Big Brother Program
(Roles, Responsibilities, Selection)

Big Brother’s Role and Responsibilities

Each Associate Member is assigned a Big Brother from the chapter, preferably an upperclassman. The Big/Little relationship is a personal one. The former is neither a preacher nor master, but instead, assumes the role of advisor, guide, confidant, and mentor. It is a relationship that will last for life.

Where used properly, this system strengthens the chapter’s willingness to assume responsibility for others and makes for congeniality and solidarity. Also, as an advisor, the Big Brother is likely to be more conscious of his own behavior and conduct, realizing he is under almost constant scrutiny by his Little Brother.

Big Brother selection should be completed prior to the formal AM Pinning Ceremony so that the Big Brother can participate by pinning his Little. He should also attend the Big / Little brother orientation meeting at the beginning of the AM education program.

Minimum Standards for Big Brother Selection

- Candidates should have a minimum cumulative GPA of at least 2.5 (or otherwise in good academic standing, as defined by the chapter).
- Candidates must be in financial good standing with the chapter.
- Candidates must have a record of respect for chapter policies and a record of responsible behavior.

Big Brother selection and pairings should be made by the Membership Educator with input from the Chapter President (and Membership Education Committee, if utilized).

Most chapters have more members who want to be Big Brothers, than they have new members to assign Bigs to. Chapters are encouraged to be very selective and thoughtful in selecting Big Brothers, so that the very best, most successful and productive members of the chapter are afforded the honor of being assigned a Little Brother. The following sample rating scale provides a somewhat objective method for determining suitability for Big Brother assignment.
**Rating Candidates**

Rate each candidate on a 1-5 scale, with 5 being the highest. Big Brother selection should go to the members with the highest scores, or who meet a minimum score, as determined by the chapter.

1. Quality of the candidate (sincerity, good communication skills, positive role model, etc.)
2. Attitude (team player, enthusiastic, will give time to little brother)
3. Chapter Involvement (committees, meetings, chapter leadership)
4. GPA (standard is 2.5, rate on basis of 2.5 = 1 to 2.9 or higher = 5)
5. Knowledge (chapter & Fraternity history, policy, procedures Risk Management Policy, The Purpose)
6. Campus involvement (rate at 1 point per activity)

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TOTAL

Although the personalities of the Big and Little Brothers should be similar and compatible, **an effort should be made to avoid pairing individuals who may already be well acquainted or friendly with each other**. The goal is to have new members meet and interact with as many members as possible. Further, the shortcomings of friends are sometimes likely to be overlooked and, if unaddressed, can lead to problems for the Little Brother with other members of the chapter.

A Big Brother should sign a contract (see Sample Big Brother Contract, online at the Theta Xi website) that holds him accountable to the chapter, to his little brother, and to himself as a man of honor and integrity.

The contract should be signed prior to the AM Ceremony and kept on file by the chapter.