

FALL 2023 NEW MEMBER EDUCATION ASSESSMENT

The New Member Education Assessment (NMEA) is designed to support and promote the safety and quality of the new member experience in Beta Theta Pi. **NMEA certification is a requirement for all chapters, whether following Sons of the Stars (SOTS) or a local program. The certification submission must be completed prior to new member activities taking place.** This checklist details required components as well as items and activities prohibited in new member programs.

DEADLINES AND DETAILS:

- Programs must be certified each time a new member class is inducted.
- **Fall 2023:** Chapters taking winter new members must have their programs submitted for certification by **May 20**. It should be submitted for certification prior to the process starting.
- New Chapters are exempt from this process and will work with their on-site chapter development consultant if not already enrolled in Son of the Stars.
- Son of the Stars and local program chapters will use the same submission link.
- If a chapter is providing a local program, they **MUST** submit in the template form provided. It was provided during the Winter/Spring 2023 process as optional.

REQUIRED LOCAL PROGRAM COMPONENTS

For a program to be certified, it must include all items below. These must be identifiable in the written program and easily understood by the reader.

- A written calendar of all new member activities including date, time, location and names of executive members scheduled to attend or facilitate.
- A clear end to the new member period. Recommended program length is no more than 8 weeks.
- Documented involvement from advisors.
- Written outlines, scripts, lesson plans, discussion guides, tests or other materials for all events and activities.
- Documented training about Beta's Risk Management Policy within the first three weeks.
- Written expectations for the new member period for both new members and initiated brothers.
- Documented criteria, training and expectations for Big Brothers.
- Written accountability plan for new members who do not meet expectations.
- Documented and reasonable date, time, location for all ritual ceremonies that do not conflict with executive officer obligations.
- Approval for any local rituals or adaptations of ceremonies outlined in the ritual book. [Check here if it's a local ritual or leadership activity!](#)
- Written reviews and reflections for all ritual ceremonies that involve the entire chapter membership.
- The program must be in line with any campus regulations that are in place.



Please note: Beta STRONGLY encourages local programs to switch to the provided template for this season. It will become required for the Fall 2023 process.

REQUIRED SOTS PROGRAM COMPONENTS

For a program to be certified, it must include all items below. The only uploaded materials required is any program, activity, event or ritual that deters from the provided SOTS materials.

- The dates, times, locations of modules and names of exec members scheduled to attend or facilitate.
- Documented involvement from advisors.
- Documented and reasonable date, time, location for all ritual ceremonies that do not conflict with executive officer obligations.
- Approval for any local rituals or adaptations of ceremonies outlined in the Ritual Book. [Check here if it's a local ritual or leadership activity!](#)
- The program must be in line with any campus regulations that are in place.

OUTCOMES FOR NEW MEMBER EDUCATION:

All new member programs regardless of length or author should be designed to achieve these outcomes:

INTRODUCTION TO BETA THETA PI

- New member knows Beta's five core values and knows how to apply them to his daily life.
- New member knows chapter leadership structure and has met all executive team members.
- New member feels a strong sense of belonging in his chapter.

GENERAL ORIENTATION

- New member knows the financial obligations of membership, where his money goes, and is current in his financial obligations.
- New member knows the academic requirements of membership and consistently meets standards.
- New member knows and is prepared to meet requirements for meeting and event attendance.
- New member knows chapter housing expectations, including financial obligations, expectations to live and eat in the facility, and demonstrates respectful treatment of the chapter home.

HISTORY, RITUAL AND LORE

- New member knows the founding history and lore of Beta Theta Pi Fraternity.
- New member knows the founding history and lore of his local chapter.
- New member has participated in at least one Eye of Wooglin ceremony.
- New member can sing several Beta songs, including songs that are part of the Ritual and ceremonies.

BROTHERHOOD

- New member has deep, authentic friendships with several members of his new member class.
- New member has positive personal relationships with upperclassmen and initiated members.
- New member has a positive supportive relationship with his big brother.
- New member has met more than one chapter advisor or house corporation board member and knows the role volunteers play in supporting the chapter.
- New member believes that members of the chapter care about him.

PERSONAL GROWTH

- New member believes the chapter supports his academic achievements.
- New member knows the role of the Kai Committee and other mechanisms for personal and group accountability within the chapter.
- New member has been educated on Beta's Risk Management Policy and applicable campus policies regarding alcohol, hazing, sexual assault and safe event planning.
- New member has been trained on appropriate steps to prevent and respond to risk and risk management issues, including how and to whom to report concerning events or behavior.
- New member has experienced at least one fraternity or university sponsored workshop or program on a topic of personal growth.
- New member has been presented opportunities to participate in Beta's leadership development programs or leadership programs sponsored by the campus.

HOME

- New member feels a strong sense of belonging.
- New member feels welcome in the chapter facility.
- New member believes the chapter supports his personal values and he is not asked to compromise himself, his values or his beliefs to be a member of the Fraternity.
- New member has demonstrated respect for other members, guests and the community.

RED FLAGS IN THE NEW MEMBER PROGRAM

Any of following items included in the new member program should be discussed with the vice president of education and advisors using [this resource and list of questions](#) and revised prior to certification.

- Advisor involvement is not indicated or included in the program.
- Vice president of education is given complete control and autonomy over the program.
- New members are asked to:
 - Follow unusual or unnecessary rules. (*Ex. requiring new members to wear specific clothing, requiring periods of silence, not use certain parts of the house.*)
 - Complete tasks or duties different or beyond what initiated members are asked.
 - Surrender their wallets, cell phones or other personal belongings.
 - Sleep anywhere other than their normal bedroom, for any amount of time.
 - Attend Excessive study hours in a specific location.



- Be in a specific location for an excessive period of time with no function or purpose.
- Schedule interviews with upper-class members that could lead to personal servitude or inappropriate activities to “earn” a signature.
- Serve as sober monitors for social functions.
- Retreats or off-campus activities requiring overnight stays and/or large blocks of unprogrammed time.
- Scavenger hunts, excessive memorization, or other special activities only the new members are required to complete.
- No training or documented expectations for how initiated members should treat new members.
- Chapters that have “pledge reviews” without clear objectives, criteria or process.
- Wording or language to indicate that the chapter has developed their own values and purposes that are different than Beta Theta Pi’s.

This list is not comprehensive. These are examples of the types of activities and expectations that should cause concern around a new member program and prompt further discussion. Please contact the Administrative Office (800.800.2382) if you need guidance or support while completing this assessment.