OBJECTIVE

This activity is a case study/scenario approach to some typical ethics/values issues in the life of a fraternity chapter. The activity encourages participants to connect the issues revealed in the scenarios with the Theta Xi Statement of Position on Fraternity Values. (Appropriate for a retreat setting, or a chapter workshop on values and ethical decision making.)

SUPPLIES NEEDED
Copies of the case studies/scenarios (below)
Copy of the Statement of Position on Fraternity Values (below; also available on the Fraternity website and in The Quest)

INSTRUCTIONS:
Explain that the scenarios include some behaviors that might be observed in chapters/chapter life. Working in small groups, the task is to determine:
• What would you do?
• What are the implications?
• What values apply here? (See Statement of Position on Values)

This can be done effectively working in small groups. Scenarios can be assigned randomly, or they could be "picked out of a hat" as in a game of Charades. An alternative approach is to have more than one small group working on the SAME scenario at the same time, then compare their approaches as part of the large group discussion.

Close the activity with a general question, such as:
• Why is it important for a fraternity to have a Statement of Position on values?
• How would fraternity life (or the chapter) be different if we were committed to living out these values?
• What would it mean for the recruitment of new members?

SCENARIOS

1. You are the Treasurer of your chapter. In a meeting to plan for an upcoming social event, the President indicates to you that he knows where the chapter can purchase alcohol without it appearing as "alcohol" on the receipt. You know that underage Brothers and their dates will be attending the event and will consume the alcohol if it's available. What would you do? What are the implications? What ethics or values apply here?

2. Some members of your chapter have indicated that several of their possessions have disappeared over the past week. You have seen several pawn shop receipts on
your roommate's desk that appear to match the missing items. What would you do? What are the implications? What ethics or values apply here?

3. Your chapter is discussing possible new members after a recruitment function. There is one guy that everyone wants -- good athlete, good academics, very social and outgoing, good leadership experience, good looking, popular with women. You know that he has been in trouble with the law and the university and think he may not be a good influence on your chapter. What would you do? What are the implications? What ethics or values apply here?

4. You find a number of prescription bottles (Ritalin, Oxycontin, etc) in your big brother's desk when borrowing class notes. The bottles do not have his name printed on them. You know that all fraternity houses are to be drug free, including prescription pills without a prescription and another chapter has recently gotten in trouble for members selling and using prescription medicine. What would you do? What are the implications? What ethics or values apply here?

5. You are in a general education class with a number of your friends from your own fraternity and other chapters on campus. During a midterm, you look up and see some of these friends using "cheat sheets." What would you do? What are the implications? What ethics or values apply here?

6. You are on the awards committee for your chapter and are meeting to work on the yearly awards packet. Your chapter has fallen a bit this year in regards to community service, philanthropy, and in-house leadership/educational programming. Your local alumni and advisors are really focused on winning awards to help with recruitment and have been pushing the chapter very hard. One of the other committee members suggests exaggerating some of the chapter's activities and adding additional community service hours to the packet since "all the other chapters are doing it." What would you do? What are the implications? What ethics or values apply here?
THETA XI FRATERNITY
STATEMENT OF POSITION ON FRATERNITY VALUES

WHEREAS, each member of Theta Xi is charged with the responsibility to advance the high ideals of the Fraternity and uphold its standards of excellence; and

WHEREAS, it is the Fraternity’s goal to advance these ideals by positively enhancing the development of its members with high-quality, personally relevant experiences; and

WHEREAS, Theta Xi Fraternity supports the belief that the fraternity experience should be designed to bond members together without sacrificing anyone’s personal identity; and

WHEREAS, the membership of Theta Xi, through leadership at national and regional meetings, has identified basic Fraternity values;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that consistent with the Ritual, the Constitution and By-Laws and the Purpose of the Fraternity, the members of Theta Xi, in each and every aspect of their fraternity experience, shall be guided by and promote to all fellow members these ten basic values and expectations:

BROTHERHOOD
   Demonstrate a commitment to developing meaningful and lasting friendships.

RESPONSIBILITY
   Accept accountability for one’s decisions, behavior, obligations, and commitments.

SELF-ESTEEM
   Develop confidence in personal abilities and take pride in oneself.

INTEGRITY
   Be honest and fair in conduct with oneself and others.

RESPECT
   Show appreciation and concern for the worth of others.

LEARNING
   Demonstrate a commitment to academic success and intellectual curiosity.

DIVERSITY
   Recognize and appreciate the value of different ideas, opinions, and cultures.

COMPASSION
   Reach out actively to support those in need of assistance.

ACHIEVEMENT
   Accomplish tasks based on previously established goals.

LEADERSHIP
   Develop an ability to foster teamwork to mobilize effort to achieve common fraternity, campus, and community goals.

Adopted August 13, 1989