Northwest Harris County Alumnae Panhellenic

*Recruitment Information Guide*

*2021*

[www.nwhcap.org](http://www.nwhcap.org)



# A SORORITY IS…

Sororities are national or international sisterhoods with chapters at accredited colleges and universities. As extended family units, sororities offer warm, caring atmospheres that encourage development.

Sororities promote sound scholarship, leadership ability, community outreach, and lifelong friendships. All sororities sponsor chosen philanthropies supported by collegiate and alumnae chapters. Philanthropies may include aid to handicapped children and adults, support of national health-related organizations, assistance to disadvantaged women and children, or support of educational and literacy programs.

# Recruitment Checklist

## February

* Plan to attend Parent/Daughter Information Workshop – February 28, 2021 2-4 p.m. – Virtual Meeting – to learn about sororities and the recruitment process.
* Begin networking with friends, neighbors, family, teachers, and coaches to let them know you are considering the recruitment process at your college. People who know you best will make the best references. Make a list of names and their sorority.
* Clean up your social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.). If a photo requires explanation as to what was going on, or you wouldn’t want your grandparents to see it, then take it off. Err on the side of conservative. These photos may be reviewed by sororities.

## March

* Complete the registration form on [www.nwhcap.org](http://www.nwhcap.org)/recruitment
* Choose photographs. You will need to submit 2 digital photographs (head shot and full body) with your registration form. Be sure these photos look like you. Do not include anyone else in your photo (pets, stuffed animals, costumes, friends). The photos do not have to be professional, but they should be good quality. You want the sorority members to recognize you when you walk in the door from your photo!
* Check out the college Panhellenic website. THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT STEP!
	+ Find out when their registration deadline is. You MUST register with the college Panhellenic.
	+ Review the information concerning sororities and the calendar of events for that campus recruitment process.
	+ Be aware of all deadlines.
	+ Review rules concerning silence, summer recruitment, and contacts with other sorority members during the school year as violations of these rules could make you ineligible for pledging.

## April

* Register with Northwest Harris County Alumnae Panhellenic by the deadline of **May 1, 2021** (see Registration Instructions and Form on [www.nwhcap.org](http://www.nwhcap.org)/recruitment).
* Obtain personal recommendations and/or letters of support from the sororities that are offered at your campus. Give each alumna writing on your behalf a folder that contains at least 2 photographs, your social resume, a transcript, and an informal letter indicating your interest in sorority life. Some sororities may ask for additional photos. Put your name and high school on the back of your photo. Labels work well. If someone is writing a letter for you, please list them in the sorority reference section on your resume. This will help ensure NWHCAP distributes your information to area alumnae.

**Each sorority’s process and deadlines are different, so rely on the alumnae to be the expert in what you need.**

## May

* Send each alumna a personal thank you note for writing a letter of recommendation and/or support on your behalf.

## Summer

* Review the dates of the parties you will be attending and the theme/dress code.
* Assemble your wardrobe for each party, including outfit, shoes, jewelry, and undergarments.
* Revisit the Panhellenic website at your college and/or the National Panhellenic Conference website ([www.npcwomen.org](http://www.npcwomen.org)) to become familiar with the different sororities, their philanthropies, and other interesting facts.
* Begin making a list of questions that you can ask the girls at the recruitment parties to find out more about the sorority (campus intramurals, campus government, study hall hours, number of socials, philanthropic efforts). Being able to communicate during the events is key.
* Silence begins usually in May and ends once formal recruitment at your University is over. There is to be no contact between a potential new member and chapter member, alumna member, or anyone acting on a sorority’s behalf outside of a formal recruitment event

# IMPORTANT

* Register with Northwest Harris County Alumnae Panhellenic by **May 1, 2021**. Do NOT be late or you *may* miss out on the opportunity to participate in recruitment this year.
* Register with your college Panhellenic by their specified deadline. Do NOT be late or you *will* miss out on the opportunity to participate in recruitment this year.
* It is better to register by the specified deadlines and later withdraw, than it is to register late!!

# Maximize your recruitment experience by

# always keeping an open mind!

# General Information

* **Northwest Harris County Alumnae Panhellenic -** NWHCAP will help provide you with general sorority information and will notify Houston area alumnae groups of your intent to participate in membership recruitment.

Register on-line at [**www.nwhcap.org**](http://www.nwhcap.org) by the posted deadline. If you miss the deadline or fail to register with NWHCAP it does **NOT** mean that you will not be able to participate in recruitment. It does mean that you MAY have difficulty finding alumnae members home in the summer and available to write your reference and get it to the school in time for its deadline.

* **Campus Panhellenic Council -** When you register with your campus Panhellenic Council **(and this is a must)**, they will send you information about what you can expect during the recruitment process on their campus. Campus registration dates vary so check their website or call to find out the deadline at your university. The information you will receive usually has dress guidelines and photo examples. Wear clothes you feel good in and comfortable shoes - you will be standing and walking a lot.
* **Recruitment -** In order to go through the recruitment process, you may need a **reference** (a form with your personal information requested by the sorority chapter) written by a **sponsor** (an alumna member) for each sorority on your campus. Your sponsor will obtain the reference form for her sorority.

Membership recruitment is typically 3 to 4 events, intended for you and the sorority women to meet and for you to learn more about sorority life and their sorority. The emphasis is on conversation and getting to know each other since it is a **mutual selection process**. Each sorority has a variety of women in them so don't judge them by a stereotype given to you for the whole group. The period of recruitment varies, but usually lasts for several days.

* **Sorority Membership…It's for life!**

All sororities were created with the desire for friendship, leadership, achievement and philanthropy, for women in their pursuit of higher education. Among the many benefits, they offer you a home away from home, help make the university smaller by providing an easy way to connect with others and give you an opportunity to develop leadership skills. Sororities also provide a lifetime of friendship through alumnae associations throughout the country and abroad where you can make new friends as you move to different locations. Alumnae groups are among the most noted organizations that support community non-profit organizations. Sorority membership offers benefits for a lifetime which are too numerous to mention.

* **Scholarship -** Every sorority wishes to maintain a high chapter grade point average, and therefore each must consider a woman's ability to adhere to its scholastic standards. It is hoped that each new member will place importance upon the completion of her education and that she will remain involved with the sorority for the duration of her undergraduate education*.*
* **Compatibility -** Sororities are based upon friendship, congeniality and mutual ideals. The ability to get along with others and the enjoyment of being with people of diverse personalities are desirable qualities.
* **Interest in Involvement -** Those who are group-oriented and who enjoy working with people are more likely to contribute to sorority operation and to benefit from membership. The potential member's list of high school activities need not be long if there is indication that she has truly participated in some…rather than being merely a "joiner" in many activities. It is quality of involvement versus joining a number of activities that counts the most.
* **Financial Responsibility -** Membership dues finance each sorority. Women participating in the membership recruitment process should be aware of the cost of sorority membership and be willing to accept the financial obligation.
* **Cost of membership -** Expenses for sorority membership include pledge fees, initiation fees, building fees, and dues. To secure accurate information regarding the expenses for sorority membership on your campus, go to their website and search for "Greek Life." Review the material on the university website or contact the Panhellenic Council on the campus you are attending to find out specific costs for sorority membership at that campus. Fees will vary by sorority. This information changes from year to year and the Panhellenic office at each campus has current information regarding these costs and will be your most reliable source for this information.

**THE MOST IMPORTANT DEFINATION YOU NEED TO REMEMBER**

**It's a Mutual Decision -** Sororities that are members of the National Panhellenic Conference (NPC) are private social organizations whose collegiate members have the right to invite into membership the women they deem to be most congenial. The privilege of choice is mutual. Although a sorority has the right to choose whom it will invite to pledge, the recruit also has the right to choose which sorority she will want to join. If you would like to join a sorority, it is best to do it your first year in college because it can be more difficult to get in your second year in school.

It is best **not** to make up your mind about joining any sorority **until** you have met its active collegiate members. Remember that you are not joining a "name" but choosing a closely-knit group in which you expect to make lasting friendships in college and alumna life. Also, remember that individual sororities differ from campus to campus and there are girls in every sorority with whom you would develop lasting friendships. Enter recruitment with an open mind, go to all the first-round parties you are invited to attend and give each group a chance.

When your final decision is being made at the end of the Membership Recruitment, you, the recruit, are urged to list more than one group, in preferential order, indicating the sororities that you are interested in joining. Maximize your chances for sorority membership by choosing more than one.

# Potential New Member Registration Process

Some potential members may not know sorority alumnae. To assist potential members, the NWHCAP Association has the following **suggested** procedure for providing your information to alumnae groups.

The potential member will complete a Potential New Member Registration Form through NWHCAP. NWHCAP will then distribute this information to each sorority’s Recruitment Chairman and Panhellenic Delegate in the NWHCAP area. Each sorority alumnae group will use the information you submit in an effort to obtain a personal reference for you, the potential member. Your local references on your resume are, therefore, very important.

*Note: References/Recommendations through NWHCAP are done on a voluntary basis and are done at the discretion of the alumnae based on their group’s set requirements (e.g. grade point average, leadership activities, reputation, etc.) Registering with NWHCAP DOES NOT guarantee that you will receive a reference.*

The sooner you submit this information; the more time you will give the sorority alumnae groups to contact their members on your behalf.

It is to your advantage to make family and friends aware of your intention to participate in the recruitment process. If an alumna offers to write a recommendation for you, please include that information in your list of references on your resume. This will help ensure NWHCAP will distribute your information to alumnae in the NW area of Houston.

The Panhellenic’s goal is to assist all Northwest Harris County potential members in having the best recruitment possible, ending with the maximum number of girls from this area becoming members of a sorority.

We recommend that you submit all completed registration information to the NWHCAP Recruitment Chairman as soon as possible after the Parent Daughter Seminar on February 9, 2021, even if you are undecided on your choice of schools or if you are attending a school with deferred recruitment.  Registration information must be received by **May 1, 2021** for fall and deferred recruitment.

***This process DOES NOT guarantee that the designated sororities will recruit these candidates.***

## Information Flow

* Panhellenic receives Potential New Member registration after the Parent Daughter Information Workshop on February 28, 2021 and before the deadline of **May 1, 2021.**
* Sorority alumnae receive the registration information.
* Alumnae make efforts to obtain potential member recommendations and may use your references listed on your resume to coordinate efforts.
* Potential new members also register with their campus Panhellenic Council independently, providing necessary information to them by their deadlines to ensure recruitment participation. Optimally, recommendations are sent to college chapters from alumnae by June 1st.
* More questions? Email the NWHCAP Recruitment Chairman, Sheri Sheppard at nwhcap@gmail.com

## Registration -- Instructions

1. Complete the New Member Registration Form which includes the following:
	* Form based resume - click on website sample for an example (also on following pages).
	* Digital photos (**maximum 2 snapshots**; one full body and one close up is recommended, files not to exceed 1 MB in size)
2. The New Member Registration Form is a Google Form, you will need to fill out and attach your photos as an image file, .pdf, or .doc.
3. IMPORTANT**:** **You must sign up with your college Panhellenic in order to go through recruitment. They will require similar information packets which will be unique to each college campus. Check your college website to find out the exact requirements and deadlines.**

Polly Panhellenic

1234 Azalea Street

Cypress, TX 77429
Cell Phone: 281-832-1234
College Classification: Freshman
College Planning to Attend: The University of Texas at Austin
Birthday: January 2, 1997

Number of years in Northwest Houston Area: 15

**Scholastic Information**

Cypress Beach High School

Grade Average: 6.67 on 6.0 Weighted System
Class Rank: 73/756 (Top 2%)
SAT: *Math* 680, *Critical Reading* 620, *Writing* 620

 **High School Activities, Clubs, Offices**

National Honor Society

Member: 11th-12th

Secretary (elected): 12th

Student Council

Elected Representative: 9th-12th

Diamond Drill Team

Member: 10th-12th

Outstanding Junior Dancer of the Year: 11th

Dance Officer: 11th

Dance Officer: 12th

National Charity League – Texas Belles Chapter

Member: 9th-12th

Elected VP Philanthropy: 9th

Elected Communications Liaison: 10th

Elected Historian: 12th

St. Peter’s United Methodist Youth Group

Member: 9th-12th

Elected Member of Council of Youth Ministries: 10th-12th

Elected Chair of Welcome Committee: 10th-12th

Dance Inc.

Competition Team Member: 9th-11th

Apple Blossom Cotillion

Member: 10th-12th

Good Sportsmanship League

Member: 10th-12th

Senior Women

Member: 12th

Neighborhood Swim Team

Member: 9th-11th

Computer Science Club

Member: 9th-11th

**Community Service**

Keep Pace Play Group

Volunteer: 9th-12th

United Methodist Outreach Mission by Youth (UMARMY)

Volunteer: 10th-12th (weeklong mission trip)

Special Olympics

Volunteer: 9th-12th

Northwest Assistance Ministries (NAM)

Volunteer: 9th-12th

Heartland Healthcare

Volunteer: 9th-12th

The Ronald McDonald House

Volunteer: 10th, 12th

Tomball Assistance Ministries (TEAM)

Volunteer: 9th-10th

**Work Experience**

● St. Peter’s United Methodist Church – Summer Days Camp Teacher

June 2012-August 2012

● Dance Inc. – Teacher and Assistant

May 2012-May 2014

**Social MediaProfiles**

Facebook: Polly M Panhellenic

Instagram: @pollypanhellenic

Twitter: @pollypanhellenic

Vine:

Snapchat:

Linked In:

Personal Blog:

**Family Information**

Parents’ Names:

Patricia Smith Panhellenic / Mother / Beta Gamma Delta / State A&M Tech

Paul Panhellenic / Father / Gamma Chi Zeta / State A&M Tech

Jake Panhellenic / Brother / Gamma Chi Zeta / Colorado State University

**Local References**

Aubrey Algebra, Math Club Sponsor, aubrey.algebra@cybeachhs.edu, 832-555-1212

Jane Jetsetter, family friend, janejetsetter@jane.xy, 713-555-1212

**Sorority References**

*NOTES : 1) include for all chapters at the university you will attend, if possible*

*2) If no reference is known, mark as “pending” or “still needed”*

*4) feel free to include more than one reference if known*

Alpha Chi Omega:

Alice Alphachi, 832-555-1212, alice@abc.xyz

Alpha Delta Pi:

Andrea Adpi, 713-555-1212, andrea@abc.xyz

Alpha Epsilon Phi:

Pending

Alpha Phi:

Annie Aphi, 614-555-1212, annie@abc.xyz

Alpha Xi Delta:

Adrienne Alphaxi, 812-555-1212, adrienne@abc.xyz

Chi Omega:

Cathy Chio, 972-555-1212, cathy@abc.xyz

Delta Delta Delta:

Donna Delta, 817-555-1212, donna@abc.xyz

Delta Gamma:

Debbie Deegee, 626-555-1212 debbie@abc.xyz

Kappa Alpha Theta:

Tricia Theta, 212-555-1212 tricia@abc.xyz

Kappa Delta:

Katie Kaydee, 614-555-1212, katie@abc.xyz

Kappa Kappa Gamma:

Kelly Kappa, 202--555-1212, kelly@abc.xyz

Pi Beta Phi:

Paula Piphi, 214-555-1212, paula@abc.xyz

Sigma Delta Tau:

Susie Sigma, 404-555-1212, susie@abc.xyz

Zeta Tau Alpha:

Zoe Zeta, 918--555-1212 zoe@abc.xyz

# Greek Terminology

**Active** - Commonly used term to denote a fraternity or sorority member in college.

**Agent** - A person (male or female) who recruits for a sorority in any way.

**Alumna** - A sorority/fraternity member (feminine) no longer in college.

**Alumnae Panhellenic** - An area organization of alumnae (post college members) of National Panhellenic Conference (NPC) member sororities.

**Bid** - Invitation to join a sorority or fraternity.

**Chapter** - Membership unit of a fraternity or sorority.

**College Panhellenic** - The cooperative college organization of women's NPC member sororities.

**Deferred Recruitment/Membership Recruiting** - Membership recruitment week scheduled sometime after school opening or in the second semester or at the beginning of sophomore year.

**Dropping Out of Recruitment** - If it becomes necessary for a potential new member to discontinue attendance at Recruitment events, she should check with her College Panhellenic as to procedure and registration for Recruitment at a later date.

**Fraternity** - Name that applies to all Greek-letter organizations, characterized by a ritual, pin and strong ties of friendship. Informally, women's fraternities are called sororities.

**Information File** - File used by all sorority groups compiled by Alumnae Panhellenic from information furnished by college-bound women interested in Recruitment.

**Initiation** - Inspirational ceremony by which new members/pledges become active members.

**Legacy** - Generally defined as a daughter, sister or granddaughter of an initiated member, although each sorority has its own definition of a legacy.

**Local** - A campus organization, often with a Greek-letter name, which does not have chapters on other campuses and which is not a member of National Panhellenic Conference.

**New Member** - A young woman who has accepted a fraternity bid but has not yet been initiated. New member or a similar designation is the more common term being used.

**Open Recruitment** - A period following Formal Recruitment/Membership Recruitment with informal recruitment without scheduled events. This is designated by the College Panhellenic. Also referred to as Continuous Open Bidding

**Panhellenic** - Meaning "all Greek", it is the organization nationally, locally and on college campuses to further the aims of all member groups.

**Potential New Member** - High school graduate or an unaffiliated college or transfer student who plans to attend (or who is attending) a college which has sororities and who is interested in sorority membership.

**Preferential Bidding** - A system used at the conclusion of Formal Recruitment/Membership Recruitment when potential new members and sororities indicate choices.

**Quota** - System used to equalize, in general, the number of members in each campus group. It means the number of women who may be pledged by each group in Recruitment/Membership Recruitment. The quota is set by the College Panhellenic and depends on the number of potential new members and sororities on a particular campus.

**Recommendation or Reference or Letter of Information** - Specific information form which sponsors a prospective member. Each sorority has its own form.

**Recruitment Week/Membership Recruitment Week** - Period of time formally designated by the College Panhellenic for meeting potential new members. In the past this was referred to as Rush

**References/Recommendations** – These can be social, professional, and academic. Someone who knows a potential new member and can provide information about them in a positive aspect.

**Rho Chi or Rho Gamma** – A representative from each NPC chapter who will be your contact and guide during Recruitment Week/Membership Recruitment Week

**Silence** - The period of time designated by College Panhellenic when there are no communications between potential new members and members or their agents.

# Recruitment Tips

**BE YOURSELF** – This is not a cliché. Don’t pretend to be someone you’re not to fit into a sorority. You want to be in a sorority that feels like home and that likes you for who you are.

**KEEP AN OPEN MIND** – Do not have a preconceived idea of which groups you are interested in. Make decisions based on the members you will be meeting during the week, and fully consider all of your options throughout the process.

**MAKE YOUR OWN CHOICES** – Base your decisions on your experiences, not on what you hear from friends or family. Choose groups with whom you feel most comfortable.

**YOU ARE A GUEST** – Remember that you are a guest in each of the chapter houses and be polite and courteous to all of the active members you meet.

**HOW TO DRESS** – Each school is different as to what to wear to each party, and your College Panhellenic will give you guidelines. Each day’s attire gets slightly more formal. If you are wearing a dress, make sure you can comfortably sit on the floor in it. You may want to wear flip-flops for walking between the houses. Many colleges give you a gallon Ziploc in which to carry your personal items, so check with your college before you plan your wardrobe. Some girls find it helpful to carry oil blotting sheets for perspiration (recruitment in August will be very warm!)

**CARRY MINTS INSTEAD OF CHEWING GUM**

**CONVERSATION** – Think of some questions to ask, such as a member’s favorite activities, that sorority’s philanthropy, are there people in the chapter in your major or sport, etc.

**HAVE FUN**- The recruitment process can be stressful but is also a lot of fun.

**REMEMBER – You must register with your College Panhellenic in order to go through Recruitment!** It will be additionally helpful to remember that you should register with Northwest Panhellenic as well.

**National Panhellenic Sororities -** The National Panhellenic Conference and many of its NPC member sororities have their own websites. The following are websites that may be of interest to you.

## National Panhellenic Conference Creed

"We, as Fraternity Women, stand for service, through the development of individual fraternity and Panhellenic life. The opportunity for wide and human service, through mutual respect and helpfulness, is the tenet by which we strive to live.

# Greek Alphabet

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **AlphaAlpha** | Beta**Beta** | Gamma**Gamma** | Delta**Delta** | Epsilon**Epsilon** | Zeta**Zeta** |
| Eta**Eta** | Theta**Theta** | Iota**Iota** | Kappa**Kappa** | Lambda**Lambda** | Mu**Mu** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Nu**Nu** | Xi**Xi** | Omicron**Omicron** | Pi**Pi** | Rho**Rho** | Sigma**Sigma** |
| Tau**Tau** | Upsilon**Upsilon** | Phi**Phi** | Chi**Chi** | Psi**Psi** | Omega**Omega** |