



LINFIELD FRATERNITY & SORORITY LIFE: THE FAMILY'S ROLE

DURING THE RECRUITMENT PROCESS

Finding the right organization

- Help your student reflect on their values, & how to identify organizations that align with those values.
- Help your student consider what things they hope to get out of their membership experience:
 - Leadership positions
 - Academic support
 - Service opportunities
 - Housing versus no housing
- Keep an open mind - Fraternity/sorority life is not for everyone.
 - Family members who are affiliated with a fraternity/sorority often want their student to join as well. Your student may not be drawn to the experience, or may prefer to defer joining.
- Let your student make the final decision about whether to join, and which organization they join.
- Sororities and fraternities are different on every campus. What you know about an organization on one campus does not reflect that same organization on another campus.

Discuss the financial obligation

- Membership dues (prices) for each of our FSL organizations range from hundreds to thousands of dollars per semester, depending on the chapter and whether or not there is a housing component.
- Visit our website to see specific chapter pricing. Feel free to email chapters to ask for a quote on membership dues (it is recommended students do the reaching out as opposed to family members doing it for them)
 - www.linfield.edu/fsl - click on 'Sororities' or 'Fraternities' to see each chapter's webpage with prices
- Discuss with your student who will pay for membership dues or housing fees?
- Do you need to work with the chapter to setup a payment plan?

Please be aware, the fraternity and sorority recruitment process is substance free. Your student should carefully evaluate the standards and values of an organization that blatantly or consistently violate policies.

DURING THE MEMBERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Have frank conversations about safety and well-being

- Discuss boundaries and personal choices in regard to alcohol and drugs. Help them understand the potential impact to academics, finances, health, and membership standing in their fraternity/sorority.
- College, and fraternity/sorority life, can present many temptations and distractions. Help your student to be mindful of managing their time, balancing their priorities, and advocating for needs.
- Encourage your student to report any activities or conduct that threatens their physical, mental, or emotional well-being.

Allow your student to fight their own battles

- It helps your student mature and gain skills in assertiveness, confrontation, and conflict resolution.
- Help them to identify applicable offices and university personnel to assist them in whatever challenge or crisis they may be facing.



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There may be aspects of their experience they cannot tell you about

- Fraternities and sororities have long-standing rituals that are often kept secret, only to be known to initiated members of the organization, including ceremonies, activities, passwords, and handshakes.
- Do not be alarmed if there are things of this nature your student cannot disclose to you.

Find the RIGHT way to be involved

- This is not an opportunity to re-live your youth or your college experiences through your student
- Consider starting a parent's club
 - Parent's Clubs often serve as an opportunity for parents of current members to connect and stay informed of chapter updates.
 - Parents can also use this group to coordinate contributions to the chapter, such as:
 - Study snacks during finals week
 - Re-doing landscaping, or updating furnishing or décor in the house
 - Coordinating parent events (family weekend, Homecoming events, etc.)

REGARDING CONCERNING BEHAVIOR

Linfield College and the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life have a ZERO TOLERANCE policy regarding hazing

If you are concerned about something your student may be experiencing in their fraternity or sorority, please contact the FSL Office: 503-883-2511 // fsl@linfield.edu // www.linfield.edu/fsl // Riley Campus Center Office Suite 301

To report a hazing incident directly to the Linfield FSL Office, visit www.linfield.edu/fsl/resources/hazingprev

Linfield College Public Safety: 503-883-SAFE (7233)

Linfield College Student Conduct & Community Standards: www.linfield.edu/conduct

National Hazing Hotline: (888) NOT-HAZE (Law office messaging service. Directs messages to HQs.)

While your student will go through many changes as they transition to college, there are some behaviors to look out for, which may indicate cause for concern:

- Changes in mood; being sadder or more frustrated, angry or nervous *than warranted*
- Not talking as frequently or as openly with you
- Physical signs such as exhaustion, hangovers, increased illness, scars, or bruising
- Significant changes in academic progress
- Questionable content on social media
- Referencing mandatory activities/chores, sleep deprivation
- Showing a lack of interest or pleasure in things that used to be exciting or engaging
- Having trouble concentrating, making decisions, or coping

Students may downplay concerns by stating "It's not a big deal" or "Don't worry about it, I can handle it". Help them understand this conduct is not normal, and they do not have to continue participating. Do not minimize or condone activities that are harmful to a student's physical, mental, or emotional well-being.