



Getting to Know Initiates

Getting to know your Initiates is arguably one of the most important responsibilities of an Initiate Advisor. You are not only their guide throughout the Initiation Program, but you will also be one of their greatest advocates as they progress toward Induction. Here are a few things to consider as you get to know your Initiates:

Invest in Early Interactions

Getting to know the Initiates starts before the Initiation Program officially begins; it starts during Recruitment. The things you learn about Potential New Members will create a foundation for getting to know Initiates even better throughout the Initiation Program. Knowing each Initiate well will make matching Bigs and Littles, selecting committees for Initiates to join and navigating any obstacles that arise throughout the process much easier. Start making connections early so you can be a great mentor!

Create a Welcoming Environment

Think to a time when you were getting to know someone. What made you feel comfortable? What made you want to open up and share things about yourself? Keeping these things in mind will help you create an environment where the Initiates feel comfortable enough to allow you to get to know them.

Be Intentional About Activities

While getting to know the Initiates is an important part of your duties, there is a lot more that needs to be accomplished during this period of time. Having planned activities will help you accomplish everything on your list while making time for the fun, getting-to-know you moments as well. Ice breakers and role call questions are quick and easy ways to keep learning about one another each time you meet without taking too much time from other aspects of the program.

Partnering with the Recruitment Advisor to Get to Know Initiates

Establishing a partnership with your Chapter's Recruitment Advisor will help make the Initiation Program a success. After all, the RA has already gotten to know the Potential New Members during the Recruitment process. Working to develop a comprehensive process that starts with the first Invitational Meeting and extends through the Initiation Program to Induction will ensure that every Initiate feels welcomed and included. It's also important to ask meaningful questions during Recruitment and Initiation Program to get to know Initiates on a deeper level. Providing plenty of opportunities for Initiates to share who they are should be a primary goal of your Initiation Program, and the RA can help start that process early.