

Panhellenic Bid Day Signifies Change Within Syracuse University's Greek Life

By Zoe Schafer

SYRACUSE, N.Y., Jan. 28, 2019 – On Monday, Jan. 26, 2019, around 800 freshman and sophomore female students ran from the Schine Student Center to one of the 13 sorority houses on campus to be welcomed as new members. Many believe this new “generation” of sorority girls at Syracuse will prove to be helpful allies in removing the negative stereotype around greek life.

Kelsey Kover, outgoing vice president of new member education of Alpha Chi Omega, described Bid Day as “an important celebration in any chapter as it signifies the chapter's growth. The dynamic of the chapter will completely shift as it expands with incoming new members.”

Bid Day and recruitment itself are monumental annual events every sorority participates in. Planning for the five days of recruitment and one Bid Day begins in April of the preceding year. The intricacies of recruitment are unique to each chapter, but every chapter at Syracuse shares the goal of recruiting honorable women who will enhance its sisterhood.

Bid Day and recruitment are not only important for Panhellenic women but also for the ecosystem of Syracuse itself. Over 900 female students this year made the decision to take part in recruitment and there are about 5,000 undergraduate students involved in Greek life according to Syracuse University. This means that 30% of students are involved in one of the various Greek councils on campus including Panhellenic, Interfraternity Council, the National Multicultural Greek Council and more. Fraternities and sororities across campus encourage

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students to get involved in service through various philanthropic events that aid people within the university, locally and even nationally.

However, recent events such as the incident in November 2018 involving Alpha Chi Rho, where pledges were hazed and used both racist and ableist terminology, have marred the reputation of Greek life at Syracuse University. In fact, the number of female students participating in Panhellenic recruitment decreased by over 300 from last recruitment to this year.

Bid Day signifies new life for Panhellenic women. It is a sign of new beginnings as women of different backgrounds are brought together over the bonds of sisterhood.

Kover states, “Bid Day is a time that brings everyone together and sets the tone for the rest of the semester. It is a great way to get a chapter off on the right foot.”



Alpha Chi Omega's Bid Day
Source: Maddy Meyer

Halle Gugsu, a sophomore member of Alpha Chi Omega, said, “A sorority is a place where women are welcomed and supported in their journey of self-development. It is a celebration of friendship and the universality of the human condition. While so many people see Greek life as backward, I believe that with every passing year, we become more progressive.”

Though Greek life as a whole may be under fire across the nation, students like Gugsu are using Bid Day as a beacon of hope that change is on the horizon.

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Word Count: 474

Works Cited

Halle Gugs: 240-584-2901

Kelsey Kover: 856-669-8703

<https://www.syracuse.edu/life/groups-activities/greek-life/>