



Northwestern State University Anti-Hazing Policy

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that students at Northwestern State University are not subjected to any type of hazing when joining any student organization, fraternity or sorority, athletic team, performance group.

Definition of Hazing

Hazing is defined as: any action taken or situation created intentionally or unintentionally with or without consent - that endangers a student or creates risk of injury, produces mental or physical harm, embarrassment, harassment or ridicule whether on or off campus for the purpose of affiliation with, initiation into, or as a condition of continued membership in any student organization, performance group, or athletic team recognized by Northwestern State University.

Hazing Information

In accordance with the purpose and philosophy of The University of Louisiana System, Northwestern State University and the laws of the state of Louisiana, which include the belief that true fraternalism can be nurtured only in an atmosphere of social and moral responsibility and that hazing is inconsistent with the responsibility of recognized student organizations to conduct safe, constructive student education, and in order to eliminate the harmful practice of hazing in today's society, Northwestern State University adheres to the University of Louisiana System's policy on hazing. Section XXIV, and the Fraternity Executive Association's statement on hazing (also referred to herein as the Association or FEA Statement on Hazing).

Louisiana Law on Hazing

R.S. 1801 Hazing prohibited: Hazing in any form, or the use of any method on initiation into fraternal or any organizations in any education institution supported wholly or in part by public funds, which is likely to cause bodily danger or physical punishment to any student or other person attending any such institution is prohibited.

Fraternity Executive Association (FEA) Statement on Hazing

The association defines hazing as any action taken or situation created, intentionally, whether on or off fraternity premises, to produce mental or physical discomfort, embarrassment, harassment or ridicule. Such activities and situations include paddling in any form; creation of excessive fatigue; physical and psychological shocks; quests, treasure hunts, scavenger hunts, road trips or any other such activities carried on, regardless of location; wearing, publicly, apparel which is conspicuous and not normally in good taste; engaging in public stunts and buffoonery; morally degrading or humiliating games and activities, late work sessions which interfere with scholastic activities and any other activities which are not consistent with fraternal law, ritual or policy or the regulations and policies of the education institution. NSU has adapted this policy for all student organizations.

It's Hazing

The following activities are unproductive and create hazardous situations – and have at one time or another been construed as acts of hazing. The list is not inclusive of all possible hazing violations. If in doubt about a current organizations practice or tradition ... Ask!!!!

- Assigning “pranks” such as stealing, defacing property, and harassing other organizations.
- Yelling, screaming or use of obscenities at new members
- Scavenger Hunts
- Intimidation, threats and verbal hostility
- Sexually degrading activities, including stripping, simulation of sexual acts or sexually explicit cheers, chants and songs
- Pressuring an individual to get a brand, tattoo, or to shave his/her head
- Personal servitude of any kind
- Requirements that financially take advantage of a new member
- Any action or situation which subjugates an individual to a condition where he/she might tend to lose self-respect or suffer injury to personal or religious values
- The use of obscenities and vulgarities in dress, language or action
- The keeping of pledge books and/or forcing an individual to acquire member's or alumni's signatures
- Requiring calisthenics such as sit ups, pushups, runs or other forms of physically abusive exercise
- Morally degrading or humiliating games or any other activities that makes an individual the object of ridicule, amusement or intimidation
- Transporting individuals against their will, abandoning individuals at distant locations, or any other type of activity that might endanger or compromise the health, safety or comfort of an individual
- Forcing or requiring consumption of alcoholic beverages or any type of drugs
- Compelling individuals to engage in drinking games
- Forcing or requiring the consumption of distasteful food or other substances (raw eggs, insects, etc.)
- Paddle swats
- Restraining individuals or intentionally exposing them to extreme temperature, exposure to the elements or uncomfortable surroundings
- Conducting activities that interfere with an individual's academic efforts by causing exhaustion, loss of sleep, or loss of reasonable study time
- Activities that interfere with or prevent an individual from attending class
- Partial or total nudity at any time
- “Line-Ups” of any type
- Compelling individuals to wear or carry unusual or burdensome items
- Writing on members or on their clothes
- Activities which call for blindfolding, confinement, jumping from heights and other potentially dangerous activities
- Required road trips and kidnapping of associated or members
- Excluding an individual from social contact for any period of time

Where Hazing Begins

Still confused about hazing activities? Ask yourself these questions about each activity conducted by your organization:

1. Would I feel comfortable participating in this activity if my parents were watching?
2. Would I share this information with the Dean of Students?
3. Could I defend this activity to the University President? A Judge?
4. Am I being asked to keep these activities a secret?
5. Am I doing anything illegal?
6. Does this activity promote the ideals and values of the organization?
7. Is it causing emotional distress or stress of any kind to me or others?

Hazing Alternatives

Student organizations and activities should focus on the positive aspects of being involved on campus. When students join an organization they expect to find their “niche” on campus, make friends and learn new skills. Consider the following alternatives for engaging members and creating positive traditions for your organization:

- Develop leadership skills – involve all members in organizational committees and service events
- Get involved with NSU – encourage members to serve on Student Life Committees
- Participate in team building exercises such as ropes courses, organization retreats and sporting events
- Serve the community – identify and host an annual signature community service or philanthropic event
- Take advantage of campus resources and established programs
- Participate in group activities at the Wellness, Recreational and Activity Center (WRAC), Intramurals and the Recreational Complex
- Engage students with faculty members – invite faculty/staff members to conduct educational seminars and programs
- Introduce your members to other campus organizations
- Explore the Natchitoches community and connect with civic and nonprofit charitable organizations

Anti-Hazing Resources

www.hazingprevention.org The website provides information on hazing prevention and awareness programs. A comprehensive listing of additional hazing resources can be found in the Resource Library and Links sections.

- **National Hazing Prevention Week:** Observed during the last week of September to help educate students, parents and others about dangers of hazing and effective prevention methods.
- **National Anti-Hazing Hotline:** The Anti-Hazing Hotline number is **1.888.NOT.HAZE (1.888.668.4293)** and is in operation around the clock, every day of the year. The caller will be connected with a voice-mail service at the office of Manley Burke, a law firm in Cincinnati that publishes Fraternal Law. The law firm will forward reports of alleged hazing to the appropriate fraternity or sorority, whether or not it is a sponsor of the hotline, and will notify the authorities, if required by law.

Signature _____ Date _____