

FRATERNITY OF MEN, NOT BOYS.

Sigma Nu's Risk Reduction Newsletter

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GreekLifeEdu – Now is the Time

Now is the time to make sure your chapter is using Outside the Classroom's GreekLifeEdu program. If any current members or candidates have not yet completed this interactive program, visit [GreekLifeEdu](#) for more information.

Remember, there is now a financial incentive for your chapter to complete the program. Chapters may qualify for the lowest available risk management assessment within their applicable tier if 90% of the chapter's membership completes GreekLifeEdu by May 1st. If not, the chapter is subject to a \$25 per member surcharge. This surcharge will apply to the chapter's entire roster, not just the number of members who did not complete the program. **If a member has completed GreekLifeEdu for Sigma Nu Fraternity, Inc. anytime throughout his membership, he does not need to complete the program again.**

For more information on this financial incentive, click [here](#). Also, with spring break right around the corner for many chapters, check out the latest GreekLifeEdu ["Check-In" article](#) highlighting 10 ways to have a safer spring break.

National Ritual Celebration Week

The inaugural [National Ritual Celebration Week](#), created by [Phi Mu Fraternity](#), will be observed March 1 – 7, 2011. During this week, fraternity and sorority chapters, campus communities and inter/national organizations across North America will raise awareness on the importance of ritual by encouraging members to reflect personally on their organization's ritual while embracing the ritual of other interfraternal organizations.

"Sigma Nu Brothers are asked to reflect on why Sigma Nu was founded and why we have a ritual. Chapters are encouraged to have discussions about what it means to 'live the ritual' and what Sigma Nu's ritual means to individual chapter members," said Scott Smith, Director of Leadership Development for Sigma Nu Fraternity, Inc.

Several resources are available to assist chapters in holding their own activities and reflection on ritual. Ritual resources available on the Sigma Nu website include the ["Secret Thoughts of A Ritual"](#) and [LEAD Phase I, Session 10: Ritual](#). Additional ritual-related resources can be found on the official [National Ritual Celebration Week website](#).

Individual members and alumni may also participate by contributing to the daily conversation found at Sigma Nu's [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [blog](#) feeds.

What Is The Purpose Of Sanctions?

When a chapter violates the Fraternity's [Risk Reduction Policy and Guidelines](#) and/or [The Law of Sigma Nu Fraternity, Inc.](#), they may be placed on educational and punitive sanctions. Sanctions are used in situations when charter consideration by the High Council (Board of Directors) is not warranted.

Unfortunately many chapters do not understand the value and overall intention of these sanctions. This article aims to clear up the confusion surrounding sanctions. *(continued on page 2)*

Social Event Checklist

Planning an enjoyable and safe social function can be difficult; there are many things to consider. Fortunately, the General Fraternity has provided a resource to help with that process. Below is a checklist to follow when planning an event, taken from [The Social Planning Guide](#):

- ✓ Develop the Purpose
- ✓ Decide the Guests
- ✓ Plan the Activities
- ✓ Decide the Venue
- ✓ Add a Theme...or Don't
- ✓ Events with Alcohol
 - Choose Between Third-Party Vendor or Bring Your Own Beverage
 - If Third-Party Vendor is chosen, use the [FIPG Third-Party Checklist](#)
 - If BYOB, secure designated personnel (preferably private security guards or off-duty police officers) to check valid identification, issue wrist bands that designate those members and guests of legal drinking age, and to monitor consumption

It should be noted that all chapters are expected to adhere to both the Fraternity's policies and to college/university policies, as well as state and municipal laws. **In cases where the policies of Sigma Nu Fraternity and the college/university differ, the stricter of the two policies should be followed.** For more information on Sigma Nu's *Risk Reduction Policy and Guidelines*, click [here](#). As always, if you have any questions, contact your leadership consultant or Fred Dobry, Director of Risk Reduction, before hosting an event. Fred Dobry can be reached at 540-463-1869 or via email at fred.dobry@sigmanu.org.

Punitive vs. Educational Sanctions *(continued page 1)*

There are two primary types of sanctions: 1) punitive and 2) educational. Punitive sanctions typically involve the prohibition or limitation of certain activities (e.g. no events with alcohol, no candidate activities without an alumnus advisor present, etc.). The General Fraternity is obligated to hold chapters accountable at the national level just as undergraduate chapters are obligated to hold individual members accountable at the local level. When a chapter violates Fraternity policy and/or law, they must be held accountable. The punitive sanctions serve this role.

Educational sanctions are designed to help the chapter develop internal procedures and member education to ensure compliance with Fraternity policy and law moving forward. This could range from a risk reduction implementation plan to LEAD Phase I, Session 7: Alcohol Misuse Prevention for all members. Ultimately, the educational sanction(s) provide the chapter an opportunity to work closely with a General Fraternity staff member in developing protocol which promotes compliance with policies and expectations. It also addresses behavioral problems that are holding the chapter back (e.g. alcohol abuse and misuse, hazing, etc.).

In the end, sanctions serve two roles: 1) hold the chapter accountable for policy infractions and 2) educate the chapter and its members on how to comply with Fraternity policy and law moving forward. Sanctions are designed to help, not harm, a chapter. Remember, punitive measures are used as an alternative to charter revocation considerations.