

Theta Chi-Gamma Kappa Enhanced Membership Experience

Purpose: Remain loyal students and strive for excellence in every aspect of life.



Gamma Kappa Recruitment

As a member of Theta Chi Fraternity, we hold our values at the utmost importance. During the recruitment process, our members are selected based on academic performance, morals, principles, and personality. As a fraternity, our values consists of true friendship, knowledge, truth, temperance, and tolerance. True friendship consists of extending a helping hand to all who seek it. We strive to promote knowledge and advance our culture. We seek the mutual benefit and improvement of all our members and strive to serve our country and our fellow man.

Alcohol Policy

No new member of the Gamma Kappa chapter of Theta Chi, under any circumstance and regardless of age, will be forced or encouraged to consume alcohol. There will be no alcohol on site of New Member Activities under any circumstances. If New Members are able to present a valid state ID, proving they are of legal drinking age, the brothers of Theta Chi will ensure that they are consuming alcohol in a responsible and safe manner.

Our recruitment process is completely alcohol free. Alcohol should not be a deciding factor to potential new members for joining a chapter during rush. All members partaking in rush will not be under the influence of alcohol no matter what age aforementioned member is. During the process of bid distribution, there will be no alcohol on the premises.

The consumption of alcohol is a personal choice for those of legal drinking age. In any situation regarding alcohol, all members are expected to make responsible and safe decisions. Misuse of alcohol reflects poorly on the individual, Theta Chi Fraternity, the entire Greek community, and the Miami University community.

All members of Theta Chi will abide by Federal, state, and local laws as well as Theta Chi and Miami University policy regarding Alcohol. The legal drinking age in the state of Ohio is 21. All Theta Chi events where alcohol is consumed, the following guidelines will be in effect and followed:

- a. Those consuming alcohol will have a valid, picture ID with birth date. A security officer or proper authority will check identification upon entrance.
- b. All persons attending a function who are of legal age will have a wristband applied designating that they are of legal drinking age if they intend to consume alcoholic beverages.
- c. Theta Chi members and their guests will sign in on the invitation/guest list and will give their name, date of birth, and either their driver's license number or student identification number.

Miami University Interfraternity Council Alcohol Policy

I. ALCOHOL AND DRUGS

1. The possession, sale, use, or consumption of ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, while on chapter premises, or during a council, fraternity, or sorority event, in any situation sponsored or endorsed by the organization, or at any events an observer would associate with the organization must be in compliance with any and all applicable laws of the state, county, city, and the Student Code of Conduct at Miami University, and must comply with either the BYOB or third party vendor guidelines.
2. Alcoholic beverages may not be purchased through or with council or chapter funds, nor may the purchase of the same for members or guests be undertaken or coordinated by any member in the name of, or on behalf of, the council or chapter. The purchase and/or use of a bulk quantity or common source(s) of alcoholic beverages, for example, kegs or cases, is prohibited. This includes the prohibition of the purchase of alcohol--examples include but are not limited to drink specials, reduced prices for alcohol or an open bar--by organizations or individuals or groups acting on behalf of an organization as part of a rental or catering agreement with a third party vendor.
3. OPEN PARTIES, meaning those with unrestricted access by non-members of the chapter(s), without specific invitation, where alcohol is present, are prohibited.
4. No members, collectively or individually, shall purchase for, serve to, or sell alcoholic beverages to any minor (i.e. those under legal drinking age).
5. The possession, sale, or use of any ILLEGAL DRUGS or CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES while on chapter premises, during a chapter or council event, or at any event that an observer would associate with the chapter or council is strictly prohibited.
6. No chapter may co-sponsor an event with an alcohol distributor, charitable organization, or tavern (tavern defined as an establishment generating more than half of annual gross sales from alcohol) where alcohol is given away, sold, or otherwise provided to those present. This includes any event held in, at, or on the property of a tavern as defined above for the purposes of fundraising. A chapter may rent or use a room or area in a tavern as defined above for an event held within the provisions of this policy, including the use of a third party vendor and guest list.
7. No chapter may co-sponsor, co-finance, attend, and/or participate in a function where alcohol is purchased or subsidized by any of the host chapters, councils or other sponsoring organizations.
8. All recruitment activities associated with any chapter will be non-alcohol. No recruitment activities associated with any chapter may be held at or in conjunction with an alcohol distributor or tavern, as defined in this policy, where alcohol is present.
9. No member or new member shall permit, tolerate, encourage, or participate in "drinking games" at any chapter or council event or any event that an observer would associate with the chapter or council.
10. No alcohol shall be present at any new member program, activity, or ritual of the chapter. This includes, but is not limited to, activities associated with Bid Night, big brother or big sister revelation night, and initiation. I

Hazing Policy

Hazing is any situation, which creates mental or physical abuse, discomfort, embarrassment, ridicule or harassment, whether on or away from fraternity property. Additionally, we will not hold any new member related events between 12AM and 7AM. Theta Chi has a strict no hazing policy and the Gamma Kappa chapter will enforce it and consequences will come to those who choose to engage in hazing. Theta Chi Fraternity promotes fellowship and brotherhood among its members and practices positive educational

programming. Hazing does not achieve this goal and thus does not make a resolute man. There will be no separation between those already initiated and those waiting to be initiated. All members of Theta Chi will be treated as equals and given the same rights.

Miami University Interfraternity Council Hazing Policy

II. HAZING

No chapter, colony, student, or alumnus shall conduct nor condone hazing activities. Hazing activities are defined as: “Any action taken or situation created, intentionally, whether on or off fraternity or sorority premises, to produce mental or physical discomfort, embarrassment, harassment, or ridicule. Such activities may include but are not limited to the following: use of alcohol; paddling in any form; creation of excessive fatigue; physical and psychological shocks; quests, treasure hunts, scavenger hunts, road trips, or any other such activities carried on outside or inside the confines of the chapter premises; 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; morally degrading or humiliating games and activities; and any other activities which are not consistent with academic achievement, fraternal law, ritual, or policy, or the regulations and policies of Miami University and Ohio state law.”

Moral Conduct

Theta Chi is comprised of brothers from varying backgrounds. Each brother must have a certain personal conduct and morality that promotes positive values and leadership within and amongst each other. Upon induction, all members are responsible for their behavior, which ultimately reflects the Theta Chi chapter as a whole. Integrity, honesty, motivation, and respect play integral roles in each member’s behavior toward themselves, others, and the community around. These values not only greatly benefit each individual’s growth as a maturing adult, but also as a growing fraternity of men learning from each other. Attitude, appearance, language, and conduct of each member are derived from these values.

Scholarship

Theta Chi emphasizes the importance of academics strongly. Scholarship is the reason each member enrolled in college, and it is not taken lightly. High personal academic motivation and the desire to see others succeed contribute to our expectation of all members to further themselves, and their peers, in their studies. Due to the tight knit community we share, members are encouraged to ask for help when needed. All members are required to disclose grades to the Scholarship chair.

Finances

As new members, there are several fees to note:

- \$60 pledge fee - due 10 days from accepting a bid / two-weeks prior to pledging ceremony
- \$250 initiation fee - due three weeks prior to initiation
- Plus any extra dues to go towards the chapter plus Omega Fi’s fee (this amount is used by the chapter for various events)

Throughout the course of the semester as an active member will pay around \$530 where \$180 is reserved for Insurance, \$100 is allocated for the social fund, and \$250 goes to Theta Chi Nationals for membership

dues. The money allocated towards the social fund is subject to change, and is agreed upon at the discretion of the Executive Board of the Chapter. Payments to Theta Chi National will be paid online through OmegaFi and each payment will be semesterly. All members are expected to pay their membership dues fully and in a timely manner.

New Member Eligibility Requirements

- New Members must be in good academic standing
- New Members must have a minimum 2.5 GPA
- New Members must be taking at least 12 credit hours
- New Members must score above 80% on their final quiz
- New Members must complete all pledge projects
- New Members must participate in the pledge philanthropy event
- New Members must attend bi-weekly meetings on fraternity business and history

Process Evaluation by New Members or New Initiates

Throughout the semester and rush, our chapter's rush chairs will schedule rush events for potential new members and orchestrate the rush process so potential new members and active brothers can engage in meaningful conversation. Active members will then vote on whether or not to extend a bid to a potential new member. The standards by which it is determined whether a potential new member gets a bid can vary based on the level of GPA/Involvement. (I.E. if a PNM has a 3.9 GPA, it will take less votes to extend a bid than someone with a 3.0 GPA). The final decision will be decided by a vote of the chapter, and then the bids will be handed out to the potential new member, allowing the approval of at least $\frac{3}{4}$ of the initiated members. Bids will be extended to those who exemplify the values of Theta Chi and are registered to rush through Miami University's Interfraternity Council.

The chapter's Standards board will handle any conflicts or issues that come up during the pledging process. Pledges who miss pledge events or do not participate in pledge projects will be sent to Standards and the board will decide how to handle the situation. Pledges can be dropped throughout the pledge process depending on the severity and frequency of their violations. The pledge standards board will be voted on by the pledge class, and overseen by the chapter standards board.

Weekly Schedule/Overall Calendar

- Monday: Study Hours* (5pm-7pm)
- Tuesday: Study Hours* (5pm-7pm)
- Wednesday: Pledge Class Meeting* (7pm-8pm)
- Thursday: Study Hours* (5pm-7pm)
- Sunday: Chapter (7pm-8pm)

*Study hours can be replaced with a tutoring session, extra help session, or one-on-one with the professor. Study hours are not required, but there will always be an executive board member present at the study hours (most likely 3rd floor of King Library) to supervise and help pledges with work if applicable.

*The pledge class meeting topics will vary from week to week. The information ranges from the history of the fraternity as a whole to the true meaning of brotherhood and what it means to be a part of Theta Chi. See below for a week-by-week breakdown.

New members will also participate in a pledge class service project for a local organization or charity. This is currently scheduled to take place on the evening of February 16th. In addition to this full project, the fraternity as a whole will be participating in other philanthropic events throughout the semester like Dance Marathon and Greek Spring Clean.

Weekly Breakdown for Pledge Class Meetings:

- Week 1: Traditions and Ideals & The Creed
- Week 2: Sacred Purpose and Presentation by VP of Health and Safety
- Week 3: Knowledge, Culture, and Character
- Week 4: The Meaning of “True Friendship” and Brotherhood

Rules/Code of Conduct

Theta Chi members are expected to follow all local, state, and national laws. In addition, all members are expected to be aware of, and follow, Theta Chi national and chapter bylaws. Also, all members are required to follow the rules and guidelines put in place by Miami University.

Attendance at all organizational events is mandatory and absences will be marked down by the secretary. After 3 absences, the new member will meet with the appointed standards board to face possible depledging. Interactions with other organization must be in good spirit. Denouncing other organizations will not be permitted as Theta Chi’s value of Acceptance should be applied. Virtue should be of the utmost importance when interacting with other people, groups, and organizations

Required Projects

As part of the pledging process, pledges will be required to complete several projects, such as participating in philanthropic events like the POTH dance competition throughout the semester. These projects will be completed as a pledge class and will promote brotherhood, develop organizational skills, and build work ethic. The projects are designed to give a well rounded view of the events that the chapter typically conducts. The purpose of these projects are to educate the new members on how to run these events once they are active members, so they can maintain an exceptional level of involvement in the community.

- Brotherhood event (ex: paintball with all the brothers)
- Sorority Appreciation event (ex: making pancakes outside of sorority dorms)
- Philanthropy event (ex: organizing an event to raise money for a cause)

Chapter/Big Brother Events

Chapter will be held once a week and chapter attendance will be recorded. More than 3 unexcused absences will result in members being sent to Standards.

Big brothers will be distributed during the fourth week of the New Member Pledge program. This is to allow pledges and brothers to get to know one another before they are assigned a Big Brother. Bigs and littles are paired based on personality, goals, and values, and it is important that pledges get to meet all of the brothers so that they can be paired with a Big that they truly connect with.

Purpose of Pledge Program

We understand the concerns around pledging process and we want to assure you as parents that every part of our process serves a purpose. Our goal is first and foremost to build your son into a man that exemplifies the values of Theta Chi. Our process will teach discipline, teamwork, tolerance, and accountability and it will inspire true friendship among our pledges. Furthermore, it will teach pledges that it isn't enough for them to better themselves, but that they must go on and better the world around them.

Chapter Advisors

- Jim O'Donnell- Property Manager
- Rocco Manzo - Faculty Advisor

Theta Chi Fraternity Anti-Hazing Policy

IF YOU ARE BEING HAZED, OR ARE AWARE OF OTHERS BEING HAZED, CALL TOLL-FREE: 1-855-824-4840

THETA CHI FRATERNITY MEMBERSHIP AGREEMENT AND ANTI-HAZING POLICY

MEMBERSHIP AGREEMENT

Membership in Theta Chi Fraternity requires you to uphold and live by the ideals and principles of Theta Chi as described in the Fraternity's Creed, *The Constitution and Bylaws of Theta Chi Fraternity, Inc.*, and *The Risk Management Standards and Insurance Manual of Theta Chi Fraternity, Inc.*

We will not tolerate any hazing-related activity which demeans, embarrasses, threatens, frightens, implies one member is superior to another or that initiation must be earned through personal services or meaningless activities for initiated members.

ANTI-HAZING AGREEMENT

1. I understand that any form of hazing is prohibited by Theta Chi Fraternity and that I will not tolerate or participate in any hazing related activities as explained below in the hazing policy.

2. I understand that it is also my obligation to report any hazing activities being done against me or being done by another member against anyone else at anytime during my membership in Theta Chi Fraternity.
3. If I become aware of any form of hazing I shall be obligated to report it immediately by calling the International Headquarters Anti-Hazing Hotline, toll free, at 1-855-824-4840 or the confidential National Anti-Hazing Hotline 1-888- NOT-HAZE.

ANTI-HAZING POLICY

The Fraternity's anti-hazing policy is outlined in *The Constitution and Bylaws of Theta Chi Fraternity, Inc.*:

ARTICLE V, SECTION 11 The Fraternity prohibits absolutely all physical hazing, paddling, uncalled-for humiliation, and public display in connection with New Member education and pre-initiatory activities, and subscribes to the North-American Interfraternity Conference resolutions and the Fraternity Executives Association's "Statement of Position on Hazing and Pre-Initiatory Activities" which condemn all forms of hazing in connection with New Member education and pre-initiatory activities. The active chapters shall carry out the Fraternity's policy and conform strictly to this policy, not only to escape the danger of bringing discredit to the Fraternity and injuring the entire fraternity cause, but also to build higher respect for the chapters and the Fraternity in the minds of New Members and to instill a finer type of loyalty thereby. The Fraternity prohibits all forms of public initiation, and pre-initiatory and initiation activities shall not be permitted to interfere in any way with the scholastic obligations or class attendance of those involved.

The following activities are hazing and will not be tolerated. This list is by no means all- inclusive; many other activities could be added. Keep in mind that the intent of the activity is as significant as the activity itself:

- Forced or coerced consumption of alcohol or food.
- Calisthenics of any type, or at any time.
- Paddling, striking or any form of physical abuse.
- Any type of abandonment, (e.g., kidnaps, "ditches," or "bags").
- "Road trips" or any transportation with no educational experience.
- Any form of "line-ups" or interviews.
- Prevention or deprivation of sleep or study time.
- Duties not shared equally with members (e.g., house clean ups, answering telephones, giving rides, or serving meals).
- Requiring new members to carry items or objects (e.g., paddles, matches, books, change, bricks, or *The Manual of Theta Chi*).
- Any act of personal servitude.
- Verbal harassment or yelling at any time.
- Requiring or endorsing pranks that break the law or reflect poorly on the chapter (e.g., theft, destruction, or harassment).
- Requiring uncomfortable, inappropriate dress or conforming dress.
- Restricting or requiring the use of certain doors, entrances, or public rooms or furniture in the chapter house.

- Interrogations and testing that is inconsistent with normal testing of educational material (e.g., threatening or harassing new members through psychological or verbal intimidation including the use of pledge courts or pledge reviews).
- Requiring certain forms of address or greetings to members when answering the telephone.
- Requiring new members to recite the Creed or Greek alphabet “to a match” or in any other manner that is designed to denigrate or intimidate the new members.
- Misleading new members to believe that they are brothers or “active.”
- Use of blindfolds.
- Requiring new members to recite information phrases or spiels with no useful or educational purpose.
- Keeping vigil over any object or device.

