



# Sigma Nu Fraternity

EXCELLING WITH HONOR

## Hazing and Community Discussion Guide

A common misconception about hazing is that it can help bring people together because of a shared experience. Despite there being significant evidence to the contrary, this misconception is often cited as an excuse by both perpetrators and victims of hazing.

Perpetrators will also argue that hazing is needed so that new members can earn their respect and a place in the organization. But they don't recognize that the more common outcome is that they isolate their victims and lose their respect. Perpetrators may think that hazing will create solidarity among their new member class, but that solidarity comes with divisions between new member classes and a hierarchy that damages and limits the group's ability to build trustworthy, authentic relationships.

Being a member of a Fraternity founded against hazing, we all must commit to the important work of preventing hazing in our chapter and great community. This can start with a conversation about defining hazing and the consequences of hazing.

According to [StopHazing.org](http://StopHazing.org), hazing is any activity expected of someone joining or participating in a group that humiliates, degrades, abuses, or endangers them, regardless of a person's willingness to participate. The [Hazing Prevention Network](http://HazingPreventionNetwork) provides a list of [consequences](#) for both victims and perpetrators of hazing. What is notable is that the list illustrates that the desired outcomes that are often cited as a benefit of hazing do not occur, and the opposite outcome is more likely. Hazing erodes the foundation of our organizations, preventing us from building strong brotherhoods, sisterhoods, and communities and an overall sense of belonging.

### Use the following discussion questions to process the poster's message.

- *What are your initial thoughts regarding the poster's message?*
- *How can we build a strong brotherhood and community without hazing?*

### Conclusion

Steps toward reduced harm and risks are steps in the right direction. Remember, the General Fraternity staff is ready to help. If you have concerns about what is going on with your chapter's candidate education program, the General Fraternity stands ready to provide support to ensure the new member experience remains an effective journey towards Knighthood.

### Resources

- National Anti-Hazing Hotline: 1-888-NOT-HAZE or [www.fraternallaw.com/help-us-stop-hazing](http://www.fraternallaw.com/help-us-stop-hazing)
- [Sigma Nu Incident Report Form](#)
- [Sigma Nu Anti-Hazing Initiative and Resources](#)

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