

### Parents' FAQs for Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

#### What is Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Incorporated?

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated. is a private, not-for-profit organization whose purpose is to provide assistance and support through established programs in local communities throughout the world.

#### What are the benefits of becoming a member of Delta Sigma Theta?

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Incorporated Collegiate Chapters are rooted in sisterhood, scholarship and service. As a member, your daughter will be afforded numerous opportunities including that of leadership enhancement, programmatic development and community service implementation. Although your daughter is interested in seeking membership as a collegiate, one of the major benefits of Delta Sigma Theta is that membership is a lifetime commitment. The lifelong commitment your daughter will make through her Chapter can last long into her post-college years. Delta Sigma Theta has graduate chapters to join, national networks, and connections for its members to use for securing jobs and advancing careers, etc. Membership in an alumnae chapter can be a life-long experience that the member and the sorority enjoy together.

#### What is the process?

Women interested in Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. will have the opportunity to seek membership when the collegiate chapter announces a formal rush meeting will take place via fliers posted around campus. The Rush is the beginning of the Membership Intake Process for Delta Sigma Theta, and from there your daughter will have the opportunity to apply for membership. If accepted, your daughter will spend time learning more in-depth information about the organization, so once a member she can carry out the core mission and values of the organization.

Delta Sigma Theta recognizes that collegiate chapters are guest of the university for which the chapter resides. Therefore, the membership intake process and guidelines are determined and exercised under the governing documents of the organization, and the rules and regulation of the university.

#### Is there a financial obligation associated with membership?

Yes, there is a financial obligation associated with membership in Delta Sigma Theta. As a collegiate the initiation fees will cover two fiscal years of membership in the organization. The cost of membership varies by chapter and will be shared in full transparency during the Rush Meeting that you daughter will attend once she decides to seek membership.

#### What is the Delta Sigma Theta Policy on Hazing?

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated ("Delta") has a zero-tolerance hazing policy. The policy is embodied in numerous Delta documents that are disseminated to members, including the Constitution and Bylaws; the Code of Conduct; the Administrative Procedures Manual for Membership Intake; and the "no hazing" contract members are required to sign. The policy likewise is embodied in documents disseminated to applicants/prospective members, including the Applicants Rights and Responsibilities Statement ("no hazing contract), which all applicants are required to sign. The policy expressly prohibits all acts and forms of hazing, before, during and after the Membership Intake Process. The prohibition covers all hazing activities, whether physical, mental, or emotional, including, but not limited to, pre-initiation and/or underground activities (which is anything in addition to or contrary to approved activities); paddling; beating; slapping; blindfolding; pushing; depriving of sleep; pulling on clothes; pulling one's hair; requiring the consumption of alcohol or drugs; forcing or requiring the consumption of foods that an applicant/prospective member finds disagreeable; yelling; humiliating; harassing; belittling; cursing; any morally degrading, illegal, or indecent action; requiring applicants/prospective members or newly initiated members to perform housework or homework for members, or to "run errands."

Any member of Delta who participates in any form of hazing, or who is aware of hazing or allegations of hazing, and fails to report such shall be sanctioned, as summarized below and as provided in detail in Delta's Conduct of Conduct. Any applicant/prospective member who consents to hazing, who participates in hazing by allowing herself to be hazed, or who is aware of hazing, but fails to report it shall be barred from membership in Delta. For more information regarding the Anti-Hazing Policy of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., <u>click</u> here.

## Will I be able to remain in contact with my daughter during the membership intake process?

Absolutely! Communication with you daughter should never cease due to any membership intake activities of Delta Sigma Theta. If she has told you otherwise, we encourage you to contact the Regional Director in the region for which she is seeking membership to ensure that there is nothing happening outside of the prescribed membership intake process. There are somethings that your daughter may not be at liberty to discuss in detail with you such as our ritualistic ceremonies and meetings. However, they should not be confused with hazing and other inappropriate activities, and should you have any questions or concerns you should contact the Regional Director as stated above.

#### Will my daughter's grades be affected as a member of Delta Sigma Theta?

Delta Sigma Theta requires its members to maintain at least a 2.75 GPA. Some parents worry that the extra social events and responsibilities of being in a sorority might take away from their student's time for academics. Being a sorority member is a time commitment, but one of the core values of sororities is scholastic excellence. Delta Sigma Theta maintains a certain grade point average that members must maintain throughout their college experience. If members do not meet this requirement, chapters offer resources to members to receive assistance. Often chapters organize incentives and awards for the most improved GPAs or the best GPAs. Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. promotes the importance of a quality education, and academic excellence is a priority.

# As a parent, what role do I have in my Daughter's interest in Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc.?

As a parent we know that there may be a level hesitation when it comes to your daughter's interest in Delta Sigma Theta. We encourage you to ask questions. Get the answers you need so that your mind can be at ease with the decision of your daughter.

- Keep an open mind: You should not base your opinions of Delta Sigma Theta on some of the movies and television shows that have been created to portray Greek Life in a certain manner.
- For Collegiate Applicants we have a portion on the application for Parents/Guardians Acknowledgement Form (Please ask your child about this documentation
- Collegiate Applicants/members must be continuously enrolled as students throughout the entire membership intake process.
- Delta Sigma Theta has a Zero Tolerance Policy for any kind of hazing.
- Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Incorporated takes the education of your daughter serious, and there is an expectation that your daughter will keep her GPA at or above a 2.75.
- Communicate with your daughter. Ask questions about things that you may think are abnormal.
- Trust your daughter. Allow her to show her maturity, strength and benevolence. You raised her, know that she is capable of making the right decisions.
- Ask questions to the Regional Director of the region that your daughter resides if you are seeking further guidance on a matter related to your daughter and her process. The contact information for each Regional Director below:

**National President & CEO** *Beverly E. Smith* 

Director, Central Region Dr. Felicia C. Echols centralrd@deltasigmatheta.org

Director, Eastern Region Rosie Allen-Herring easternrd@deltasigmatheta.org

Director, Farwest Region Tracy Ricard Aikens farwestrd@deltasigmatheta.org

Director, Midwest Region Sarahjini Nunn Spencer midwestrd@deltasigmatheta.org **National First Vice President** *Cheryl Hickmon* 

**Director, South Atlantic Region** *Patricia Johnson* southatlanticrd@deltasigmatheta.org

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