



New Member Presentation (Probate Show)

ISSUED: May 30, 2024

EFFECTIVE: July 1, 2024

Warning: This directive is for AAMU student organizations participating in new member presentations, also referred to as probate shows.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that new member presentations are conducted in a manner that is appropriate and is the best representation of the organization and university.

POLICY

Organizations participating in new membership presentations (also known as “probates”) must adhere to the below guidelines:

- I. Presentation of new members must take place no more than 15 calendar days after the members have been initiated into the organization or by the membership intake completion deadline established by the Office of Student Activities & Leadership Development
- II. A copy of the reservation confirmation notice must be submitted to the Assistant Director for Programs and Greek Life or designee
- III. Presentations are to take place in the approved location on the reservation form
- IV. No explicit or revealing attire is to be worn by the new members or other show participants/performers.
- V. Only current chapter members or advisors are allowed to participate in the presentation
- VI. Disparaging comments about other organizations or use of foul language will not be tolerated.
- VII. Attendees and participants must adhere to the University’s policy on drugs and alcohol.
- VIII. No physical abuse will be tolerated. This includes, but is not limited to: slapping, kicking, spitting, punching, pushing, poking, caning, etc. Canes, staffs, sticks, etc. may be used as a part of the performance but may not be used as a weapon to harm another individual.
- IX. In the event of a fight during the presentation, those fighting will be disciplined immediately by the appropriate person (e.g., Coordinator for Fraternity/Sorority Life, graduate advisor, chapter president). If a member of the presenting organization is involved, the presentation show will be stopped immediately (see Violations section for further details).
- X. Disruptions by other attending organizations will not be tolerated. This includes, but is not limited to: walking through the presenters’ show, talking over the presenting organization, etc.
- XI. Presentations must begin no later than 8 p.m. and last no longer than 2 hours. Following the show, members of the presenting organization must vacate the area

- within 60 minutes to assist with crowd disbursement. The presenting organization will be responsible for ensuring the site used is left in its original state after use.
- XII. A Student Activities/Leadership Development staff member (professional or graduate) **MUST** attend all new member presentations. The presenting organization must coordinate the schedule with the staff member who will be present.

DEFINITIONS

Anchor - last person of the line

Call - a sound that is unique among organizations; used by members to recognize one another

Captain - person who is considered the leader of the line

Cat - term used to define an initiate who did not participate in a hazing process to become part of the organization

Dean of Pledges (DP) - overseer of the membership intake process

Graduate Advisor - supervises and advises the activities of the undergraduate chapter, and is a member of the undergraduate chapter's sponsoring Graduate Chapter; generally an unpaid volunteer Graduate Chapter - consists of college graduates who may have been initiated into an undergraduate chapter or a graduate chapter; sponsors the undergraduate chapter and oversees its activities

Informational - a meeting held by a chapter for prospective members who are seeking general information about the organization Intake - membership recruitment process

Interest Meeting - a formal meeting held by the organization for potential members that details the application process and rules of the organization; generally geared to potential members who have a serious interest

Jewel - a founder of an NPHC organization

Line Brothers/Sisters - individuals who are members of the same intake class

Neophyte - the newest members of an organization; also referred to as "Neos"; typically designated as such until another intake process occurs

Paper - a derogatory term used to refer to members who were not hazed during the intake process

Pearl - See "Jewel"

Probate - a show used to introduce new members of the organization Association of Fraternity Advisors: NPHC Membership Intake Guide 15

Prophyte - a member who has experienced at least one intake process as a member of an organization Rush / Tea - See "Interest Meeting"

Sands - individuals from different chapters who joined their respective organizations during the same semester

Session / Set - a descriptive name for a planned hazing activity at a certain location

Ship - people who are members of the same intake class

Skater - See "Paper"

Smoker - See "Interest Meeting"

Soror - term used to identify members of the same sorority; sometimes used to refer to any sorority woman

Special / Spesh - a mentoring relationship between a new member and an established chapter member; generally selected while the new member is going through the intake process; can also be used regionally to describe a person going through intake who shares the number of an initiated member

Step - a series of complex, synchronous, and precise rhythmic body movements performed to the tune of stomps, songs, or chants created by organization members

Tail - See “Anchor” Underground - term used to identify members who have participated in an illegal intake process and are not official members of the organization

Wood - a paddle; a term often used to describe hazing in which aspirants or new members are hit with a paddle by initiated members

SANCTIONS

Violations to this policy will result in an immediate cease and desist of the organization until a review process is conducted by the Office of Student Activities and Leadership Development. If the organization is found in violation of any of the policies, sanctions may include suspension of the organization, suspension of members (if the code of conduct is violated), a fine imposed on the chapter or community service, as deemed appropriate by the Director of Student Activities and Leadership Development.