

manual which each pledge is given upon his installation as a pledge.

Pledging Sigma Chi

Completing pledgeship is the only way a man can become a member of Sigma Chi. There are no honorary memberships. The procedure for pledging Sigma Chi includes the rush period, receiving an invitation to pledge (a bid), and installation.

Rush: A prospective Sigma Chi pledge (a rushee) attends rush parties and meets as many fraternity men as possible. By asking questions about any aspect of the fraternity, he expresses his interest; no one should join an organization he knows nothing about. By visiting the various fraternities on his campus, he can evaluate each and determine whether to join or not to join. If he decides to join, he can express interest to those groups with whom he feels most comfortable.

Bid Sessions: After the recruitment period is completed the active members of the fraternity meet for a bid session. If the chapter decides to offer a bid to a rushee, he will receive an invitation to pledge on Sunday September 24th 2006 between the times of 12 pm and 6am.

Invitation to Pledge (a Bid): A bid is a written invitation to pledge a fraternity. If a man chooses to accept the bid from Sigma Chi, from that point on he is considered a Sigma Chi pledge.

Purposes of Pledgeship

Learning about Sigma Chi: After installation the pledge is given a copy of The Norman Shield, the official manual published by Sigma Chi Fraternity. During pledgeship he learns about all aspects of the fraternity on both the national and local levels: the founders, its history, its laws, its services to members and alumni, the chapter's officers and brothers, and the chapter's history. Periodic quizzes are given at specified pledge meetings over much of this material; at the end of pledgeship a "pledge test" designed by Sigma Chi Fraternity is administered and must be passed to qualify for initiation. The purpose of learning this information is to give the pledge more insight into the qualities and heritage of the fraternity.

Becoming a part of Sigma Chi: The pledge brothers work on projects together and with the active chapter to enhance the chapter on campus and in the community. There are few other occasions when he can work with his friends for the betterment of those around him and feel this sense of

satisfaction and accomplishment. Through these and other activities, each pledge becomes part of the whole. During pledgship, he gets to know each active member and his pledge brothers and the sense of brotherhood which Sigma Chi exerts. He is able to evaluate the diversity of the members and create close bonds of friendship.

Becoming part of the Campus: Being a pledge of Sigma Chi opens up a world of friendships not only in Sigma Chi but also throughout campus. Participating in activities, such as intramurals, and attending all-college functions is beneficial to any college student. Sigma Chi members and pledges are encouraged to join other campus organizations in their major fields (and to become active in campus-oriented groups such as Student Senate and service organizations).

Scholarships: Scholarships are available to active members of Sigma Chi both locally and internationally. There are also several loans available through the Sigma Chi Foundation. The Sigma Chi Foundation has assets of nearly \$7,000,000. Each year, the Foundation makes available more than \$150,000 in scholarship grants and awards, and provides support to the Sigma Chi Student Aid Loan program which makes available another \$100,000 in low interest student loans each year.

Big Brothers: Soon after formal pledging, each pledge will choose a Big Brother, who is an active member of the chapter. The relationship between Big Brother and Little Brother is unique within Sigma Chi, for this bond of brotherhood and friendship is one of the first the pledge experiences in the fraternity; he will find that it lasts for life. After the pledge becomes a member, he will also have the opportunity to be a future pledge's Big Brother.

Overview

Therefore, the reasons for and purposes of pledgship are:

- To prepare the pledge for Initiation and his obligations as a brother.
- To enable him to better understand and know his pledge brothers and the brothers in his chapter.
- To evaluate his merits further before Initiation and give him time to evaluate the chapter and assess his own desire for Initiation.
- To develop an appreciation for Sigma Chi by learning its history, heritage, ideals, programs, and traditions.
- To learn about the Greek System in general and explore its values and benefits.
- To work with the chapter in campus and community projects to enhance a spirit of cooperation and fulfillment.

- To experience fraternity activities, develop friendships, share experiences, and feel the bonds of brotherhood before obliging himself to a lifelong commitment.

Along with these benefits, Sigma Chi offers an atmosphere of fun and brotherhood not obtained elsewhere in the college. The college experience is not complete without outside activities, just as life itself is incomplete without participation and involvement in activities outside of job and family.

Pledging Sigma Chi is the beginning of lifelong fraternity.