

Big “H” and Little “h” Hazing

NATIONAL HAZING PREVENTION WEEK 2022 CONVERSATION STARTER

There is no shortage of excuses that try to justify hazing. 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a sense of unity and accomplishment while ignoring the documented proof that the overwhelming majority of students do not cite these as an outcome of their hazing experience (Allan & Madden, 2008). This year’s National Hazing Prevention Week (NHPW) conversation starter aims to educate members on hazing behaviors as illegal activity based on evolving state laws.

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

CHAPTER DISCUSSION

The terms big “H” and little “h” hazing have been used to define different levels of severity when it comes to hazing. Big “H” hazing is often used to describe acts of hazing that cause physical or immediate harm. Some may define big “H” hazing as the type of hazing that ends up in the news. Little “h” hazing describes acts that some may believe do not cause harm or their harm is not immediately noticed. Examples of little “h” hazing could include required errands, embarrassing outfits or treating individuals as if they have a lesser status in an organization.

While at face value some of these activities may not seem harmful, we know they have a detriment on the ability to build lifelong connections. Both big “H” and little “h” hazing have no place in our organization. They are also illegal. To learn more about your state’s anti-hazing law(s) and your duty to report, visit stophazing.org.

What are your initial thoughts about the poster?

Allow members to respond.

What are some examples of little “h” hazing?

Little “h” hazing, also known as subtle hazing, may include social isolation, name calling, required silence periods, being made to run errands, etc.

What is our organization’s definition of hazing?

Alpha Chi Omega defines hazing as any reckless or intentional act that produces physical, mental or emotional pain, discomfort, humiliation, embarrassment or ridicule, regardless of a person’s willingness to participate, that is required or expected of a member and that is not related to the Fraternity’s mission. This includes any activity, whether it is presented as optional or required, that places a member in a position of servitude as a condition of membership.

What is our college’s/university’s definition of hazing?

Locate your college’s/university’s hazing definition on your Student Contact or Student Life Office webpage.

How do the two definitions differ from one another? How are they similar?

Allow members to respond.

CONCLUSION

Ultimately, any steps toward reduced harm and risks are steps in the right direction. Alpha Chi Omega headquarters staff is here to help. If you have concerns about specific practices that you are unsure about, we are happy to help you improve them, find alternatives and/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

If you have concerns about events or activities you have witnessed, experienced or taken part in, don’t ignore it – report it.

- Call 911 for an immediate response if you or someone else is in danger.
- [The Anti-Hazing Hotline](#) is an 24/7 anonymous telephone line for anyone to report a suspected or recent hazing incident to 1-888-NOT-HAZE (1-888-668-4293).
- Reach out to your campus fraternity/sorority life office, student conduct or campus security to report hazing practices involving an organization, sports team, student group or individual in your community.
- Contact Alpha Chi Omega at 317-579-5050 or [email us](#) to report hazing within our organization.

REFERENCES

Allan, E., & Madden, M. (2008). *Hazing in view: College students at risk. Initial findings from the National Study of Student Hazing.*

StopHazing. (n.d.). *States with Anti-Hazing Laws.* StopHazing Consulting.
<https://stophazing.org/policy/state-laws>