

# Hazing Doesn't Build Community

## NATIONAL HAZING PREVENTION WEEK 2023 CONVERSATION STARTER

Healthy sisterhood involves building each other up rather than tearing one another down. Hazing is an unhealthy and unproductive way to attempt to bring members closer together and can cause real harm to members in our chapters, on campus and in our communities. This year's National Hazing Prevention Week (NHPW) conversation starter shares how hazing is a barrier to an inclusive membership experience and ways to create positive connections as real, strong women.

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

### CHAPTER DISCUSSION

A common misconception about hazing is that it can help bring people together as a result of a shared experience. Despite there being a mountain of evidence to the contrary, this misconception is often cited as an excuse by both perpetrators and victims of hazing. Perpetrators argue that hazing is needed so that new members can earn their respect and a place in the organization. But they don't recognize that the more common outcome is that they isolate their victims and lose their respect. Victims may think that hazing will create solidarity among their new member class, but that solidarity comes with divisions between new member classes and a hierarchy that damages and limits the group's ability to build trustworthy, authentic relationships.

We all have a duty to report hazing when it occurs, but we can also do more to prevent it from happening. This can start with a conversation about what hazing is, and what its negative consequences are. According to [StopHazing.org](https://stophazing.org) hazing is any activity expected of someone joining or participating in a group that humiliates, degrades, abuses or endangers them, regardless of a person's willingness to participate. The [Hazing Prevention Network](https://hazingprevention.org) provides a list of [consequences](#) for both victims and perpetrators of hazing. What is notable is that the list illustrates that the desired outcomes, that are often cited as a benefit of hazing, do not occur and the opposite outcome is more likely. Hazing

erodes the foundation of our organizations, preventing us from building strong brotherhoods, sisterhoods and communities and ultimately our sense of belonging.

### **What are your initial thoughts about the poster?**

*Allow members to respond.*

### **How can we build strong communities/brotherhood/sisterhood without hazing?**

- Host a movie night
- Attend a concert
- Plan a sisterhood activity
- Go to an athletic event
- Complete a service projects
- Organize study hours
- Invite a guest speaker

### **How can we report hazing on our campus?**

- [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).
- [Hazing Prevention Network](#) provides an online hazing report form to submit hazing concerns anonymously. The more details you can provide regarding the conduct the better it can be investigated.
- Contact 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.

### **How can we report hazing within our organization?**

Contact Alpha Chi Omega at 317-579-5050 or [email us](#) to report hazing within our organization.

### **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.

**What are the hazing laws in our state?**

Learn more about your [state hazing laws](#).

**How do they 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.

Remember: your headquarters staff are 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](#), established in 2007 by a consortium of national fraternities and sororities. The Hotline provides an anonymous telephone line for anyone to report a suspected or recent hazing incident to one number 1-888-NOT-HAZE (1-888-668-4293) that accepts calls 24 hours a day. The Hotline connects to a dedicated voice mailbox at Manley Burke, LPA. The calls are automatically saved as audio files that are then transmitted by e-mail to the headquarters of the fraternity or sorority named in the report. This is true whether or not the reports are about one of the sponsors or another organization. In some instances, reports are about athletic teams, bands or clubs. When those calls are received, the institution where the organization is located is contacted.

**REFERENCES:**

- Hazing Prevention Network. (2023, January). Hazing Facts.
- <https://hazingpreventionnetwork.org/hazing-facts/>
- Hazing Prevention Network. (2023, January). State Hazing Laws. <https://hazingpreventionnetwork.org/state-hazing-laws/>
- StopHazing Research Lab. (2020, December). *Hazing: The Issue*, StopHazing Consulting. <https://www.stophazing.org/issue>