

The Weight of Hazing

NATIONAL HAZING PREVENTION WEEK 2021 CONVERSATION STARTER

In this document, questions to ask and points to make verbatim are in **bold**. Notes and instructions for facilitators are in *italics*.

CHAPTER DISCUSSION

Hazing continues to be a societal problem in the United States with the primary focus being on college students. 47% of students arriving on college campuses have already experienced hazing and 69% of students have reported being aware of hazing occurring in student organizations other than their own. Proponents of hazing behaviors have argued that hazing promotes a sense of unity and accomplishment while ignoring the documented proof that the overwhelming majority of students do not cite these as an outcome of their hazing experience (Allan & Madden, 2008).

While some hazing definitions are broad, hazing is not difficult to identify and should be taken seriously regardless of how subtle or innocent it may be perceived to be. We know that subtle acts of hazing can be an indicator of a larger problem and that tolerance of such acts enables the perpetrator to go further. The negative and tangible impacts of hazing will always outweigh any perception of positive outcomes. We have a duty to report all hazing for the safety of our communities.

- **What are your initial thoughts about the poster?**
- **What are some examples of subtle hazing?**
Suggestions: social isolation, name calling, expecting certain items to be in one's possession at all times, forced to run errands, etc.
- **What outcome (or weight) of hazing do you feel is not represented on the poster?**
- **How can we report hazing on our campus?**
- **How can we report hazing within our organization?**
- **What is our organization's definition of hazing?**
- **What is our college's/university's definition of hazing?**
- **How do they differ from one another? How are they similar?**

Ultimately, any steps toward reduced harm and risks are steps in the right direction. Finally, remember: Your headquarters staff is here to help. If you have concerns about

specific practices that you are unsure about, we are happy to help you either improve it, find alternatives or clarify policy. There are also other resources provided below that can help if you are a witness to another organization's hazing practices.

HAZING REPORTING RESOURCES

- The [Greek Anti-Hazing Hotline](#) provides an anonymous telephone line for anyone to report a suspected or recent hazing incident to 888-NOT-HAZE (888-668-4293).
- To report hazing within Alpha Chi Omega, please contact Alpha Chi Omega headquarters at 317-579-5050 or collegiateexperience@alphachiomega.org.
- Contact your campus fraternity/sorority life office, student conduct or campus security to report hazing in your local community.
- To report hazing involving another organization or sports team on your campus, contact your student conduct office.

REFERENCES

Allan, E., & Madden, M. (2008). Hazing in view: College students at risk. Initial findings from the National Study of Student Hazing. Retrieved from <http://www.hazingstudy.org>.