



COMMON CONCERNS ABOUT **Greek Life**

SAFETY?

The Greek Community at Michigan State University has a zero-tolerance policy regarding hazing that is consistent with Michigan state law. All Greek organizations are expected to uphold state, county and city laws, and the university's policies regarding the consumption of alcohol. Michigan State University seeks to promote a safe environment in which students may participate without compromising their health, safety or welfare.

BENEFITS?

Being a member of a fraternity or sorority is a long-standing college tradition that is a unique part of higher education in the United States. Greek Life at Michigan State dates back to 1872. Since then, more than 70 sororities and fraternities have recruited members from our student population. Joining a sorority or fraternity at Michigan State comes with many benefits, including numerous leadership possibilities, academic encouragement and several philanthropic opportunities. However, the bonds of brotherhood/sisterhood mean that your child will have intergenerational friendships, career networking possibilities and support throughout their life.

COST?

Financial obligations differ among individual chapters. Most chapters offer payment plans, which allow members to pay on a monthly basis. Furthermore, the cost of living in a chapter house is comparable to, if not less expensive than, living in a residential hall or an apartment complex on campus. While your son or daughter is participating in the recruitment process, make sure that he or she asks about the financial obligations of membership. For example, as of 2011, the average fee for a sorority woman to live in her chapter house was \$7,686 for the year. This includes room and board, utilities, food and chapter dues. This is comparable to the \$8,204 residence hall housing fee for a double room on the Silver Meal Plan.



FRATERNITY & SORORITY LIFE
AT MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
325/326 Student Services Building
East Lansing, MI 48823



A PARENT'S GUIDE TO **GREEK LIFE**

AT MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY



WELCOME Spartan FAMILIES

Your son or daughter has embarked upon a great adventure by choosing to attend Michigan State University.

Your student has many opportunities ahead of him or her while at MSU. By joining a fraternity or sorority, he or she is joining hundreds of other new members in their search for a sense of community at the university. There are many myths about the Greek community, but the reality is that men and women in fraternities and sororities are committed to their academics; volunteer their time in the community; develop and strengthen their leadership skills; and form a campus network with other Greeks and community/university officials.

WHAT IS Fraternity & Sorority Life ALL ABOUT?

SCHOLARSHIP

Scholarship remains an important part of life for all Michigan State University students, especially for Greek organizations. Greek organizations were founded on the principles of academic and social success. Today, Michigan State University Greeks continue to strive for academic success. Individual chapters promote scholarship by providing academic resources for their members, including tutoring, study hours and scholarships. Most chapters require members to maintain a minimum grade point average to remain in good standing, and offer support to help them do so. For the past several years the all-fraternity and all-sorority grade point average has been consistently higher than the all-student grade point average. In addition, various Greek scholarships have been established and are offered to Greek Community students each year.

SERVICE

Philanthropy is a major part of Greek Life at Michigan State University. All Greek students are involved in charity and community service programs across campus the country. Annually, Greeks donate more than 500,000 hours of community-based service and donate more than \$5 million to support worthy causes. The Greek community does almost as much philanthropy as the rest of the university combined. Greek Week is the largest philanthropy event. Our 2011 Greek Week efforts donated more than 660 items of warm clothes; 225 units of blood to the American Red Cross; thousands of pop tabs to Ronald McDonald House; \$450 to One World. One Future.; \$450 to Camp Kesem; \$450 to Wilkins Parkinsons Foundation; and more than \$240,000 to the American Cancer Society!



LEADERSHIP

The Greek community at Michigan State provides students with a variety of leadership opportunities. Each chapter is self-governed and relies on the individual talents and leadership skills of its members to run effectively. The Greek community provides students the opportunity to transform into well-rounded graduates through opportunities to get involved at the chapter, council or community level. These leadership roles often provide a place where students can gain valuable experience managing events, balancing budgets, leading other people, serving as a liaison to external constituents or even representing the entire Greek community with an audience of prospective or incoming students to the university.

BROTHERHOOD/SISTERHOOD

Fraternities and sororities provide support and encouragement to one another through life's celebrations and challenges. Joining a sorority or fraternity gives your child the opportunity to develop extraordinary, long-lasting relationships. More than providing support, brothers and sisters also challenge one another to reach new levels of achievement. These relationships will last well beyond graduation because joining a Greek organization is a lifelong commitment.



Msugreeklife.org

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