

Suggestions For A Beginning Day Program

The goal of Beginning Day is to plan for the new sorority year and to get reacquainted with your chapter. August 30 is typically observed as Beginning Day. The following steps are merely Beginning Day suggestions and can be adapted by your chapter.

★ **STEP ONE: Yearbook planning** – Sometime during the summer months, have your chapter officers meet with committee chairpersons. The purpose of this meeting is to plan the chapter's new yearbook. This book should be completed in time for Beginning Day.

★ **STEP TWO: Choosing a theme** – You can decide on a clever theme for your Beginning Day program.

Some ideas:

- ★ "Hats Off to Beginning Day" (a hat party)
- ★ "Ring in the New Year" (a New Year's Eve party)
- ★ "Back to School Party" (with a collection of summer photos and other show-and-tell items to get you reacquainted!)

★ **STEP THREE: Invitation List** – In addition to active members in your chapter, you could invite honorary members, prospective members, transferees and members-at-large to Beginning Day. Plan to pick up first-time guests.

★ **STEP FOUR: Mixer activities** – After introducing guests, start your Beginning Day program with some fun mixer activities.

Examples:

- ★ "True or False?" - Each person writes three statements about herself, with one statement being false. The group decides which statements are true and which are false.
- ★ "Weave a Web of Friendship" - A ball of yarn is passed from person to person, and each participant must wind some yarn around her finger while telling one special thing about herself. When finished, she will pass the ball of yarn to someone else, with the piece of yarn still wrapped around her finger. In the end, a web of friendship will be woven.
- ★ "The Circle" - Arrange everyone in a circle. Each person has exactly two minutes to tell about what she did during the summer. The rest of the circle must remain quiet and listen for the entire two minutes.

★ **STEP FIVE: Program presentation** – The new yearbook will be presented, and each committee chairperson and officer may announce their various plans for the coming year. Allow plenty of time for discussion and questions.

★ **STEP SIX: Adjournment and closing ritual** – The president may give a short summary of Beginning Day and adjourn the meeting by asking all to rise for the closing ritual.

★ **STEP SEVEN: Mingling and eating** – The hostess can have fun with the food and decorations by making them formal or simple.

Some ideas:

★ Celebrate the new sorority theme by using decorations with the same color, design or concept.

★ Have a wine, cheese or chocolate tasting. Furnish your own items, or have each guest bring her favorite kind.

★ If doing a back-to-school theme, use food trays, finger sandwiches, and cartons of milk or juice.

★ Have everyone bring in their favorite ethnic dish, such as Mexican, Chinese or Italian food. Included with each dish should be a recipe card with step-by-step instructions.

Whatever you do for your Beginning Day program, have fun!

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Check *The Torch* for Beginning Day ideas shared by chapters!