

A Risk Worth Taking? ***(How To Determine If An Activity Is Hazing)***

The following activity, if approached with honesty and a desire to "figure out the right answer" (even if it's not the most expedient answer), will help the chapter avoid risky, inappropriate and illegal activity. This is a good "let's check to make sure" activity when planning Associate Member education and activities.

The activity can be effective as a small-group based discussion activity, or as a tool for the Membership Educator (or Executive Board) to use in monitoring the AM process.

STEP ONE

List an Associate Member activity that (1) your chapter has done that you think may have been questionable, or (2) that you have talked about doing but never did.

STEP TWO

Honestly discuss and answers the following questions as they related to that activity:

- Is alcohol involved?
- Would the actives refuse to participate with the AMs and do exactly what the AMs are asked to do?
- Does the activity involve any form of emotional, psychological or physical discomfort or pain?
- Is there any risk of injury or a question of safety?
- Does the activity force anyone to do something they don't want to do?
- Would you object to the activity being photographed for the school newspaper or filmed by a local news crew?
- Would you be uncomfortable engaging in the activity if your grandmother, the Dean of Students or the campus police were there?

***If the answer to ANY of those questions
is YES, it's probably hazing!***

SO, WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

If an activity you are considering is determined to be hazing, take a step back and use the following process to help you get to an effective, safe and honorable decision:

1. Ask yourself, what is the goal here? What did we hope to achieve as a result of this activity?
2. Brainstorm: How can we meet that goal, or achieve that result, but in way that complies with our Fraternity and University policies, and that assures the honorable, respectful treatment of our newest members? (There is almost always a solution! Consult with your Chapter Advisor or other trusted alumni. Or contact someone on the HQ staff. **Remember: You will not get in trouble for asking the "is it okay if we _____" or "how can we _____" question!**)