



Common terms:

- ◆ **Alumna** – a sorority member who is no longer a member of a collegiate chapter.
- ◆ **Bid** – an invitation to join a sorority.
- ◆ **Bid Day** – the last day of recruitment when potential new members receive invitations (bids) to join chapters.
- ◆ **Chapter** – a membership unit of an inter/national sorority.
- ◆ **Charter** – the official document recognizing a chapter's status by the inter/national sorority.
- ◆ **College Panhellenic Association** – the cooperative campus organization of all collegiate members of NPC member organizations and associate members on a campus.
- ◆ **College Panhellenic Council** – the governing body of a campus College Panhellenic Association. Each member chapter of the College Panhellenic Association chooses a delegate to sit on the College Panhellenic Council.
- ◆ **College Panhellenic Executive Board** – the officers of a College Panhellenic Association responsible for running the day-to-day business of the College Panhellenic Association.
- ◆ **Continuous open bidding (COB)** – an opportunity for chapters that do not reach quota during primary recruitment to bid to quota and/or for chapters that are not at total to bid to total. The COB process is not structured by the College Panhellenic, and only chapters with available spaces in quota/total are eligible to participate in COB.
- ◆ **Delegate** – the official representative of each NPC chapter to the College Panhellenic Council.
- ◆ **Dues** – cost of joining a sorority; generally covers chapter operations, events and activities.

- ◆ **House director/mother** – a person hired to live in the chapter house and manage the facility.
- ◆ **Initiation** – a ritual ceremony that brings new members into full membership of a sorority including its lifelong benefits. Once a woman is initiated into an NPC sorority, she is ineligible for membership in any other NPC sorority.
- ◆ **Intentional single preference** – when a woman lists only one chapter on her membership recruitment acceptance binding agreement (MRABA) following preference round but attended more than one preference event.
- ◆ **Inter/national or executive office (“headquarters”)** – a term referring to the central organization of a given sorority.
- ◆ **Legacy** – a daughter, sister or granddaughter of an initiated member of a sorority. Each NPC member organization has its own definition of and invitation policies regarding this.
- ◆ **Membership recruitment acceptance binding agreement (MRABA)** – the binding agreement signed by a potential new member following the final preference event she attends during primary recruitment.
- ◆ **National Panhellenic Conference (NPC)** – the umbrella organization for 26 inter/national sororities.
- ◆ **New member** – a woman who accepted a bid from a sorority but is not yet an active member of a chapter.
- ◆ **New member educator** – the officer in each chapter charged with educating new members about the values, history, standards and expectations of the organization.
- ◆ **Newly established** – an NPC member sorority’s status on a campus before being installed and receiving a charter.
- ◆ **Philanthropy** – a specific organization or cause to which members donate volunteer hours and money.
- ◆ **Pin/badge** – an insignia of fraternity or sorority membership worn by initiated members.
- ◆ **Potential new member (PNM)** – any woman who is eligible to participate in recruitment
- ◆ **Preference** - the final round of primary recruitment.
- ◆ **Quota** – the number of potential new members to which each chapter can offer bids during primary recruitment.

- ◆ **Recommendation** – a form completed by a member of a sorority, recommending a potential new member for membership.
- ◆ **Recruitment** – a period of time during which events are held by each sorority for the purpose of selecting new members; recruitment is organized and implemented by the College Panhellenic.
- ◆ **Recruitment Event** – each chapter a PNM visits during a round of recruitment is an event.
- ◆ **Recruitment Round** – a round is a day or days during recruitment when you visit a specific number of chapters; rounds typically have a theme, some examples of names you may hear a round called are 8-event round, open house round, philanthropy round or preference round.
- ◆ **Release** – when a PNM's stated willingness to receive an invitation or bid from a chapter does not match with that organization's list of PNMs invited to its recruitment event or membership.
- ◆ **Ritual** – sacred and inspirational ceremonies used to inspire and educate members about the values of the organization.
- ◆ **Snap bidding** – an option available to chapters that did not match to quota during bid matching. This process takes place before bids are distributed. This only applies to potential new members who withdraw from primary recruitment before signing the membership recruitment acceptance binding agreement (MRABA) and/or were not matched in the bid-matching process.
- ◆ **Social** – a get-together with another group for a party, dinner or other fun occasion.
- ◆ **Sorority** – a Greek-letter sisterhood; NPC refers to all its member organizations, regardless of formal title, as sororities.
- ◆ **Strict silence** – the period of time after the close of preference events and prior to the distribution of bids when there is no communication between potential new members and sorority women.
- ◆ **Total** – the allowable chapter size on a campus, as determined by the College Panhellenic, which includes both new and initiated members.