Social programming is as important to the health of your colony as professional programming. Many people may be surprised to hear that. The surprise usually comes when people are confused about what social programming is and why it is important.

A social program can include many types of activities, both structured and unstructured. It does not mean a keg party nor does it mean staying out until 3 am. The important thing to remember is the activities should cover a wide variety of interests so a majority of the colony will have activities that meet their tastes and preferences.

**Why is a good social program necessary?**
That is a fair question. There are two main reasons; it prepares students for social activities in the business world and it builds brotherhood and unity within the colony.

In today’s business society we encounter all sorts of company and non-company sponsored events. Being able to interact with peers, subordinates and supervisors appropriately is an integral part of proper business etiquette.

Brotherhood and unity are things that separate us from other business clubs and organizations. A well-planned social program builds these two foundations and makes for a stronger chapter. Colonies with a high degree of brotherhood and unity are more likely to be efficient, to complete more projects and to perform as a team. Below are some examples of activities for a social program and outline things to keep in mind during the planning stages.

Some examples of social programming include:

- Have a BLUE Breakfast one Saturday morning at a local restaurant.
- Have a film festival showing some cult classics like Rocky Horror Picture Show, Animal House, or any choosing of the colony.
- Have a family roundtable evening, where colonists bring pictures or other items and talk about their family.
- Have a game night, where everyone competes in different board or card games.
- Have a Pictionary competition with Delta Sigma Pi or some other organization.
- Go bowling.
- Have a cookout in the park.
- Go to a movie or a play.
- Road trips to other chapters.
- Participate in Intramurals.
- Have an awards banquet.

Remember, not everyone is going to attend every event. The idea is to offer a variety of events that will appeal to a variety of people.

**Who is responsible for the social program?**

Everyone in the colony is responsible for the program. Colonists have the responsibility of making suggestions for activities and attending activities whenever possible. However, the Social Chair and his or her committee are the people who are responsible for the planning and execution of the social program.
As a colony, the social program should be planned out for the entire colonization period. Once a chapter, the social program should be planned for an entire year at a time, like the professional program and the recruitment and pledge program. This is not to say that events cannot be added throughout the year. Attendance at social events is better if people can plan ahead and are aware of upcoming events.

To start planning the program
- Hold a brainstorming session or solicit ideas from the colony regarding activities they would like to do;
- Get together with the committee and discuss the events;
  - Questions to discuss during the meeting should include:
    - How many events per month do we want to have?
    - How are we going to pay for these events?
    - Are colonists going to pay part of the cost?
    - What types of events do we want to include?
    - Do we want to have events in conjunction with other groups?
- Put together a preliminary outline of events and budget
  - The executive committee will need this information as they take care of their responsibilities.
- Divide the events among the committee to finalize the information for the events
  - Is the site available?
  - What is the cost?
  - Are we scheduling an event at the same time as another committee’s activity?
- Finalize the schedule and budget; inform the executive committee and the finance committee of the event details; send a schedule of events to all the colonists.

What about alcohol?

During the colonization process all events must be alcohol-free. Refer to our Board of Directors’ Statement of Policy for a more detailed discussion on Risk Management.

Social Committee Objectives

**Month One**
- Establish a social committee
- Contact local chapters to establish relationships

**Month Two**
- Committee should host two social events
  - These events do not include socials involved with recruitment
- Host bonding activities at each meeting

**Month Three**
- Committee should host two social events
  - These events do not include socials involved with recruitment
- Host bonding activities at each meeting
- Update calendar of events
- Begin planning the following term’s events
  - Hold a brainstorming session to gauge members’ interests.

**Month Four**
- Committee should host one social event
- Plan the installation celebration
- Host bonding activities at each meeting
- Update calendar of events
- Begin planning the following term’s events
Hold a brainstorming session to gauge members’ interests

Post-Installation Objectives for All Committees

- Elect new officers and appoint committee chairs
- Conduct second goal setting retreat
- Open and close 100% of meetings according to ritual
- Hold weekly executive committee meetings prior to chapter meetings to plan and discuss upcoming activities and plan the agenda
- Attend regional or fraternity wide event
- Revise and update colony constitution and bylaws
- Continue regular reporting to the Regional Management Team
- Continue to structure all events to meet the values, vision and guiding principles of Alpha Kappa Psi
- Evaluate effectiveness of the committees and meetings with the chapter advisor concerning structure, Robert’s Rules, attendance, business and length
- All members are assigned to and actively participating in a committee. Committees include membership education, recruitment, alumni relations, scholarship, risk management, finance, brotherhood, social, community service, judicial and professional
- Committees meet at least twice a month and the Vice President of Administration holds regular committee chair meetings to plan and discuss upcoming activities
- Use Robert’s Rules of Order in all meetings and prepare and type an agenda for all members prior to the meeting
- Demonstrate continued service to the community and campus through altruistic events programmed in conjunction with philanthropic services
- Demonstrate continued growth in membership recruitment and retention
- Invite alumni to all recruitment events
- Encourage at least 90% of members to actively participate in recruitment events