Greek Life Commons planning event – Saturday, November 6, 2010

Responses from Working Session 1: Service

What is currently working well in your chapter related to service?

The comments listed below were generated by the participants in attendance during Greek Life Commons planning event held on Saturday, November 6th, 2010.

The responses were taken directly from the participants. No responses were omitted and no editing occurred (other than a spell check).

Participants at the event were responding to the following discussion question. “What is currently working well in your chapter related to service?”

1. (a sig phi) neighborhood community service and philanthropy events with fellow fraternities
2. (phi mud) one thing that we try and focus on, so one major project, once a month go out and do stuff, some of our members joined circle k, so they get fantastic amounts of service
3. (AGD) used to do habitat for humanity where a bunch of girls go and do it, but attendance has slipped on new programs
4. No good rewards for it, submit all of it to national, but no one notices
5. (A sig phi) 100 dollars for a chance to win a car by the last person to keep their hand on the car
6. (theta chi) clothing drive
7. (a sig phi) volunteer at josephs house
8. IFC wide events for philanthropy and community service
9. Increased PanHel and IFC interactions with community service
10. IFC event idea: Greek tailgate bbq event( have burgers and hotdogs, can eat if you can donate a can of food)
11. Require minimum of 10 community service hours (Highly Encouraged)
   a. Have up to 2 events a month
   b. Work with local communities to help
   c. Community Service chair – Brother’s submit hours to chair and it is compiled into a spreadsheet
      • Put on probation to a degree if don’t meet the ‘requirement’
   d. Record data of people who were there
      • Use for 5 Star and National level awards
   e. Brother’s do things outside of house
12. Regional community service projects, perhaps a competition
13. Philanthropy Events
   a. Teaming up with other houses: More volunteers, more resources, exciting to meet new houses/people
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14. Working closely with local organizations
   a. Going out and finding people to work in Troy community

15. (a sig phi) shoveling driveways for charity

16. (AGD) does raking the leaves

17. Better neighborhood relations

18. Successful Events
   a. Gaming Event – Buy hours to play the video games, event in Mother’s
   b. Haunted House
   c. Easter Egg Hunt – With the Unity House Pre-School
   d. Polar Plunge – sponsoring event for RPI
   e. Adopt-a-Highway
   f. Pikes Presents – raise money and get toy’s from stores to go to school’s for children
   g. Community Food Drive

19. Residential Area/Open House
   a. Community Enrichment dinner
      • Invite people up the house from the community.
   b. Dinners on campus that cater to specific areas on campus. Reslife, Public Safety.
   c. Rake leave sup for the neighbors.
      • Just rake the leaves.
   d. Do a can drive with the neighborhood.
   e. Day of remembrance
      • Set up a mini-carnival to get people to come out and meet the brothers
   f. Every brother has to do ten hours service per month.
      • Fined for every hour that hasn’t been completed.
   g. Team up with a house that has the same of similar national philanthropy.
   h. Adopt-a-highway, clean up park.
   i. Service is easier to do than fundraising.
   j. Want to use the GLC and IFC/PanHel to get some more Philanthropy award.

20. Pi Kappa Phi: PUSH -> national service fraternity then dispersed (not sure where the money goes so dislike) , so do own fundraiser – Victorian stroll (show first floor) – lots of other philanthropy events to go to own choices- does not give money to national because they pick and choice where money goes...
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21. Phi Mud: National regulation 72 hours of service work (outside philanthropy) per year – worked Beirgarten Oktoberfest – keep coming up with new ideas working committee and delegate to accomplish ask other sorority / fraternity / groups on campus to help

22. Match up needs with places and interests of members

23. Looking for new ideas for events – Phi Sig

24. Phi Kappa Tau: Service event sent email / letters to community for helping with fall cleaning and winter help for neighbors where they may find them a burden

25. Presentation around the school in a different light other than party places

26. Balance service with building house

27. AEPI – try to help out with RPI Community where they just have to show up and still have presence without organizing only 1 organized event a semester

28. Greek Gazette started again with published of service

29. Eddie: My chapter does nothing

30. James: were trying to get more events in: tutor time for local students

31. Mark: Community service is pretty big in order to go to parties next semester you must have 20 hours of community service this semester. We always do polar plunge and give students in troy presents for Christmas. Usually the same stuff every year. Having and annual thing makes it more helpful and useful and easier to do with contacts and such.

32. Keegan: Contacts is the biggest key who do we reach out to? Who can help you?

33. Eddie: Call up out alumni and they told us where they are helping

34. Kelly: 5 hours of service who need to go

35. Trying to get more repetition

36. It keeps from coming up with the idea and finding out who is interested

37. John: easier with big events and everyone already knows the drill and goes smoothly

38. Why do I have to do this? All comes down to new member process and need to get informed. Tell them that its part of being in the house.

39. Pick enjoyable community service so people are excited to go.

40. Change in attitude

41. Anything that we do with kids is more rewarding. Start with helping kids, there more thankful and better image.

42. Better to avoid the house. Parents loved it Kids loved it brothers didn’t

43. Have an executive chair that will plan events and record hours. These are then reported to RPI and/or nationals.
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44. Have events that you typically do on a semester/annual basis.
45. Working with the school to do events like relay for life.
46. Finding special events that the house will actually enjoy so it’s less arduous to do the event.
47. Try to work social aspects into the events.
48. Give people individual responsibility to perform in events.
49. Multiple events each semester
50. Getting letters out to the city
51. Impacting the community
52. Coordinated efforts by multiple house or IFC
   a. Can do more
   b. Get more recognition from the city
   c. Do not tell them IFC is organizing it
53. Outreach to the community
54. Signature chapter events
55. Events that raise money as well as getting bothers involved and really participating in something. Being visible- really not hard, need to see the Greek Community.
56. Fixing the horrible and false perceptions of what is going on within Greek Life
57. Communal Greek events
58. Constant notification of volunteer events and house participation
59. Playing the service up during recruitment, definitely a selling point to parents
60. Working on the image of Greek Life
61. Website/Newsletters : Positions and often setup by nationals
62. Red and White Student and Alumni organization
63. Student organization representation
64. Work with March of Dimes
65. PUSH philanthropy
66. Juvenile diabetes
67. Working at food banks
68. Campus-wide event to raise money for a specific charity/organization
69. Big group or way of sending out
70. On a whole our Greek system does really well with philanthropy and volunteering
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71. Working to change how Greeks are perceived
72. We do a bunch more community service/fund raising than non-Greeks
   a. Maybe we should involve non Greeks/encourage people who want to do good to become Greek
73. Good at Service/ need to market it, branch out to people on and off campus looking for service
74. Use Greek commons to branch out outside campus
75. Also see notes on community development
76. Working with ‘Youth-build” (16-22 who dropped out of high school), help the kids to get their GED’s, send two brothers each day.
77. Five star systems created the initiative to want to get more involved with community service. I.e.: Fundraisers for the local hospital.
78. Awards from National for doing a certain amount of service.
79. Volunteering for the Unity house and at a shelter.
80. Volunteering is good for the school and image of Greeks at the school.
81. Volunteering at soup kitchens each week.
82. Community Service Projects
83. Comm. Serv./Philanthropy
84. National Philanthropy
85. Volunteer Commitments in Troy
86. Looking at other chapters to see how they increase service and try to simulate it
87. Making good efforts known to community is difficult and needs improvement – communicate with IFC and Pan Hel via emails?
88. As a whole, the Greek community has/needs annual events that should be known to campus as a whole
89. Greeks need to promote their service and philanthropy to non-Greeks – what is best way to do this?
90. Bigger events (relay for life) Greeks more or less always participate
91. Greek Chowder Fest -- things like that need to be promoted to non-Greeks as well
92. RPI is hard for fundraising
93. Most good events revolve around Greek life
94. Relay for life, big push from all the houses
95. Haunted houses
96. Teaming up with other organizations for events to help volunteer, definitely important for services
97. Working with troy to help take care of environment
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98. Looking to the community to see what they need
99. Earth week, neighborhood cleanup of the cemeteries and other parks
100. National service events
101. Need to get publicized about accomplishments for the things that we do for the school
102. Organized service events
103. Working with RPI to get names of neighbors to shovel driveways, rake leaves, etc.
104. Halloween House for Troy Boys and Girls Club
105. Blood drives through Albany Red Cross
106. Dinners at YWCA
107. Required service hours for members
108. Working with schools in the Troy area
109. Relay for Life
110. New events bring more excitement from community
111. Derby Days- week long, not as successful here as other campuses
112. Cardiac Arrest, Red Dress Gala, Poker tournament
113. Blood Drives
114. Big Brother Big Sister, core groups participate every week
115. Smaller, focused groups participating in small events get more attention in houses (Food Pantry, Animal Shelter Volunteering), going wearing letters looks great and easier to plan around if whole chapter does not go
116. Spreadsheet for house that tracks what each brother does for community service, track hours, works for personal growth and interviewing conservation topics in addition to showing how involved house is
117. IFC Poker Tournament
118. Alpha Phi: Outstanding Philanthropy Award
119. Relay for Life
   a. RPI event but Greeks participate
120. Earth Day
   a. RPI event Greeks participate
121. IFC Greek “clean up” day
   a. invite freshman to participate and get to know brothers
122. Phi Sigma Kappa does well with service

Responses were collected and compiled by the Archer Center for Student Leadership Development
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123. Phi Sigma Kappa
   a. annual community service project; sponsored by fraternity in conjunction with neighborhood

124. Alpha Phi
   a. themed events - i.e. Cardiac Arrest

125. SAE Pledges have community service project for pledges

126. Delta Phi
   a. E-Waste Disposal, were invited by Troy to help at Hazardous Waste Disposal event; adopt a local highway and clean it

127. SAE work day: rake yards for neighbors and for own property

128. Chi Phi
   a. Smaller events for radio station
   b. Chi Phi Live: any Greek band can play a set at their house and admission is money/cans of food

129. Every house has some large events
   a. Beneficial if Greeks have large website to post these things to allow RPI community to see everyone’s event
   b. New IFC website should have all that information up (Facebook page?); Concerto can be used
   c. Postering/tabling
   d. Like idea of not having many internal events: would be better to reach out to Alumni
   e. Union trying to make a student Mega-List (email with all events for the week)

130. Chi Phi hasn’t taken as much initiative; has put philanthropy chair to do things: put events together with local organizations
   a. Dean Hunt has been forwarding a lot of service opportunities- is incredibly useful
   b. Hard to plan an event too far in advance

131. Goal for community service? Hours a semester

132. Events
   a. SAE
      - in Spring, do a lot with neighborhood- have a community enrichment dinner (invite neighbors, Greek Dean, Professors, Greek leaders) where they have a speech and present money to charity and brothers serve the guests; community members enjoy/appreciate it; attendance is mandatory for brothers and have around 4 families show up; started to incorporate other Greeks but not a main goal

133. Clean up Prospect Park, YMCA dinners, etc.
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134. Similar to community development
   a. Volunteer for neighbors

135. Participate in Habitat for Humanity
   a. Require two members every other week
   b. Reflects well upon Greek Community

136. Youth Build
   a. Half day teach kids to earn GRE (brothers volunteer to help teach every week)
   b. Half day on construction site (build houses for disadvantaged families)

137. Required service hours or required events
   a. Sometimes difficult to get an entire house to one event

138. Philanthropy (such as March of Dimes)
   a. Big Brother/Big Sister – bilingual people can help to assimilate youth new to country