

## BIG BROTHER RESPONSIBILITIES

### HANDOUT FOR BIG BROTHERS

The big brother can promote healthy attitudes and personal leadership in the associate member. The following are requirements of the big brother:

- Stays in good standing with the chapter
- Mentor the little brother through their associate member experience and beyond
- Cooperate with the Inductor in accomplishing the goals of the *Brotherhood in Phi Sigma Kappa* program.
- See that his little brother lives up to and meets the expectations of him as an associate member
- Spend time frequently with the little brother to cultivate the relationship
- Contribute to the planning of, and participation in the following big brother/little brother events:
  - Big brother/little brother reveal
  - Good Samaritan service project, led by associate members
- Attend the following associate member meetings and events, dates set by Inductor:
  - **Solidarity** in Phi Sigma Kappa meeting
  - Ritual for the Initiation of New Members
- Be a good friend and a good brother to the little brother, upholding all values of the Fraternity and role modeling good membership in the chapter.

### Tips for Big Brothers

Associate members need more than just meetings and events we provide for them as part of the Phi Sigma Kappa experience. Each associate member needs a sense of value as an individual brother, a balance between friendships, academics, and Fraternity responsibilities, the opportunity to meet and share some time with all the brothers, and a feeling of belonging to the Grand Chapter where brothers care about one another. In Phi Sigma Kappa, there are no classical “pledges”; your little brother is a brother since his participation Ritual of Association. He already has rights and a voice in the Fraternity but still needs guidance to help him get to the Ritual for the Initiation of New Members.

Every associate member needs a good friend to show him the way, a brother who can act as a guide, friend, challenger, and perhaps even confidant – a big brother. He is an invaluable part of your local chapter and the Fraternity’s continued progress. Big brothers should be chosen because both the chapter and the associate members feel they have the qualities to be a model for others. Here are some ideas to help you be an excellent big brother:

- Reach out to your little brother consistently throughout this associate member experience.
  - Ask him to hang out, invite him to hang out with you and other older brothers, or ask if he wants to study together.

- Make sure to work with his schedule and respect his commitments, his need to work on schoolwork, or if he wants to hang out with other friends.
- The *Brotherhood in Phi Sigma Kappa* program is focused around genuine conversations among associate members so your interactions with him should mirror that.
  - Ask your little brother questions about his life, work, family, classes, or interests.
  - Talk about interests and life experiences you have in common. This could include family, academics, experiences outside of Phi Sigma Kappa on campus and fun things to do in the area.
  - Share your own history and involvement in Phi Sigma Kappa. Talk to your brother about your own initiation and associate member experience. Tell your brother what brotherhood means to you, why the Fraternity is important to you, and how you experience good times and support from other brothers.
  - Ask him about his associate member experience so far. How did he become interested in the Fraternity? Does he feel comfortable as a brother? Has he gotten to know many associate and older members? Is he having any difficulties with the associate member program? Has he been able to balance Fraternity responsibilities with other commitments? You don't need to have all the answers for him but sharing your personal experience as a brother and providing him guidance will make him feel validated.
- After you get to know your little brother, make sure to continue building a stronger bond with him and challenging him to be the best Phi Sig he can be.
  - Appreciate your brother as an individual. Your job is not to make him into what *you* think a Phi Sig should be, or to mirror yourself.
  - Serve your brother. Help him with classes that are difficult. If your major is different than his, introduce him to someone who might be of assistance or inform him of resources on campus that can help such as a tutoring center. Show your little brother around campus and the local community to make him feel at home.
  - Challenge your brother. Check up on his academics and offer to study with him. Don't let him slack off and rely on the same study methods he used in high school. Encourage him to get more involved in the Fraternity by joining a committee and make sure he is aware of future leadership opportunities such as committee chairmen and Executive Board positions.
  - Introduce your brother to people both in and outside of the chapter. This is especially important if he is new to the campus and area.

If you have been a good big brother, your little brother will find it easy and exciting to go through his associate member experience. Also, chances are better that he will grow as a good brother of Phi Sigma Kappa and an excellent big brother for future associate members.