

Sigma Beta Rho Fraternity, Inc

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SIGMA BETA RHO FRATERNITY, INC

Established August 16th, 1996

EXPANSION RUSH PACKET

VERSION 4.0

Dear Prospective New Member,

On behalf of the national brotherhood of Sigma Beta Rho Fraternity, Inc., thank you for your interest in our fraternity. It is with both honor and humility that I present our brotherhood to you. As we introduce you to the history, traditions, principles and ideals of Sigma Beta Rho and our work in the local, national and international arenas, I urge you to investigate our collective mission of social engagement and leadership development. I also offer you the following:

Welcome to your future.

The collegiate experience is notorious for its immersion in a liberalizing environment. During your undergraduate years, you will encounter situations, people, communities and events that will challenge your fundamental beliefs and foster passionate debate about your place in the world. You will grow – physically, intellectually and emotionally – as you determine your path and where it will lead. You will leave college forever transformed, fresh from the proverbial battlefield of the multiple demands that a true college experience affords.

As you traverse that battlefield, however, you may be aware of the multiple perils that lie in wait. From my own experience, I am painfully aware that college can be a stressful time for many individuals. Navigating the collegiate experience is not an easy task. Our national brotherhood was founded, in part, to help in that exact endeavor.

Sigma Beta Rho Fraternity, Inc. does not aim to turn boys into men or impose a set personality unto you, for to do so would violate one of our basic principles: the recognition of diversity in all its forms, be it diversity of race, creed, thought or personal beliefs. Sigma Beta Rho does not try to change you.

So, you may ask, what do we do?

We instead seek to further your development as you pursue your future – to serve as the catalyst for the reaction with which you will impact the world.

Twelve years since our founding on the campus of the University of Pennsylvania, it is apparent that our mission – to this point – has succeeded. We have grown from a membership of eight men to one in the thousands, with an active and alumni network spanning 41 chapters and colonies across the continental United States. We are the unparalleled leader among organizations of our kind, serving as a national model for multicultural Greek life rooted in the culture and traditions of South Asia. Our consistent efforts to improve the society in which we reside has garnered us recognition by numerous inter/national organizations, both philanthropic and professional.

In addition to what we have accomplished together, we as individuals have also prospered in our own lives as a result of Sigma Beta Rho. We have had brothers who have ascended to positions of political leadership, who have led conducted groundbreaking research at some of the country's premier research institutions, and currently work for Fortune 100 corporations. Should you ever speak to these people, they will tell you of the profound influence Sigma Beta Rho has had on their lives.

Like yourself, I was once a prospective rush – a young college student unsure of my place in the world. I moved cautiously and debated methodically as I pondered whether the decision to join Sigma Beta Rho would be the correct one.

That decision turned out to be the best decision I have ever made.

As you will note in the pages that follow, the evidence of our success in fulfilling our mission speaks for itself. We have built an organization that is successful in its philanthropic efforts while furthering our true national brotherhood, one that is unencumbered by the proverbial hurdles of distance, time and a society that grows more disconnected by the day. In the often chaotic weather of our lives, we offer a true port in the proverbial storm – a home, full of supportive brothers, for life.

No truly great organization, however, allows itself to rest upon its laurels. This brotherhood is no different. As we continue to work toward the promotion of our three pillars – society, brotherhood and remembrance – in the development of a more equitable society, we seek men who will not only join our efforts but will lead them, bettering our world – and themselves – in the process.

As you consider whether you can fulfill the promise of Sigma Beta Rho Fraternity, Inc. as a member of our close-knit brotherhood, I ask you to consider the following:

What are your dreams?

Who do you admire, either as role models or mentors?

Where do you want to be in the future, be it four years or forty?

What can you do to leave this world better than you found it?

As you read this packet, consider the questions posed above. Whatever the answers may be, I am convinced that Sigma Beta Rho Fraternity, Inc. can only aid you in those pursuits.

I thank you once again for taking the time out to learn more about us. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me via email at ali.khan@sigmabetarho.com.

Sincerely,

Ali M. Khan

National President

History and Ideals

The founding fathers of our fraternity came together with the belief that there was a greater chance of achieving their goals while standing together than standing alone. They believed that through the strength of their bonds of brotherhood they would be able to establish an organization that would foster an environment that would produce future leaders in our community.

We believe in the ideals of society, brotherhood and remembrance. Through these ideals the brothers of our fraternity hope to serve both the South Asian community and the greater community at large both on and off our campuses, strengthen our brotherhood, and break down ethnic and cultural barriers that would otherwise keep brothers apart.

The fraternity was founded August 16, 1996 at the University of Pennsylvania. From eight determined men was the organization born that would go on to be called “the fastest growing Fraternity of its kind.” Having expanded within the confines of the New York Area for some time, the new millennium saw a growing interest in Greek organizations on college campuses and likewise, an explosion in recruitment for Sigma Beta Rho. Beginning with Boston College and Rutgers University in 2000 and 2001, respectively, the stage was set for what could only be considered a takeover of the East Coast in the coming years. The University of South Florida, Drexel University, Virginia Commonwealth University, and the University of Maryland schools all proved that Sigma Beta Rho was an organization that had tapped into ideals that were valued by many across the nation. A rapid expansion in 2004 to the University of Houston, University of Georgia, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical Institute and Temple University (among others) further solidified Sigma Beta Rho in the Northeast. In recent years we have continued expanding deeper into the South and have even begun westward expansion hoping to one day be able to claim a chapter in every state of this nation. At present, Sigma Beta Rho currently has 15 chapters and 25 colonies spanning 14 states, with many new schools being added each semester; truly a remarkable feat for an organization that was founded only 12 years ago.

As we celebrate our twelve-year anniversary this year, we receive numerous expansion proposals from schools across the United States. However, we allow only those individuals to embark on the journey towards brotherhood whom we feel will benefit fully from Sigma Beta Rho, and who, conversely, will be able to play an influential role in the development of this fraternity.

Chapters

University of Pennsylvania
State University of New York – Binghamton
St. John’s University
Hofstra University
Pace University
State University of New York – Stony Brook
Boston College
Rutgers University – New Brunswick
University of Washington
University of Rochester
Virginia Commonwealth University
University of South Florida
University of Georgia – Athens
University of Maryland – College Park
University of Maryland – Baltimore County

Associate Chapters

Georgia Institute of Technology
The City University of New York – Baruch
College
University of Florida
Temple University
University of Houston

Colonies

Boston University
Northeastern University
Syracuse University
State University of New York – Buffalo
State University of New York – Albany
Stevens Institute of Technology
Rutgers University – Newark
New Jersey Institute of Technology
George Mason University
Virginia Polytechnic and State University
Drexel University
University of the Sciences in Philadelphia
Florida International University
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical Institute
Florida State University
University of Tennessee
University of Illinois – Chicago
University of Illinois – Urbana/Champaign
Oregon State University
Michigan State University

Professional Aspect

We have a strong alumni force, which plays an active role in the growth and development of Sigma Beta Rho. Alumni and undergraduates alike attend national social and community service events. Some of our alumni are attending prestigious graduate schools while others have already entered the work force.

Currently, our alumni are working towards the creation of the alumni association. This chapter will further provide a structured forum through which alumni can be involved in fraternity activities. The alumni chapter will sponsor events between the alumni and undergraduates.

Our alumni provide support and guidance to our brothers attending undergraduate schools. Their insight and influence on the job market helps our younger brothers move comfortably through the career ladder. Our experienced alumni provide directions in setting career goals for those brothers who are starting off their careers.

Elusive jobs require those with exceptional skills. Our brothers are there; ready to help you reach your career options and train you. Investment banking in your future? Goldman Sachs, Credit Suisse First Boston, and Morgan Stanley, to name a few, are all major companies at which our Brothers work and thrive. If your goals are more professional in nature, be they attending law school, medical school, or other professional programs, a number of Brothers can provide the inside hand to getting to where you want. Through our guidance, mentoring, and support network, you will have the proverbial upper hand.

Some of our Alumni's most prominent Affiliations:

University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine
University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine
University of Richmond School of Law
Virginia Commonwealth University – School of Public Health
University of Rochester School of Medicine
University of South Florida College of Medicine
Virginia Commonwealth University – School of Business
Virginia Commonwealth University – School of Dentistry
University of Maryland – School of Dentistry
University of Maryland – School of Medicine
University of Michigan Law School
University of Pennsylvania Law School

University of Toronto Faculty of Dentistry
Medical College of Virginia
US Marine Corps
US Patent Department

A complete list of some of the organizations our alumni are affiliated with:

Finance/Accounting

Bank of America
Chase Manhattan
Citicorp
Deutsche Bank
Goldman Sachs
Merrill Lynch
Morgan Stanley
Wells Fargo

Professional/Graduate Education

Boston University Graduate School of Arts & Sciences
Columbia University College of Dental Medicine
Drexel University College of Medicine
Eastern Virginia Medical School
Fordham Law School
Georgetown University Law Center
George Washington University School of Medicine
Harvard School of Public Health
Harvard Kennedy School
Marshall University – Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine
Michigan State University College of Law
New York College of Osteopathic Medicine
Northwestern University – Feinberg School of Medicine
Nova Southeastern University School of Dentistry
Seton Hall University of Law
Ross University School of Medicine
St. George's University School of Medicine
SUNY – Downstate College of Medicine
SUNY – Stony Brook University School of Dentistry
SUNY – University at Buffalo School of Medicine
SUNY – Upstate Medical University

Management/Consulting

Accenture Consulting
Bear Sterns
Bloomberg
Brown Brothers Harriman
Deloitte & Touche
Ernst & Young
Smith Barney

Information Technology/Telecommunications

Computer Associates
Hewlett Packard
International Business Machines (IBM)
Sprint/Nextel

Medicine and Health Care

Massachusetts General Hospital
Mayo Clinic
Memorial Sloan Kettering
Montifiore Medical Center
Mount Sinai Medical Center
New York – Presbyterian Medical Center
Yale – New Haven Medical Center

Corporate & Non-Profit Sectors

American College of Preventive Medicine
Bottomline Technologies
CCH Incorporate
Factset Consulting Inc.
Geico
Grant Thornton
Hilton Hotels
Institute for Healthcare Improvement
Kroger's
Lippincott Williams & Wilkins
Lockheed Martin
MONY Group
New York City Police Department
Openheimer
Ovid Technologies
Physicians for Human Rights
UBS PaineWebber
Washington Mutual
Wells Fargo & Co.
Wolters Kluwer International

Social Aspect

In addition to the numerous professional opportunities afforded through Sigma Beta Rho, there are numerous social activities organized by the brotherhood. The purpose of these activities is twofold. First, it allows brothers to display the brotherhood to the outside world. Through parties, mixers, and other social events, the general public becomes acquainted with the fraternity. Second, it allows a brother to meet and interact with those outside the fraternity and present himself to others as part of a larger collegiate organization.

Sigma Beta Rho was one of the first organizations to catch on to the hilarity of the stand-up comedian Russell Peters and use his comedy as an outlet for service. Chapters and colonies from Philadelphia to Georgia booked Mr. Peters for shows whose proceeds then went completely towards philanthropic efforts; in some cases earning upwards of \$30,000 for charity. This ability to help the community through social events continues on through various parties that chapters/colonies throw on an individual level.

Since its inception, Sigma Beta Rho has sponsored close to 100 different parties at either the chapter level or national level. Many of our parties have been in conjunction with other major fraternities and sororities such as Lambda Phi Epsilon, Phi Theta Chi, Kappa Phi Gamma, Delta Phi Omega, Sigma Phi Omega, and many others. While these parties are thrown for the general public's enjoyment, many schools have, in the past, donated the proceeds from their individual parties to relief efforts for the victims of Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans, Hurricane Ophelia in Thailand, and most recently the One Laptop Per Child fund; proving Sigma Beta Rho's dedication to the community even when planning social events.

Each chapter of Sigma Beta Rho organizes numerous parties and mixers each semester at their host school. Brothers attending these schools benefit from these social activities because it allows them to meet and interact with more people and other student organizations.

The Sigma Beta Rho experience is a conglomerate of different types of activities. We feel that a successful individual must be socially active, as well as academically focused. Thus, these activities have helped brothers maintain an adequate balance in their college life between doing work and having fun.

Philanthropy and Service

Sigma Beta Rho Fraternity, Inc. is dedicated in giving back to the society. Our National Philanthropy is Youth Education & Development and as such, every Spring Semester we choose one week in April to have a nationwide Philanthropy week dedicated to our national philanthropy.

We are also proud to say that every chapter, including our Alumni, are involved in serving the community. Some of the community service organizations and events that the brothers of Sigma Beta Rho have volunteered their time and resources to include the following:

Be The Change (former National Gandhi Day of Service): Chapters/Colonies across the nation are a part of this great day of service that brings all people together to make the change that they wish to see. We have brothers who have been on the national BTC board as Marketing Directors and Flagship-city Coordinators.

Tsunami Relief Effort: The brothers from various chapter and colonies alike raised funds to provide relief to the victims of the tsunami around the globe. The Drexel colony alone funded the efforts with over \$30,000.

Indian Earthquake Relief Effort: The brothers from various chapters raised \$15,000 to aid the victims of the earthquake in India.

Toys for Tots: Every year, brothers have collected various toys for children less fortunate and donated them to the Toys for Tots charity. Also in December of 2000 the Boston Colony ran a “toys for tots” program in conjunction with Boston College's South Asian Student Association.

Multiple Sclerosis Walk and American Cancer Society's Walk for Breast Cancer: Brothers of Sigma Beta Rho have also taken part in these walks with other organizations and people, to raise money for the respected organizations.

Hale House: Brothers of Sigma Beta Rho raised money for supplies for the children of the Hale House. Hale House is a center for unfortunate children who are born addicted to drugs.

Binghamton Community Outreach: The brothers of Sigma Beta Rho helped the Binghamton University administration in organizing their “Picnic in the Park,” a program created to bridge the gap between the University and the surrounding community.

Other organizations that we were involved with include:

- CHOW - Hunger Walk
- Special Olympics
- Long Island Blood Services
- Salvation Army
- Multiple Sclerosis Foundations
- Luv Em Shelter – Food Drive
- NY Cares – Spring Cleanup in Public Parks
- Binghamton Soup Kitchens
- Susan B. Anthony Legacy Walk
- American Red Cross
- Foodlink Center
- United Way
- National Voter Registration Drive
- Relay for Life
- American Heart Association
- March of Dimes
- Open Doors Mission
- Ronald McDonald House
- MD Anderson Art Project
- AIDs Foundation- Houston

Exclusive Brother's Events

Each year brothers of Sigma Beta Rho from all over the US visit a selected city to participate in the **Sigma Beta Rho National Convention**. During this event, undergraduate and alumni brothers attend workshops, a national banquet, and the much-anticipated basketball tournament. In recent years a Stroll competition has also been added to the events taking place during the convention.

At this event, undergraduate brothers attended leadership workshops organized by our alumni, and have a chance to meet and interact with brothers from all over the US. In addition, while highly competitive, the basketball tournament helps to build the strong intra-chapter bond that we are all proud of.

In its twelfth year now, excitement for convention never dies down; in fact, it seems to be even more heightened each year thanks to anticipation for meeting newly inducted brothers as well as respected brothers from years past.

Most of these events are covered either partially or completely by the Sigma Beta Rho National Council, an overall governing body which coordinates the activities of the chapters and alumni.

In addition to these major events there are many other opportunities throughout the year for brothers to meet and interact with each other. Whether it is to show support at the social event of another chapter, or whether it is to attend a national meeting, brothers of every chapter are strongly linked with one another. In recent years the University of Maryland has organized the annual "**Cobra Cub**" soccer tournament, inviting chapters from New York to Florida to take part in this memorable event.

It is also important to note that distance has never kept Sigma Beta Rho's brothers apart. Every attempt is made to bring brothers together, and no cost is spared in allowing brothers who attend distant schools from attending Sigma Beta Rho events in various locations. We currently have brothers living in Illinois, Iowa, Texas, Florida, Virginia, and Washington who are quite active at every level of Sigma Beta Rho. Even our most distant chapters in Washington and Oregon can boast near perfect attendance in any of the prior-mentioned events.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is New Member Education and how long will it take?

New Member Education is a learning period. During this period, a new member or an aspirant gets educated about the values and ideals of Sigma Beta Rho and its history and traditions. Most importantly, during this period all aspirants get acquainted with the brothers of the Fraternity and vice versa. A New Member Educator is assigned to each new member class and will lead the new member class through this learning process. The New Member Educator will interact with the aspirants very closely during this period and judges if the New Member Education program is being completed successfully. There is no pre-determined time period for the successful completion of the New Member Education program.

If I work or am taking classes, will I be able to have time for New Member Education?

Efficient time management is one of the key elements stressed during the New Member Education period. We understand that many people have obligations besides the fraternity. We honor those obligations and will make every attempt to accommodate your schedule. However, it is for you to decide if you want to manage your time efficiently. You will find that Sigma Beta Rho is very flexible with respect to school, work and/or jobs.

Will my grades drop if I take part in New Member Education?

New Member Education may take a good amount of time away from your normal life style. Effective time management is very important in this situation. The New Member Education program mandates study hours for every aspirant without an exception.

Will I be hazed?

No! Sigma Beta Rho is strictly a non-hazing organization. Our constitution strictly forbids brothers from hazing aspirants. Any hazing incident will end up in expulsion of the member from Sigma Beta Rho.

How much will the New Member Education process cost?

Sigma Beta Rho does not charge a fee to participate in the New Member Education program. However, the New Member Education program might require you to purchase certain materials that would be needed during the New Member Education period. These materials are affordable by average college students.

If I go to a school far away, how will I take part in New Membership Education?

Depending on where you go to school, some sort of a unique arrangement may be worked out between you and the National Council. A New Member Educator may be assigned who will visit your school and lead you through the New Member Education program, or you may be asked to visit another college or university to participate in the program.

“Sigma Beta Rho’s constant leadership, service and attention to academics is undeniable and warrants recognition.

- Monica Miranda Smalls, UR Director of Fraternity and Sorority Affairs

“Sigma Beta Rho is the criteria by which other organizations ought to be judged. They are a model organization.”

- Ben Greenzweig, President, Binghamton University Student Association

“Our event would not have been a success without the support of you all.”

- American Heart Association

“I’ve seen a lot of other fraternities out there, I’ve been to a lot of college parties, but you guys are different, very diverse, you guys really hold it down . . . I’m proud of you.”

- DJ Fatman Scoop of Hot “97, New York City’s #1 Hip Hop Radio Station