

ALL ABOUT References

NOW IS THE TIME TO GET STARTED ON YOUR REFERENCES!

You can turn in references before you even register for recruitment.

Getting references is the main way to get your face and name in front of the chapter before recruitment starts.

WHAT IS A REFERENCE/RECOMMENDATION/RIF?

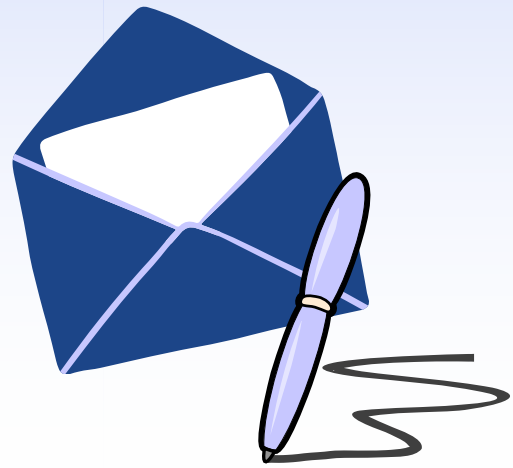
- A reference is the same thing as a recommendation or a RIF (recruitment information form).
- This is a form filled out by an alumna of the sorority who is in good standing, or someone who knows you well, such as a teacher or a family friend (depending on the chapter).
- It introduces the PNM (you) to their chapter. The alumna doesn't have to be from the school you are attending. It's in your best interest to get at least one reference for each sorority at your school.
- With sororities becoming more diverse and inclusive, some chapters are moving away from accepting recommendations at all. Please consult your spreadsheet to see if any chapters at your school no longer accept recs.
- Also, please know that a recommendation is not a ticket into the sorority, it is merely an introduction. The genuine connections you make with active sorority members at your school during recruitment are ultimately what matters most.

THE MOST IMPORTANT DOCUMENT TO HAVE IS A REFERENCE. SOME CHAPTERS CAN'T OFFER A BID TO YOU WITHOUT A REFERENCE/RIF ON FILE.

It makes things much easier if you already have a reference on file before recruitment starts. This also puts your name and face in front of the chapter before others, so they can learn more about you and match you up with an active member that has common interests as you do for the parties during recruitment.

WHO DO I ASK TO WRITE ME A REFERENCE?

You'll be surprised how many of your friends (or your mom's friends) were in a sorority in college. Ask your family members - grandparents, aunts, cousins, etc. You want to start by asking people closest to you who know you best and branch out from there.



You want to look for alumni first, but some chapters will let anyone write your recommendation. Please consult your spreadsheet to see if any chapters at your school allow this. Then go on to ask your family members, close friends, teachers, church family, etc

Second, it is perfectly fine to post a request on social media to see who you might be friends with that is a sorority alumni. Many moms do this for their daughters. Also, do you have any friends who may have recently graduated from college that were in a sorority? These girls can be really helpful as they were just there and can give you insight into so many things.

Third, you can contact a local alumni association in your hometown. Each of the sororities at your school will have an alumni chapter near you. You can find them by searching for a local alumni group.

For example - Tri Delta alumni group in Austin.

Keep in mind that you may not know the person who will be writing your reference, so it is always nice to ask if they would like to meet in person in order to ask you any questions to get to know you better.

If you are still having trouble finding an alumna from a specific sorority, please let us know and we will advise you on what to do. Sometimes we can help find someone who will write you a reference, other times, it may be better to have a family friend write it.

WHEN DO I NEED TO START ASKING ALUMNI IF THEY WILL WRITE ME A REFERENCE?

Start as soon as possible! The sooner the chapter gets your reference, the sooner they'll know who you are and can put you on their radar.

This information is crucial because your registration with your university's Panhellenic might not be released to the chapter until later in the summer (sometimes not until late July or early August).

You can ask people to write you a reference even if your social resume isn't complete yet. Think of it like sending a save-the-date Let them know you will be sending them your resume and other necessary information as soon as you have it ready.

WHAT IS THE BEST WAY TO KEEP TRACK OF MY REFERENCES?

We'll provide you with our school-specific spreadsheet tracking tool that you will fill in as you go along. You need to keep track of whom you need to send information to and how to send it.

(again refer to your spreadsheet)

You will need to follow up with a thank you note. The thank you note serves two purposes- it's a gesture of gratitude for their effort and time, and also a gentle reminder in case they have forgotten to submit your reference.



WHAT IS A LEGACY AND IS IT IMPORTANT?

A legacy is a Potential New Member (PNM) who has a family member who is a member or alumna of a sorority. However, most legacy policies have been discontinued as sororities want to be more diverse and inclusive.

The legacy policy varies from sorority to sorority but generally includes sisters, step-sisters, mothers, stepmothers, grandmothers, and sometimes great-grandmothers and aunts. While many people think that legacies have an advantage in recruitment, having legacy status doesn't guarantee you a bid.

Every chapter has its own rules for legacies and how they view them during recruitment. The legacy policy for many chapters is evolving, with a focus on encouraging a more diverse membership.

Including Greek affiliations on your resume can help show that you understand the four pillars of being in a sorority and that you also recognize it as a four-year commitment.

WHAT IS A LETTER OF SUPPORT?

A letter of support is an actual letter that is written by an alumna on your behalf.

(It is 100% optional, like extra credit) If you're the type that likes to go above and beyond and you know plenty of sorority alumni, then you also can ask for a letter of support written on your behalf in addition to the reference.

The alumna will write about your character, and talents, and will endorse you as a potential member of her sorority.

SHOULD I GET A LETTER OF SUPPORT?

The most important document to have is a reference. Some chapters can't offer a bid to you without a reference/RIF on file.

It makes things much easier if you already have a reference on file before recruitment starts. This also puts your name and face in front of the chapter before others, so they can learn more about you and match you up with an active member that has common interests as you do for the parties during recruitment.