

The Making of a **Pyramid** of EXCELLENCE Chapter



Each year, the Fraternity awards the Pyramid of Excellence to five – seven top chapters across the country. Have you ever wondered what makes a Pyramid of Excellence chapter, and how your group can become one?

At the 2009 Convention, Assistant Executive Director Paul Lawson and Regional Director Kyle Libra presented a session entitled “Becoming a Pyramid Chapter.” In it, they talked about a number of specific things that chapters and colonies can do to become one of the Fraternity’s best. We have compiled a list of their tips below:

1. Document What You Are Doing

Many times, recognition is about knowing what chapters and colonies are doing in the first place. If the information isn’t readily available and documented effectively when it comes time for accreditations to be sent into the Fraternity Headquarters, the people judging the reports and deciding who are the top chapters do not have all of the necessary information. Because of this, there may be chapters and colonies who are deserving of recognition, but because of a lack of documentation, they are not recognized appropriately.

2. Get Your Alumni Involved

Of the 2009 Pyramid of Excellence winners, all of the chapters had a group of alumni who are available and ready to assist when called upon. Alumni involvement is key to having a top notch chapter, not only because of the inherent networking opportunities that it provides, but also because alumni are there to assist with chapter planning, recruitment, and holding brothers accountable. Utilize these brothers regularly, and you too can become a Pyramid of Excellence chapter.

3. Create a Culture of Consistent Excellence

In most cases, Pyramid of Excellence chapters don't just come out of the blue to win the award. The steadily and effectively build a culture in which achievement is celebrated, leadership is embraced, and failure is not an option. Having this culture likely can't be developed overnight, but it is something that all of the top award winners have in common. Begin working to instill this culture in your chapter, and you will be on the right track to win the big award.

4. Keep Your Juniors and Seniors Involved

The 2009 Pyramid of Excellence chapters all have a strong desire to keep their older members involved. Many times, juniors and seniors in struggling chapters check out, and feel as though they have accomplished everything in their first and second years. The mindset of "we've done our part, now it's up to you" is prevalent. However, many times, they have

valuable institutional knowledge and leadership experience to make a chapter better. A key to becoming a top chapter is to find ways in which you can keep your juniors and seniors involved and engaged in the success of the organization.

5. Use the Accreditation Document as a Goal Setting Tool

The Accreditation document is how the Pyramid of Excellence Awards are determined, so by utilizing that document as your roadmap for planning and goal setting, you are likely to meet many of the criteria included within it. The next chapter planning retreat you hold, be sure to have a copy of the accreditation document as your guide to the chapter plan for the coming year. By doing this, you'll be setting yourself up for success.

One other important thing to mention is that only chapters who have no risk management violations, have a zero balance due to the Fraternity Headquarters, and are excelling in academics are eligible to win the Pyramid of Excellence. So, it's incredibly important to meet those basic requirements in order to be considered one of the Fraternity's best.

Are you ready to become a Pyramid of Excellence chapter? These tips are a good start to helping you understand what it takes. Now, it's up to you to develop your plans, begin making change, and reaching out to those who can help you achieve the Fraternity's top award!

DELTA SIG Fact or Fiction

Are the following statements about Delta Sigma Phi fact or fiction? Answers may be found on page 54, on the same page as the list of Bond Eternal brothers.

1. Mike D from the Beastie Boys is a Delta Sig.
2. The Fraternity has never had a Governor as a member.
3. Delta Sig alumnus Horatio Fitch, *Illinois '22*, won a silver medal in the 400 meter dash at the 1924 Paris Olympic Games, and was a one-time world record holder in the event.
4. Delta Sigma Phi once had a chapter in Hawaii.
5. The Delta Sigma Phi Headquarters is haunted by past inhabitant Lucy Taggart.
6. Two current members of the United States House of Representatives are members of Delta Sigma Phi.
7. Although it has a later designation, the Alpha Tau Chapter at Albion College was installed before the Alpha Alpha Chapter at the University of Illinois.