

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS IN THE HOUSE

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS WITH RESIDENTS & CHAPTER MEMBERS

Being a House Director can be a very rewarding position and allow you the opportunity to impact many young men's lives. To be effective, relationships are of the utmost importance. Below are several ways to build and maintain relationships with residents and the chapter/provisional chapter as a whole.

Ensure that residents and chapter members understand your role:

- It's important that the chapter/provisional chapter members understand your role so that they can utilize you to the maximum benefit. One easy suggestion for this to happen would be to attend the beginning of the first chapter meeting of the year. Introduce yourself, talk about your background, and your role as House Director. It's also recommended to attend a chapter meeting on a monthly basis.

Invest in getting to know the residents individually:

- This can include grabbing a meal with them individually, tracking birthdays of residents, wishing them good luck before an exam and asking how it went after, and asking questions to learn more about them outside of just their Fraternity experience. The more residents and the House Director are invested in relationships, the more invested they will be in the facility and living in.

Make an effort to get to know chapter members:

- The chapter house is a place intended for all members of the chapter/provisional chapter. Although depending on the size of the chapter, you may be unable to get to interact with everyone, it's important to be cordial and build as many relationships as possible. This is as easy as popping in to say hello if the chapter/provisional chapter is having a brotherhood event.

Support the chapter/provisional chapter in their endeavors:

- The more time you spend getting to know the residents, chapter members, and officers, the more you will learn about the chapter- what they care about, how they spend their time, etc... If they have an upcoming philanthropic event, ask them why they're passionate about that particular cause or stop by the event.

Be visible!

- This one is very easy to do and one of the most important! Being visible makes everything else come much easier. If you have work to do, grab your laptop and go to one of the common areas. For lunch and/or dinner, eat with the residents. Block out areas of the day as "office hours" that you're available if anyone wants to chat, needs something, or has an issue.