THE BIG BROTHER/MENTOR PROGRAM

A Mentor or Big Brother within the chapter is an important component to the member experience. For the first-year student, it forms a relationship with someone who has been in the chapter for longer, and can provide advice and guidance. Most importantly the Big Brother takes the role of mentor seriously, and provides advice and assistance when needed to his Little Brother. Therefore, it is important that each Big Brother and Little Brother pairing is chosen with thought and scrutiny behind it.

► The Purpose of the Big Brother Program

To provide members to the organization with a mentor to support the transition to college life as a Fraternity man.

The Big Brother will accomplish this by:

1) Support of the member in his academic endeavors
   a. Tutoring services, checking up to ensure they are making grades, letting them know they can reach out for help and it’s okay to ask for it.
2) Encourage proper time management and working to ensure enough time is spent on studies
   b. Help the member to plan their week and ensure they are allowing enough time for studies.
3) Mentor proper and gentlemanly social, public actions
   c. Teach and demonstrate how to be a True Gentleman in public
4) Ensure that the member is familiar with Minerva’s Shield
   d. Use this as a guide for how all members should behave
5) Be a resource and a friend to the member
   e. Be a friend to the member as the member’s needs define it. In other words, hang out with them as they want, do not make them do what you want.

► Considerations for pairing big brother/little brother:

- Students of the same major
  o Students of the same major can help each other academically. The Big Brother knows what classes are most worthwhile, what the student needs to do to get his major on track and how to succeed in harder classes. As Big Brothers should have a positive academic influence on his Little Brother, you should consider holding Big Brother candidates to a minimum grade point average.
- Big Brothers should be dependable.
  o They should do what they say they will do and should be willing to make themselves available to their Little Brother whenever possible.
- The Big Brother should possess a positive attitude about all things fraternity
  o From chapter meetings to intramurals, service events to running for office. There is a very good chance the Big Brother’s attitude will rub off on his Little Brother.
• Big Brothers and Little Brothers should have complementary personalities
  o Sense of humor, communication styles, interests and hobbies are all tell-tale signs of whether
    the experience will be mutually beneficial.
• Members who are from the same hometown or have previously-established relationships should not be
  matched.
  o The Big Brother program is designed to create new friendships.

► Selection Process

• Eligible Big Brothers will complete the Big Brother Application Form prior to the start of the semester.
• All Big Brother candidates are to attend the Member Orientation Meeting to participate in the meeting.
• Little brothers will complete the Little Brother Information form, to be submitted to the Member Educator
  by a date specified by the Member Educator
• After both are complete, the Member Educator, with the assistance of his committee, will match big/little
  combinations
• This should be completed within the first month of the member joining.

► Program Outline

• Big brothers, in order to welcome their little brothers, may provide gifts for the little brother.
• Identities of Big/Little Brother combinations are not to be secret – rather the Big Brother from the start
  should spend additional time with the Little Brother to mentor them and answer questions they may
  have.
• Big brothers should weekly seek to spend time with their little brothers or at minimum to check on each
  other.
• The program has no beginning or ending date, as the big brother/little brother, mentor/mentee
  relationship does not end.
► Big Brother Responsibilities

1. Be in good standing with the chapter (have a zero account balance or on a payment plan)
2. Be at or above the all men’s average
3. Serve as a positive role model for his Little Brother
4. Monitor academic performance of his Little Brother
5. Assist in the Little Brother’s social adjustment
6. Act as a sounding board when needed for the Little Brother
7. Serve as a confidant to your little brother
8. Introduce and explain chapter customs to the Little Brother
9. Spend time with his Little Brother at least once a week (this is the absolute minimum)
10. Help and hold his Little Brother accountable for meeting the expectations of a member
11. Ensure that the Little Brother does not participate in any activities that are not congruent with the Ritual of Sigma Alpha Epsilon, a violation of Minerva’s Shield, or not in accordance with The True Gentleman.

► Little Brother Responsibilities

1. Meet with his Big Brother at least once a week
2. Never feel they should have to hesitate to contact their Big Brother over anything
3. Not select a best friend, but an ideal person to emulate
4. Demand continual involvement from his Big Brother
5. Discuss any difficulties and problems with his Big Brother
6. Use his Big Brother as a link for fraternal, academic and social issues

A final note: It is always important to reiterate that the success of a member does not rely on one or two people. The member educator and a great Big Brother can only do so much if the entire chapter isn’t behind them. Every member of the chapter should be looking out for the best interest of the other members of the chapter.

That being said, the Big Brother should be held responsible for the Little Brother’s growth in the chapter. If the member is failing in completing what is expected of him, first look to see if the Big Brother is doing what is required of him. And remember, that if what you say and what you do don’t match up, it’s going to be what you do that leaves the biggest and most lasting impression.
BIG BROTHER APPLICATION

Last Name: GPA Above All men's Average Yes/No

First Name:

Hours Per week you can devote to activities and your little brother:

Semesters you have been a active brother:

Academic Major:

Favorite Activities:

Have you met all of your financial obligations? Yes/No

In 250 words or less, explain why you want to be a big brother.

In 250 words or less, how will you benefit your little brother and chapter by being a big brother?
By signing below, I agree to become a candidate for big brother for the _____________ Chapter of Sigma Alpha Epsilon for the ___________ Term. I understand all requirements outlined as components of The True Gentleman Experience. I understand that I must serve as a mentor and role model for the member and must remain a brother in good standing throughout the semester. I understand that failure to uphold these requirements will lead to the dismissal of my duties as a big brother. Signing this document does not guarantee me a little brother and approval/dismissal is subject to the Member Educator and his committee.

________________________________________  __________________________________________
Signature of Member                        Date
LITTLE BROTHER APPLICATION

Last Name:

First Name:

Hours Per week you can devote to activities and your big brother:

Academic Major:

Favorite Activities:

Write down the names of FOUR brothers from the approved list that you would like to be your Big Brother. Names should be written in order of preference, with 1 being the most desired.

1.

2.

3.

4.
QUALIFIED BIG BROTHER CANDIDATES

APPROVED

NOT-APPROVED

(Note – this should be completed prior to the start of the semester so this printed form can be included in the welcome packet for candidates for membership)