

# **THE STANDARD POLICY OF RISK MANAGEMENT Alpha Phi Omega National Service Fraternity**

## **HAZING**

No fraternity member shall take part in hazing activities. Hazing activities are defined as (but not limited to):

Any action taken or situation created, intentionally, whether on or off fraternity premises or during fraternity functions, to produce mental or physical discomfort, embarrassment, harassment or ridicule. Such activities may include but are not limited to the following: use of alcoholic beverages; paddling in any form; branding; creation of excessive fatigue, physical or psychological shocks; quests; treasure hunts; scavenger hunts, road trips; or any other such activities carried on in the name of the Fraternity; wearing of public apparel which is conspicuous and not normally in good taste; engaging in public stunts and buffoonery; morally degrading or humiliating games and activities; and any other activities which are not consistent with fraternal law, ritual or policy or the regulations and policies of the educational institution and local, state and federal laws.

## **SEXUAL HARASSMENT / ABUSE / DISCRIMINATION**

The Fraternity will not tolerate or condone any form of abusive or discriminatory behavior on the part of its members, whether physical, mental or emotional in respect to sex, race, ethnicity, physical or emotional handicap, age, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or religious affiliation. This is to include any actions, which are deemed to be demeaning to all but not limited to date/gang rape or verbal harassment.

## **CONTRACTUAL AND FINANCIAL ISSUES**

No chapter, alumni association, section or region shall enter into a contract or financial agreements using the specific name of Alpha Phi Omega. Qualifying statements as to which chapter, alumni association, section, or region must accompany all agreements entered into for the purposes of supporting fraternity functions. This includes, but is not limited to, such agreements as leases, contracts, hold harmless agreements, liability releases, account agreements, purchase orders, and hotel or banquet contracts.

## **ALCOHOL AND DRUGS (SUBSTANCE ABUSE)**

The possession, use and/or consumption of alcoholic beverages, during any Fraternity event, any event that an observer would associate with the Fraternity, or in any situation sponsored or endorsed by the chapter, must be in compliance with any and all applicable laws, policies and regulations of the state, county, city and institution of higher education. The unlawful possession, sale and/or use of any illegal drugs or controlled substances at any Fraternity sponsored event, or at any event that an observer would associate with the Fraternity, is strictly prohibited. Chapters, interest groups and petitioning groups of Alpha Phi Omega National Service Fraternity shall not use or condone the use of alcoholic beverages as part of their membership recruitment "rush" or pledge education programs. No chapter funds shall be used to purchase alcohol. A violation of this policy shall be deemed a violation of the membership policies of Alpha Phi Omega National Service Fraternity.

## **PERSONAL PROPERTY**

Use of personal property in fraternity activities shall be strictly voluntary and the sole responsibility of the owner. Alpha Phi Omega shall not assume liability for personal property used in conjunction with fraternity activities, nor for any damages resulting from said use.

## **TRANSPORTATION ISSUES**

Any individual who drives or otherwise provides transportation in conjunction with Alpha Phi Omega activities shall obey all applicable motor vehicle laws, including, but not limited to, those concerning vehicle safety, vehicle operation, insurance and the transportation and consumption of alcoholic beverages.

Operators will ensure that vehicles are not overloaded and are driven in a safe manner. Rental vehicles shall be operated in accordance with rental contracts. Use of personal vehicles shall be strictly voluntary and the sole responsibility of the vehicle owner/operator. Alpha Phi Omega shall not assume liability for personal vehicles used in conjunction with Fraternity activities, nor for any damages resulting from said use.

## **GENERAL HEALTH AND SAFETY**

All activities planned in conjunction with Alpha Phi Omega shall take into account the health and safety of all participants. Planning of Alpha Phi Omega projects and activities will include appropriate personal safety equipment (ear plugs, eye protection, gloves, etc.), training (use of tools and equipment), and supervision. All equipment to be used in conjunction with Alpha Phi Omega activities will be in good working condition and will be used in a safe manner.

## **ADVISORS**

Advisors and alumni serving Alpha Phi Omega on behalf of their employer or respective volunteer agency (educational institution, youth service organization, etc.) will do so in accordance with the policies of said entity, including but not limited to risk management and personal liability. Advisors and alumni shall adhere to the provisions of this and all applicable policies of the Fraternity when engaging in fraternity-related activities. Advisors and alumni shall recognize the appropriate authority of elected or appointed officers, representatives or employees of the Fraternity in questions of policy and shall not engage in activities designed to circumvent fraternity policies.

## **EDUCATION**

All reasonable efforts will be made to insure each student member, pledge, associate member, advisor, alumnus and honorary member shall be instructed on the Risk Management Policies annually. Active chapters, alumni associations, and sectional, regional, and national volunteers will indicate their understanding of and compliance with the Risk Management Policy statement on an annual basis. Organizers of Fraternity events will reasonably inform guests (including non-members, alumni, advisors and visiting members) of applicable policies.

## **RISK MANAGEMENT RATIONALE**

The Standard Risk Management Policy is extremely important for a national service fraternity as well as the individual chapters of Alpha Phi Omega. A risk management policy provides the chapters, sections, regions, and National Fraternity with the ability to protect their members, to maintain the high reputation of Alpha Phi Omega, and to assist members in assessing their individual responsibilities.

## **ESTABLISHMENT OF INDIVIDUAL CHAPTER RISK MANAGEMENT POLICIES**

The Standard Risk Management Policy is a minimum policy, which the chapters must follow. Chapters will face unique challenges that will require individual attention. They may choose to adopt a policy above and beyond these standards. This policy is intentionally broad, and it is the intent that chapters individualize, through discussion, the policy beyond the scope of the minimum standards.

The major focus is to educate all brothers in Risk Management.

Adoption of this policy will provide a program of education within the chapters, sections, regions and on a national level.

Signing the Standard Risk Management Policy should not be done without careful consideration. It is your affirmation and commitment to the Standard Risk Management Policy. Much time and effort has been dedicated to making this policy as encompassing as possible for all members of Alpha Phi Omega National Service Fraternity.