

III | NORTHWESTERN STATE



NATIONAL PAN-HELLENIC COUNCIL

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NPHC WEEK

Each semester the NSU National Pan-Hellenic Council hosts NPHC Week to promote the unity, share information, engage in service, and to have fun.

NPHC Week typically features the following, though each semester can look different:



Unity Church Service - NPHC Week typically kicks off with a church service with a local congregation to bring the organizations together and set the tone for a week of unity and collaboration.



Informational - Learn about each of the 7 NPHC chapters here at NSU by finding out more about their history, purpose, and membership intake process.



Mixer - Each chapter showcases the culture of their organization through stepping and strolling. Organization members move together in a line expressing pride for their organization. In this line, members may express their pride through the use of their organization's call sign, or historical information, ritual/custom dances, etc. All of this is done through movements that are unique to a particular organization.



Wild Out Wednesday/Turn Up Thursday - Getting adjusted to college can be a challenge. Come chill with the members of NPHC and fellow NSU students and take a break from class while enjoying some food and music.



Service Event - Service is a vital part of the NPHC experience. The council hosts a service event on campus or in the Natchitoches community each semester in order to give back and live up to the values of their member organizations.



Field Day - Join the 7 NSU NPHC chapters for an afternoon of fun and field day games. This is an excellent opportunity to see the chapter members interact with each other in a relaxed, fun setting and to get to know the NPHC community better.



NPHC Tailgate - The NPHC usually hosts a council tailgate at the first home football game as the Demons take on their opponents in Turpin Stadium.



NORTHWESTERN STATE

WHAT IS NPHC?

The National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC) is a collaborative umbrella organization composed of historically African American fraternities and sororities. The nine NPHC Greek-letter organizations are sometimes collectively referred to as the "Divine Nine (D9). The member/partner organizations have not formally adopted nor recommended the use of this term to describe their collaborative grouping.

The National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC) was founded on May 10, 1930 at Howard University in Washington, DC. The chartering organizations were: Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

In 1931, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., and Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., joined the council, followed by Sigma Gamma

Rho Sorority, Inc. in 1937. Iota Phi Theta Fraternity, Inc. joined the NPHC as its ninth (9th) affiliate member in 1997.

Here at NSU, the purpose of the local NPHC is to:

- Create and maintain high standards in the life of fraternities and sororities.
- Perpetuate constructive fraternity and sorority relationships.
- Foster an understanding of the structure and method of operation among the affiliate organizations.
- Address, coordinate, and develop action strategies on matters of mutual concern to the affiliate organizations.
- To make every available effort to create Greek unity and harmony through the promotion of trust, respect, and teamwork between each member organization.

WHY NPHC FRATERNITIES & SORORITIES MATTER

- Each of the nine (9) NPHC organizations evolved during a period when African Americans were being denied essential rights and privileges afforded others. Racial isolation on predominantly white campuses and social barriers of class on all campuses created a need for African Americans to align themselves with other individuals sharing common goals and ideals.
- With the realization of such a need, the African American (Black) Greek-lettered organization movement took on the personae of a haven and outlet, which could foster brotherhood and sisterhood in the pursuit to bring about social change through the development of social programs that would create positive change for Blacks and the country. Today the need remains the same.
- The primary purpose and focus of NPHC member organizations remains

community awareness and action through educational, economic, and cultural service activities.

- Greek membership goes beyond your collegiate experience.
- "This is a Lifetime Commitment!" The individual member is expected to align with a graduate/alumni chapter, following graduation from college, with the expectation that he/she will attend regular chapter meetings, regional conferences and national conventions, and take an active part in matters concerning and affecting the community in which he or she lives.
- NPHC promotes interaction through forums, meetings and other mediums for the exchange of information and engages in cooperative programming and initiatives through various activities and functions.



HOW TO JOIN

Students interested in joining an NPHC fraternity or sorority will participate in a process known as intake. Members must have an established GPA at Northwestern State University, so students cannot join until after their first semester, at the earliest.

Each chapter conducts its own intake process, which is not always held each semester, under the guidance of their international organization. Students should attend Greek Life and NPHC informationals as well as NPHC and chapter hosted events to learn about each fraternity and sorority as well as their requirements and the process of joining and going through the intake process. It is highly encouraged that you research each fraternity and sorority carefully, attend their events, and engage with their members to determine which chapter could be the best fit for you.

Each NPHC organization has a GPA, earned credit hour, and enrollment requirement for membership. All NPHC chapters require an established NSU GPA of at least one semester. Some require more. Fraternities and sororities will host informationals where prospective members can learn more about the organization to determine if they would like to pursue membership. Here

you will learn things such as the history and values of the organization, the application process, the selection process, membership requirements, membership costs, and details about the intake process.

Here are some tips to help you prepare to join the NPHC chapter of your choice:

- **Earn the Grades** - You want to be sure to have a solid academic start to your time here at Northwestern State University. Focus on exceeding the minimum GPA requirement for the organization you are interested in joining.
- **Get to Know the Members and the Organization** - Whether you are very knowledgeable about Greek life or know nothing at all, it is very important that you take the time to get to know the members of the NPHC community and of the organization you are wanting to join. Attend NPHC and chapter events and interest meetings to find the best fit for you and to learn more about their values and membership requirements. Be sure to be yourself when meeting the members. You can see when events will be hosted by looking for flyers on campus and checking each chapters' social media.



- **Learn More** - You will want to be as knowledgeable about each chapter as possible. Do your research. In addition to talking with members, you can visit the websites of each organization to learn more about their history, values, initiatives, noteworthy members, and other important information necessary to helping you make your decision. There are also several books available on the history of Black Greek Letter Organizations and specific NPHC fraternities and sororities.
- **Participate in Service** - Giving back to the community is an important part of culturally based Greek letter organizations. Chapters host service events and volunteer their time frequently to causes and areas of need in their communities. Try to find at least one organization on campus or in the community where you can spend time volunteering and participating in service projects.
- **Letters of Recommendation** - Many NPHC organizations require letters of recommendation to be considered for membership. Be sure to develop key

relationships with mentors, employers, professors, school administrators, or members of the organization in order to earn a favorable letter of recommendation to join.

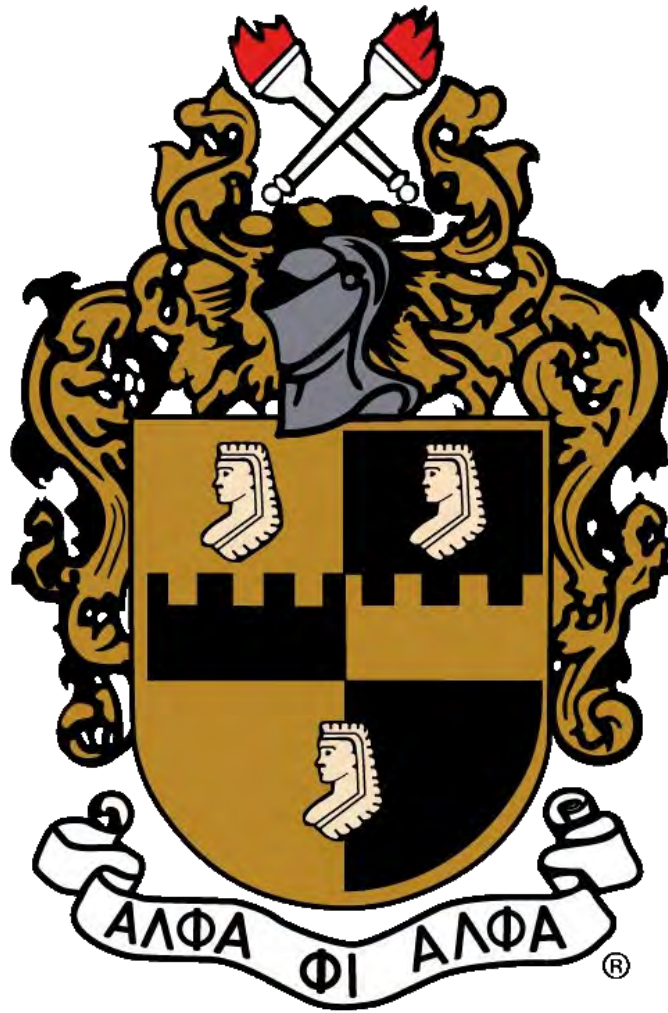
- **Involvement & Leadership** - NPHC organizations are also looking for members who are involved on campus and in their communities. You will need to find organizations at NSU or your community to join to be an active and engaged participant or leader.
- **Stay Engaged** - NPHC fraternities and sororities utilize social media a great deal to promote their events and programs. Being engaged and aware of what is going on in the NPHC community is a great way to stay connected and to learn more about the organization you may be interested in joining.

Joining an NPHC chapter at Northwestern State is a journey. Be sure to take your time, learn as much as possible, and have fun along the way!



ALPHA PHI ALPHA

Theta Chi Chapter



1906 | CORNELL UNIVERSITY

A Φ A

NATIONAL FOUNDING DATE

December 4, 1906

NSU CHARTERING DATE

November 16, 1973

MOTTO

"First of All, Servants of All, We Shall Transcend All"

SYMBOL

Sphinx

COLORS

Black & Old Gold

FLOWER

Yellow Rose

 apa1906.net

 [thetachialphas](https://www.instagram.com/thetachialphas)



ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA

Eta Chi Chapter



1908 | HOWARD UNIVERSITY

AKA

NATIONAL FOUNDING DATE

January 15, 1908

NSU CHARTERING DATE

October 13, 1973

MOTTO

"By Culture and By Merit "

SYMBOL

Ivy Leaf

COLORS

Salmon Pink & Apple Green

FLOWER

Pink Tea Rose



aka1908.com



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KAPPA ALPHA PSI

Theta Lambda Chapter



1911 | INDIANA UNIVERSITY

K A Ψ

NATIONAL FOUNDING DATE	January 5, 1911
NSU CHARTERING DATE	October 18, 1975
MOTTO	"Achievement in Every Field of Human Endeavor"
SYMBOL	Diamond
COLORS	Crimson & Cream
FLOWER	Red Carnation
 kappaalphapsi1911.com  thetalambdanupes	



OMEGA PSI PHI

Theta Delta Chapter



1911 | HOWARD UNIVERSITY

Ω Ψ Φ

NATIONAL FOUNDING DATE	November 17, 1911
NSU CHARTERING DATE	May 20, 1972
MOTTO	"Friendship is Essential to The Soul"
SYMBOL	Lamp
COLORS	Royal Purple & Old Gold
FLOWER	Red Carnation
 oppf.org  thetadelta_bruhz	



DELTA SIGMA THETA

Iota Mu Chapter



1913 | HOWARD UNIVERSITY

Δ Σ Θ

NATIONAL FOUNDING DATE

January 13, 1913

NSU CHARTERING DATE

May 21, 1972

MOTTO

"Intelligence is the Torch
of Wisdom"

SYMBOL

Pyramid

COLORS

Crimson & Cream

FLOWER

African Violet



deltasigmatheta.org



nsula_deltas



PHI BETA SIGMA

Zeta Iota Chapter



1914 | HOWARD UNIVERSITY

ΦΒΣ

NATIONAL FOUNDING DATE	January 9, 1914
NSU CHARTERING DATE	November 13, 1973
MOTTO	"Culture for Service and Service for Humanity"
SYMBOL	Crescent
COLORS	Royal Blue & Pure White
FLOWER	White Carnation
 phibetasigma1914.org  nsu_sigmas	



ZETA PHI BETA

Xi Epsilon Chapter



1920 | HOWARD UNIVERSITY

Z Φ B

NATIONAL FOUNDING DATE	January 16, 1920
NSU CHARTERING DATE	May 10, 1974
MOTTO	"A Community-Conscious, Action-Oriented Organization"
SYMBOL	Dove
COLORS	Royal Blue & White
FLOWER	White Rose
 zphib1920.org  nsu_zetas	



IT'S ALL GREEK TO ME!

Active Member: a fully undergraduate member of a fraternity or sorority.

Alumni/Alumna: an initiated fraternity or sorority member who has completed their course of study and graduated from the university.

Badge: a membership pin, often jeweled, worn on clothing that indicates membership in a fraternity or sorority.

Bid: a formal invitation given by a chapter asking a prospective member to join the chapter.

Calls: a unique vocal expression attributed to an organization. Calls are special to members and should not be replicated by non-members.

Chapter: the local membership of an inter/national fraternal organization at a university.

College Panhellenic Council (CPC): the governing body for all sororities in the National Panhellenic Conference. NSU has 3 NPC affiliated sororities.

Colony: a fraternal membership that has received approval from the university and recognition from one of the governing councils but is in a trial period with their inter/national organization.

Continuous Open Bidding: an informal process of recruitment that some College Panhellenic chapters will engage in each academic year.

Crossing: a term used to indicate that a new member has been fully initiated into a group.

Fraternity: a Greek-letter brotherhood or siblinghood.

Greek: the name applied to affiliated fraternity and sorority members.

Hand Sign: a symbol or gesture made with the hands to signify an organization. Hand signs are special to members and should not be replicated by non-members.

Informational: a forum for individuals interested in seeking more information about a particular fraternity or sorority.

Interfraternity Council (IFC): the governing body for our 7 men's fraternities; many groups are members of the North-American Interfraternity Conference.

Initiation/Activation: the traditional ritual or formal ceremony of induction that marks the transition to full membership in a fraternity or sorority.

Legacy: a prospective member whose grandparents, mother/father or sister/brother is an alumni of a fraternity or sorority.

Line: group of individuals going through the membership intake process. Another term is new member class.

Membership Intake Process (MIP): a process by which interested persons become members of NPHC organizations. Generally characterized by an informational meeting, an application process, an interview or series of interviews, and an educational process.

National Panhellenic Conference (NPC): an organization composed of 26 member women's sororities. NSU has 3 affiliated sororities.

National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC): a national governing organization of nine historically African-American fraternities and sororities. Northwestern State University has a local council to help govern the chapters represented on campus. The member organizations are sometimes referred to as the Divine Nine. NSU has 7 NPHC affiliated fraternities and sororities.

Neophyte (Neo): a term some organizations use to refer to a new member of a sorority or fraternity.

New Member: a prospective member from the time the member accepts a bid to affiliate until the time the member is initiated. Each organization and council use a variety of terms to identify their new members as new members.

New Member Presentation: a presentation where new members of NPHC organizations present themselves as initiated members of their organizations to the campus community.

New Member Program: the education and resources chapters provide top new members to help them be successful in the organization and in the classroom. Typically, chapters teach about the history and values of the organization.

North-American Interfraternity Conference (NIC): an organization composed of more than 70 national member men's fraternities. The local Interfraternity Council is affiliated with the NIC and has 7 member fraternities.

Paraphernalia: articles of clothing, accessories, props, or jewelry that a member may wear or possess that shows pride in their organization.

Philanthropy: a charitable fundraiser sponsored by a fraternity or sorority.

Potential Members: undergraduate students interested in becoming a member of a fraternity or sorority.

Recruitment: the continual process of encouraging men and women to become members to join the fraternity and sorority community.

Sorority: a Greek-letter sisterhood or siblinghood.

Strolling: organization members move together in a line expressing pride for their organization. In this line, members may express their pride through the use of their organization's call, sign, or historical information, ritual/custom dances, etc. All of this is done through movements that are unique to a particular organization and should not be mimicked.



HEALTH & SAFETY

Northwestern State University is committed to ensuring that the joining and membership processes for our fraternities and sororities are safe. Your experience should be about connecting with your fellow students in an environment that is supportive, welcoming, respectful, and free from harm.

Things you should be aware of are:

- Your health and safety should NEVER be endangered when joining a fraternity or sorority.
- You should always be treated with dignity and respect as a new member or aspirant when joining a student organization and when maintaining membership.
- The joining process should be educational and focused towards developing you into a productive and contributing member of the organization.
- You should know what all of the expectations and requirements of membership are and what activities are part of the joining and new member process.
- Northwestern State prohibits discrimination and sexual misconduct on the basis of sex, which includes sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, stalking, and coercion. (See TITLE IX contact information)
- Alcohol has no place in the joining or new member process for a fraternity or sorority. Organizations who violate this will be sanctioned. Students who violate this may be sent to the Office of Student Conduct.
- Hazing is illegal in the state of Louisiana and against the policies of all fraternities and sororities and Northwestern State University.
- You must report hazing if it takes place.
- You must seek help for anyone injured due to hazing.
- There are penalties for those who haze including expulsion from the university, fines up to \$10,000, and imprisonment with or without hard labor for up to five years.

Fraternities and sororities are values based, membership development organizations that build life-long connections through character enhancement, leadership development, academic achievement, commitment to service, community involvement, life-long friendship and social experiences. Harmful or dangerous activities have no place in our organizations or our campus.

If you feel there are components to your joining or membership process that do not align with our values or that puts your mental or physical health and safety at risk, please contact the Office of Greek Life immediately at greeklife@nsula.edu or seek medical assistance by calling 911.

RESOURCES

HOTLINES

NATIONAL ANTI-HAZING HOTLINE:

(888) NOT-HAZE – (888) 668-4293

NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION HOTLINE:

1-800-273-8255

CRISIS TEXT LINE: 24/7, nationwide crisis-intervention text-message hotline.

Text START to 741-741.

NORTHWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY POLICE: (318) 357-5431

COUNSELING SERVICES: (318) 357-5621

TITLE IX: 318-357-5570

HEALTH SERVICES: (318) 357-5351

OFFICE OF GREEK LIFE: (318) 357-5439

DEAN OF STUDENTS: (318) 357-5285



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NATIONAL PAN-HELLENIC COUNCIL

 nsula.edu/greeklife |    /NSULAGreekLife |  /NSULA_NPHC