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Oklahoma Panhellenic Association

The University of Oklahoma's Panhellenic Association strives to promote excellence in academics, community and campus involvement, and most importantly, sisterhood.

"The Panhellenic Community has had a great influence on my college experience. It has introduced me to so many incredible people, given me an immense amount of opportunities and taught me how to be a stronger leader. As I grew as a leader, I also grew as a person. The lessons I have learned through my time on Panhellenic Exec will be forever helpful. I would not trade my Panhellenic experience for anything." -Nicole Krung

"Being a Rho Gamma was hands down the most rewarding part of my college experience thus far." -McKenzie Odegard

What's a Rho Gamma?

A Rho Gamma is a term used when referring to a recruitment guide. But what's a recruitment guide you ask? A recruitment guide is exactly what it sounds like- a guide for the potential new members during the recruitment process. Now, another important term to know is PNM, which as you may have guessed from reading the previous sentence, is the acronym for the term Potential New Member. But what's a potential new member you ask? A Potential New Member is a term used for all of the girls going through the recruitment process who have the potential to become a new member of the Panhellenic community.

Rho Gamma serves as an unbiased and friendly source for all PNM's by helping them get through the process both physically and emotionally. Some of the physical roles a Rho Gamma has includes guiding PNM's to and from each chapter house and taking them to selections each evening, holding nightly informational meetings and staying in dorms with the PNM's so they are always available for any questions they might have. Some of the emotional roles a Rho Gamma may take on include: listening to a PNM, answering any questions and finding out the answers to the questions they may not know, offering emotional support to any PNM and being available to help make PNM's feel more comfortable during their transition to college.

Now that you know what a Rho Gamma is, why is it such a vital role in the recruitment process? OU Junior and fellow Panhellenic woman, Leyna Churchill, said, "We are the first contact these girls have with both Panhellenic & OU, even if they went to camp crimson. This is when they realize they have really left home. And the decision to go through recruitment is one of the first decisions they make for themselves as a college student, which can be really scary and intimidating. I think a Rho G's job is to ease their fears and make their transition into college the best it can be while helping them make relationships with the girls around them!"



A Rho Gamma's main goal is to ensure a positive recruitment experience for each PNM and help these young women go through the recruitment experience to the best of their ability. Fall recruitment can be a very stressful and difficult time for incoming college students making such a big life transition. A Rho Gamma is there to help make this time easier on potential new members.

Being a recruitment guide is an exciting and new experience for panhellenic women, it's also extremely rewarding. OU Junior and Fall 2016 recruitment guide McKenzie Odegard said,

If you are interested in serving the Panhellenic community by becoming a recruitment guide for Fall 2017 recruitment talk with your chapter executive members or the panhellenic executive board today for more information on how to apply.

Breaking all Stereotypes

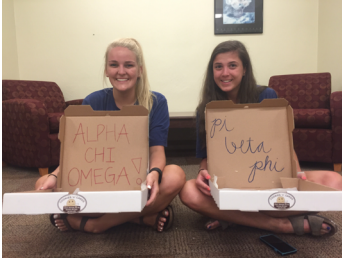
My favorite part about being a recruitment guide was being unaffiliated from my chapter for a week. It's not because I don't love my chapter, believe me I do, and I am extremely proud to be a part of it. But, I enjoyed being given the opportunity to break all the stereotypes and preconceived notions girls may have had before going through recruitment.

Being unaffiliated gave my fellow recruitment guides and I the opportunity to show the potential new members that it was impossible for them to figure out which chapter we were a part of based off of stereotypes because each and every chapter is extremely diverse, just like all of us. Not one single girl of mine was able to figure out my chapter based off my personality, hair color, or the way I dressed. In fact, the girls in my walking group ended up guessing I was in almost every chapter. What would really throw them off was when we would go to a chapter house and all the Rho Gamma's had friends and every chapter, not just their own.

As recruitment guides, we were given the option to affiliate or stay completely unaffiliated. "I was unaffiliated because I think it helps the girls trust your judgement more and it makes it easier for them to talk to you. I didn't want them to feel like they couldn't come and talk to me if they didn't enjoy their time at my chapter or think I couldn't be unbiased!" said recruitment guide, Leyna Churchill.

When I asked McKenzie Odegard why she decided to disaffiliate she responded, "I did disaffiliate from my chapter because I wanted to be a resource for all of my girls throughout the week without them fearing of any sort of bias. This wasn't my recruitment, it was theirs-and I wanted to help every step of the way!" I couldn't have said it better myself.

I chose to be a recruitment guide because I wanted to help girls get through the recruitment process in a positive way. I bonded with a lot of the girls in my walking group and hall and although I would have loved for each and every one of them to join my chapter, I wanted them to end up where they felt like they belonged. Whichever



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chapter they were wanting; I was wanting it just as much for them.

“#Panlove is all encompassing, steadfast love that every Panhellenic woman has for her fellow sisters- even those in different chapters” –Kelsey Brockett

Hashtag PANLOVE

What does #panlove even mean? Maybe you’ve seen it on twitter, or in Instagram captions, but what does it really mean? The idea behind this social media hashtag was to show that despite our different Greek letters, all panhellenic women are tied together.

I was lucky enough to interview OU Panhellenic Fall 2016 Executive board member Kelsey Brockett. When I asked what #panlove meant to Kelsey, she said “#Panlove is all-encompassing, steadfast love that every Panhellenic woman has for her fellow sisters- even those in different chapters. Although we don't all know each other, there are many occasions where girls place others over themselves. I think that demonstrates a true love through the system”.

We don’t have to be in the same chapters to support each other and lift each other up. One of my personal favorite things about the OU panhellenic community is the way each and every chapter supports the other chapter houses. Some examples of this support includes: attending different chapter’s philanthropy events, chapter houses teaming up together for different service projects, or sisterhood events, and chapter members maintaining a positive and respectful relationship with members from other chapters.

How Being a Rho Gamma Made Me Appreciate My Chapter

My name is Harper Peterson and I am currently a Junior at the University of Oklahoma studying Public Relations and General Business. I am a member of the Panhellenic community here at OU and more specifically I am an active member in the Alpha Chi Omega Psi Chapter. On bid day fall 2014, I was happy when opening my bid card. After a long and stressful week of praying to God and crossing my fingers, when I received my bid card and saw I received a bid from the chapter I wanted, I felt nothing but joy. But it was nothing compared the joy I felt when running home after a long week as a recruitment guide this fall 2016.

After we passed out all of the bid cards and watched our girls open their bids screaming and jumping with joy, we too were able to run home to our chapter. I ran from the dorms to my chapter house faster than I did when I was a freshman. A part of disaffiliating included cutting communication off with members of your chapter. That meant I didn’t get to speak with my sisters and best friends for weeks leading up to actual recruitment. I could feel myself growing further away from my sisters as they all met for work week and I was not there. They spent day in and day out together, bonding and preparing for recruitment. I began to think what if they forget about me? What if they don’t care that I too am running home on bid day.

As I turned the corner from the dorms and ran up to the lawn where my sisters were standing holding signs for all the new members, I became over joyed when I saw my best friends and roommates standing their holding signs saying welcome home and we missed you! I became overwhelmed with emotions and began to cry.

How lucky am I to have these girls as my sister? How lucky am I to be a part of a sisterhood at all? The panhellenic community is filled with amazing sisters, role models, and friends. Each and every chapter is filled with a diverse group of girls and being a part of any chapter is an honor and a blessing.



Insert quote from interviews

The Different Sides of Recruitment

There are many different sides of formal recruitment. The first side of formal recruitment you are introduced to is when you go through it for the first time as a potential new member. Next, once you become an initiated member of your chapter, you will go through the formal recruitment process as a recruiter. Most chapter's allow their girls to serve the panhellenic association by spending the recruitment process as a recruitment guide.

Talk about the perks of being a rho gamma (more relaxed environment, where t shirts, make new friends, no work week so longer summer, stepping outside of your comfort zone, giving back to a community that has given me so much, you get to know the girls on a deeper level because you get more time with them).

Include interview answers from pan exec, and other rho gammas. Then talk about which side of recruitment you enjoyed the most and why.

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