be divided into boxes by chalk lines. Sell tickets prior to the event so you know how many squares you will need. Split the winnings with the winner.

- Kiss a Pig – ask several ag professors to participate (may need to have them sign a written consent). Set out a can for each professor and the students and faculty can vote by contributing money. The professor with the most money agrees to kiss a pig at a designated event.

- Ag Calendar – sponsor an Ag Calendar with each month featuring an ag student. Promote a contest to select the 12 students with a nominal entry fee or have various clubs/fraternities sponsor a candidate. Once the winners are selected, print the calendars up including any important college/school dates. Offer the calendars for sale.

- Dance to the Music – sponsor a dance on campus that has a fee to attend.

- Sponsor a Campus Movie – sponsor a sports tournament with an entry fee to participate and provide prizes for the winners.

- Coffee/Donut Sales – sell coffee and/or donuts in a well-traveled building on campus. Be sure to check on Health Department regulations for selling/handling food items.

- Holiday Bake Sale – members make treats and sell them on campus or at local businesses if they allow.

- Car Wash – hold a car wash in a high traffic area. Charge a set fee or ask for donations. Note the Wal-Mart has a policy for matching whatever you make if the money is being donated to a charity when you hold it near their store.

- Rake Leaves – pass out flyers and offer to rake leaves for a flat guaranteed rate. Can also be used for snow shoveling in the winter.

- Odd Jobs – spread the work that your members will help do odd jobs such as cleaning attics, painting, mowing, etc. for a certain fee per hour or by the task.

- Run/Walk – organize and host a run/walk with a required fee to participate. Check with local/university authorities to use streets for the event.

- Ag Olympics, Super Farmer Contest

- Cold Stone Fundraiser – sisters go to Cold Stone Creamery and help make ice cream for a night and Sigma Alpha get a portion of the sales.
RUSH & RECRUITMENT IDEAS

Sigma Alpha Sorority has four pillars: scholarship, leadership, service and fellowship. Although rush and recruitment is not a pillar, it is important to continue the legacy of your chapter. Each year, each chapter must include in their Annual Report a detailed description of all rush and recruitment events conducted during that year.

To maintain or increase membership numbers, the chapter must evaluate and target recruitment efforts. Evaluating your chapter’s membership each semester will give you an advantage in minimizing variation in chapter size and upholding the traditions of your chapter. When a large number of members are going to graduate within the year, planning and recruitment efforts should be amplified a year or more prior to graduation to allow incoming sisters to be strongly educated in Sigma Alpha traditions and beliefs. New members are your chapter’s future.

“Thinking outside the box” and open-mindedness will help your chapter with new and creative ideas of where, when, and how to attract new members to Sigma Alpha. A strong chapter is not necessarily based on numbers, but there can be strength in numbers. More active members can indicate better quality, greater campus presence, a larger budget, and more project planners and participants.

Recruitment programs may have a slow stretch, if this period occurs the chapter as a whole should ask why?

- Are women on campus feeling uncertain as to whether or not they are welcomed?
- Does your chapter have the quality of members that uphold Sigma Alpha’s traditions and beliefs as well as appeal to other quality women on campus not yet a member of our sorority?
- Is your chapter reaching out to all agricultural backgrounds and majors? (Neglecting to expand diversity can limit numbers.)
- Are all grade levels an active part of your chapter? (Older students have valuable experience that can be beneficial as new members, too.)
- Is your chapter utilizing all the tools available to help promote Sigma Alpha and the upcoming rush?
- Does your chapter recognize the different personality and working types that potential members can possess? (Great contribution can sometimes come from the unexpected.)

After considering these questions, think about ways you can increase your membership in these areas. Sigma Alpha is the premier professional agricultural sorority; let’s make sure that all the women who should be members are members!

Recruitment can have several different definitions but to help each member of your chapter understand the concept and goal of recruitment, a broad definition was compiled:
Recruitment is a process that takes steps to actively pursue prospective members as well as the ongoing promotion of Sigma Alpha through involvement in your campus and community. Inspiring interest in Sigma Alpha is gained by making the college community aware of our objective and what we have to offer by displaying and celebrating the traditions and accomplishments of individual sisters, your chapter, and the sorority as a whole on a national level.

Rush is different from recruitment. Rush is traditionally a series of scheduled informative and social activities or events, often over a one to two week time period that introduces prospective members to the objective, beliefs, and activities of Sigma Alpha.

Rush allows us to show what our organization has to offer by displaying our sisterhood, professionalism and the important pillars that allow Sigma Alpha to rise above the rest. The rush activities promote interaction between the sisters and the women considering the Membership Candidate process. The collegiate sisters are responsible for getting to know the potential Membership Candidates and evaluate their qualities during this rush process.

Communication and advertisement are the keys to having successful rush and recruitment activities to find potential members for your chapter. Recruitment is an ongoing process and events should be held throughout the year. Be sure to follow any guidelines or rules set by your university or Greek council (if applicable to your chapter).

**Hints and Suggestions**

- Planning and preparation for rush should begin AT LEAST the semester before!!
- Being detailed and prepared will produce a more promising rush outcome.
- Themes for each night of rush or for rush as a whole can help in planning.
- Utilize all the tools and facilities available on campus and in the community.
- At least one activity/event should be mandatory for all sisters so that the potential Membership Candidates can see the chapter as a whole and the sisterhood among all the collegiate members.
- Several diverse activities/events are beneficial for getting to know all the potential Membership Candidates.
- Matching up sisters with different potential Membership Candidates can help the sisters to get to know the women on an individual basis as well as a group.
- The more activities or events that you plan means there is more time to get to know the women. (Have an activity/event planned for everyday if possible!)
- Changing rush activities/events from semester to semester can help bring in members that were not being reached before.
- Include a philanthropy or fundraising event as a recruitment event for the potential Membership Candidates.
- Include university activities/events.
- Include mixers with other organizations.
- FOOD and snacks are always good to draw in a crowd.
- If your chapter is a “busy chapter,” spread rush out over a two week period.

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THEMES

Themes can help in planning rush, as well as making it more worthwhile in gaining potential Membership Candidates. Rush as a whole can have a theme or there can be a different theme for each activity or rush event. Be sure to accentuate the theme with coordinating activities, food, clothing, and coordinate all other aspects of rush.

- “Greeks in _______” (different countries, states, time eras, etc.)
  - For example: “Greeks in Italy” would have pasta foods and Italian sodas. “Greeks in Hawaii” would have a luau and grass skirts. “Greeks in the 1970’s” would have bell bottoms and tie die shirt making.
- “Game night” – “Guesstures” is a terrific icebreaker to see true personalities.
- “B.Y.O. B” – “Bring Your Own Board Game” is a great eye-catching title.
- “Pajama party” – girls night with a sleepover or mixer
- “Murder Mystery Night”
- “Beach Balls in Cow Town”

ACTIVITIES

Different activities are the key to striking interest in more women from different majors and backgrounds. Below are ideas, listed in categories that can be used individually or interchangeably.

Professional:  
Interviews  
Officer Speakers  
Advisor Speaker  
Alumni Speaker  
Guest Speaker  
Etiquette Dinner  
Resume Workshop  
Mary Kay Makeover  
Industry Tour  
Advisor Office Visit

Sisterhood:  
Officer Skits  
Show and Sell  
Big/Little Stories  
Progressive Dinner  
Sisterhood Breakfast  
Pajama Sleepover  
Mary Kay Makeover Party  
Baking cookies/brownies  
Craft/candle/shirt making  
Scavenger Hunts

Physical:  
Rock Climbing  
Laser Tag  
Ropes Course  
Sports  
Canoeing  
Go-Carting  
Bowling  
Billiards  
Ice Skating  
Putt-Putt

Mixer:  
Dances  
Bingo  
Pot Luck Dinner  
Chili Cook-off  
BBQ  
Picnic  
Ice Cream Social  
Hog Roast  
Pizza Party  
Movie Night

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Below are ideas for rush and recruitment activities created by other Sigma Alpha chapters:

- **WORD OF MOUTH**
  - Before school starts, host a game night and invite the agricultural department.
  - Plan an Agriculture Greek cookout by contacting all of the Greek agricultural organizations in the college (AGR, Alpha Zeta, FarmHouse) in the first few weeks of September.
  - Send emails to all women in the College of Agriculture (and specific related majors outside the college) who are freshman, sophomore and transfer students.
  - Make follow-up calls to incoming freshmen students within your College of Agriculture to determine their level of interest and personally invite them to rush.
  - Send emails and brochures to high school agriculture teachers.
  - Hang banners, sandwich boards, posters and flyers around campus.
  - Chalk the sidewalks.
  - Informational display table at Student Union, Student Orientation, Organizational Fairs, Ag Fairs, etc/.
  - Talk to people in dorms or at dorm meetings
  - Set up a table in the Student Union or busy areas around campus.
  - Talk to classes (especially those taken by many new students).
  - Write on chalkboards in classes.
  - Talk to professors and ask them to make announcements to classes.
  - Pass out fliers or brochures at Orientation.
  - Create Rush T-shirts.
  - Create signs on the computer and/or by hand to hang around campus, especially in the agricultural buildings.
  - Booths at orientation activities and around campus
  - Booths at agriculture, state, and livestock shows and conventions (FFA, 4-H, etc.)
  - Presentations or slide shows, scrapbooks, and display board about the sorority
  - Talk to freshman classes and dorm meetings
  - Ask professors to make announcements and/or write on the chalk boards
  - Fliers, brochures, information/quarter cards, reply postcards, posters, banners, sandwich boards, and chalk-writing on sidewalks
  - Sigma Alpha artwork in breezeways and around campus
  - Place ads in school paper and add rush dates to the university planner
  - Emails to potential members (FFA, 4-H, Ag Ambassadors, etc.)
  - Attend and participate in other school functions and meetings
  - Participate in other Greek organizations activities and events (fraternity events can help with word of mouth)
  - Have an “Information Week” or informational meetings prior to rush week
  - Hold pizza parties, ice cream socials, and other events in the agriculture building as informational meetings throughout the academic year
  - Keep the chapter’s website up to date with activity dates and times
  - **BE SURE TO ALWAYS LIST AND ANNOUNCE RUSH DATES AND TIMES ON ALL MATERIALS**