

What is Epsilon Sigma Alpha

Epsilon Sigma Alpha International (ESA) is a leadership and service organization that strives to bring good people together to pursue programs and projects that will benefit local communities and college campuses on a local, national, and international basis.

EΣA members use their international network of nearly 1,000 chapters to excel in providing community and campus based programs of education, service, and philanthropy. These programs involve both hands-on participation and fundraising activities.

The unique programs of EΣA promote the values of public service and volunteerism and assist members in developing personal skills in project management, public relations, and social responsibility. Members are encouraged to pursue a life-long program of personal growth as they develop their leadership skills through chapter activities, training opportunities, and association with others who share positive values and goals.

The Spirit of Epsilon Sigma Alpha

The ethos of EΣA calls for the development of a well-balanced lifestyle that encourages the membership to develop personal talents to pursue excellence in all aspects of their daily life. The programs, projects, and social activities of EΣA create opportunities for each individual member to identify skills that enhance self-esteem and make significant personal accomplishments possible. Combined in a chapter unit, motivated EΣA members can create a positive difference for the local or campus communities in which they live. On the international level, their achievements set a high standard and an excellent example of what can be accomplished through quality volunteer service.

EΣA members believe that their only right and greatest responsibility is the right to be of service. This right of service is an important cornerstone that forms the spirit of EΣA, and it also is a value that sets EΣA apart from many other campus organizations. Members serve the world by designing and sharing educational programs that promote positive values, they organize projects that serve others through personal participation in hands-on or fundraising activities to benefit others, and they provide leadership training to assist others in learning how to use their skills and resources to help those who are in need.

As a result, the friendship and support that chapter members share is based on high standards and values that promote positive personal development in an atmosphere that encourages the pursuit of excellence. Excellence through service creates confidence, competence, and career opportunities for the collegiate membership of Epsilon Sigma Alpha.

The Mission of Collegiate Epsilon Sigma Alpha

To identify and bring together college students who have a commitment and lifelong interest in building their personal skills and talents through participating in programs that assist others and serve the public interest.

The Vision of Collegiate Epsilon Sigma Alpha

Collegiate EΣA is designed to create chapters of individuals who want to pursue the mission of Epsilon Sigma Alpha in an atmosphere of friendship and mutual support. The future of collegiate chapters of EΣA promises to create and maintain a network of collegiate clubs that will provide an avenue for students who share common goals and a sense of personal responsibility for improving the world around them through personal and public service projects. Upon graduation, collegiate members of EΣA have the opportunity to maintain active affiliation with Epsilon Sigma Alpha in communities around the world. As collegiate alumni, they can continue to have a positive impact on the world around them.

The Collegiate Programs of EΣA

The members of Epsilon Sigma Alpha often say that the letters E, S, A stand for Education, Service and Association. Each year chapters develop and encourage individual members and chapters to participate in a balanced program of activities that focus on all three aspects of the EΣA experience. A detailed overview and program guide is available to all members on the EΣA website or through EΣA Headquarters. This overview and guide includes options for chapters and individual members to pursue additional topical resources and award program information. Here is a brief sampling of topics and ideas that have been used by some of EΣA's collegiate chapters:

Educational Topics

Preparing Effective Resumes; Worksearch; Saying “Yes” to Your Best; Speech Building; Proposal Writing; Developing Podium Presence; Alcohol and Drug Abuse; Dealing with Depression; Volunteer Skills Assessments; Ego Builder Workshops; Leadership Workshops; Officer Training Workshops.

Service Program Ideas

Programmed annual projects for EΣA's International Philanthropic Projects: St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and Easter Seals. Hands on Projects: such as “Hats for Hope”, a program to assist the homeless. “A,B,C's Program”, a literacy outreach program; mentoring programs for “at risk” children.

Association

“Taking care of yourself—Do-It-Yourself Spa Days;” Theater/Movie Outings; Fast Food Hops; Sport Challenges; “Worthy Works sessions;” Theme and holiday party ideas; and Scrapbooking.

Benefits of EΣA Membership

- Affiliation with other positive, goal-oriented students.
- Opportunity for lifetime affiliation after graduation.

- Access to an international network of resources and support.
- Leadership opportunities and training.
- Personal leadership and recognition programs.
- Service and leadership opportunities to enhance your resume.
- Travel opportunities.
- Transfer responsibilities.
- Educational materials and programs.
- Philanthropic projects.
- Regional, state, and international levels of participation.
- The Jonquil, EΣA's membership magazine.
- Special newsletters and communications.
- Access to optional credit card programs.
- Access to optional hotel and travel discount services.
- Access to optional group life/health insurance.

Responsibilities of EΣA Membership for Collegiate EΣA

- Uphold the ideals and standards of excellence that are associated with membership in EΣA as prescribed in the ideals of Epsilon Sigma Alpha.
- Maintain high standards of personal conduct in public and in private, strictly abiding to all the laws that pertain to you as a student on your campus and in your place of residence.
- Wear the badge and logo displays of all EΣA appropriately and with pride,
- Work to maintain harmony within your EΣA club chapter by supporting the right of others to express and share their ideas.
- Participate in the full program of EΣA membership, fulfilling all duties and obligations as prescribed by the international organization of Epsilon Sigma Alpha, your university, and by your campus chapter.
- Maintain appropriate student status to belong to the clubs and organizations at your university, this includes maintaining appropriate grade point averages and meeting all service hour requirements. If no grade point has been established by the university, EΣA recommends that each collegiate member maintain a grade point average of 2.5 to be considered an active member.
- Pay individual membership dues to EΣA International each year while fulfilling other financial requirements as prescribed by your local chapter and university.

- Abide by additional policies regarding discrimination, hazing, alcohol and drug abuse, sexual harassment, and club governance as prescribed by your university.
- Recognize that if you do not maintain appropriate grade point averages, fulfill service requirements, abide by established ΕΣΑ or university rules and codes of behavior, you may be placed on probationary member-at-large status or have your affiliation revoked.

Wearing the Emblems of ΕΣΑ

Members of Epsilon Sigma Alpha are entitled to wear the letters, emblems, badges, and pins of ΕΣΑ. The trademark of ΕΣΑ is a legal trademark and all merchandise, jewelry, etc. should be obtained through the Merchandise Department of ESA Headquarters. Special chapter orders and specifications can be developed and arranged. If a chapter or ΕΣΑ member desires to create emblematic items that are not available through ESA Headquarters, they need to submit a request in writing to ESA Headquarters for permission before the item is produced for sale. The creation of non-authorized merchandise items is forbidden and is cause for personal or chapter censure.

All members agree to display the emblems of ΕΣΑ appropriately, at times and in places where their display will honor and create a positive public image for the organization. Those who are not active members of ΕΣΑ, in good standing, are not authorized to use any of the emblems of the organization.

How ΕΣΑ Differs From Other Greek Letter Organizations

Epsilon Sigma Alpha enjoys campus status as a leadership and service club. Therefore, ΕΣΑ generally is not a member of the Greek councils that govern the campus sororities and fraternities. While ΕΣΑ emphasizes lifelong friendships as one of its primary benefits, these friendships are forged through participation in the educational and service projects that chapters choose to promote on their campuses.

Also, while many Greek Letter organizations have houses on campus, ΕΣΑ does not. As a campus club, Epsilon Sigma Alpha does not provide living space for its members or require that members live together in a single site on campus.

Meetings are held at campus sites that are provided by the college or university.

ΕΣΑ's Position Regarding Campus Issues Surrounding Discrimination, Hazing, and Alcohol and Drug Abuse

Epsilon Sigma Alpha has regarded itself as a premier leadership and service organization since 1929. The interests of the organization have always been to have individuals build their confidence and personal powers in an atmosphere of mutual friendship and support. Since these interests focus on developing the positive aspects of personal character, any type of discrimination, hazing, or use of alcohol or other illegal substances is strictly forbidden within the program of Epsilon Sigma Alpha.

- Discrimination based on sex, age, race, or ethnic background is strictly forbidden within chapters and among the membership of ΕΣΑ. There are no exceptions to this rule.

- **Hazing:** No chapter, active student member, alumnus, or community member may condone or conduct hazing activities in the name of Epsilon Sigma Alpha. The definition of hazing that pertains is one that is common to other campus organizations that forbid “actions taken or situation created, intentionally to produce mental or physical discomfort, harassment, or ridicule. Specific activities, including but not limited to the use of alcohol; paddling in any form; creation of excessive fatigue; physical or psychological shocks; quests; road trips; or any other such activities carried on outside or inside the confines of the chapter meeting place; wearing of apparel which is conspicuous and not normally in good taste; engaging in public stunts and buffoonery; morally degrading or humiliating games and activities; and any other activities which are not consistent with academic achievement, EΣA ideals, or policies or the regulations and policies of the educational institution or applicable state law.” Members also are not to wear any emblem of EΣA when they are consuming alcohol.
- **Alcohol and Drug Abuse:** The laws and policies of the states, communities, and campuses where EΣA chapters are situated govern the use of these substances. Each EΣA member and chapter will comply with these laws and policies to retain active membership within the organization. EΣA members and chapters will be held in strict compliance with campus policies as outlined within the student handbook or outlined within the policies of the university. Chapters will review these policies with their members on an annual basis to retain good standing within the organization.
- **Electronic & Print Media Postings:** EΣA prohibits by any chapter or individual member the posting of materials (photos, video, blogs) to any public or private electronic domain that may give the impression that an activity that does not reflect the high standards of EΣA has taken place. Printed publication of such materials is also prohibited. Consequences of such violations may include the temporary or permanent revocation of the chapter charter and/or revocation of individual memberships.

Relationships between EΣA International and Sponsoring Universities

Epsilon Sigma Alpha colonizes only on those campuses where the mission of the university is complementary to EΣA’s ideals of education, service, and association. As a result, EΣA also agrees to support and comply with all of the policies, rules, and regulations of the university. Therefore, to be an active collegiate chapter of Epsilon Sigma Alpha, local chapters must meet all requirements and be in compliance with all regulations of the university. If chapters are not in compliance with university policies and requirements, they should know that they are subject to the specific disciplinary actions that are prescribed by the university handbook. These rules apply and can be administered to students on an individual basis or to the chapter as a whole.

If EΣA Headquarters is informed that the chapter is not in compliance, it will be placed on provisional status until such time as the university indicates the chapter has met all the requirements that entitle it to resume active status. At that time, the active charter of the chapter will be reinstated. If chapters fail

to meet stated university requirements for more than two semesters or for more than one year, the chapter charter can be suspended permanently.

Under a provisional charter, existing members may meet and conduct service projects and other programs and projects that the university sanctions. They must show that they are working to remedy the area of their deficiency within one semester. They also must remain in compliance with all other regulations that govern university participation in clubs and organizations. They are prevented from adding new members to their role until such time as they regain active status.

Under a suspended charter, the chapter and all of its activities are dissolved until a formal recolonization process takes place. Members must cease meeting, wearing EΣA emblems, or recruiting new members. Recolonization can and will take place only after one full year of suspension and then will take place only if both the university and Epsilon Sigma Alpha agree to begin the recolonization process on the campus in question.

Compliance Policies

All chapters and members are expected to take full advantage of all opportunities that are available to them through membership in Epsilon Sigma Alpha. They also are expected to comply with any or all guidelines and will suffer disciplinary actions that can lead to the revocation of individual memberships and the chapter charter if they do not.

Participation within the International World of EΣA

- **International Council of Epsilon Sigma Alpha:**
Each collegiate chapter is required to join the International Council of ESA. The International Council is the volunteer governing board of the organization. Chapters belong to the International Council in order to qualify for non-profit status (501C4) and in order to take advantage of the benefits provided by EΣA's international network of chapters. Dues for International Council membership are \$35 annually and are payable to the International Council Treasurer in the fall of each year. The chapter treasurer is responsible for paying these dues and for filling Tax Facts, a financial report that assists the chapter in maintaining its non-profit status each year. (The filing date for Tax Facts is September 15). Those chapters who do not pay International Council dues or who fail to file Tax Facts each year are not eligible to retain their non-profit status.
The treasurer should contact International Headquarters if questions remain regarding the payment of chapter dues to the International Council or the filing of Tax Facts.
The International Council also hosts international conventions and attends regional meetings to share information and new ideas with attending chapters and the larger membership of EΣA.
- **Honors and Distinctions:**
Collegiate members have the opportunity to earn special individual recognition through participation in EΣA's Pallas Athene Recognition Program. Completion of the program results in the official designation of Certified Volunteer of America. Collegiate chapters can participate

in EΣA's Honor Society to gain honors for participation in service projects, membership building, and educational excellence.

- **Leadership and Training:**
The collegiate membership also has the opportunity to send representatives to annual leadership meetings and workshops that are held at International Convention, ESA's Annual Leadership Conference and Regional meetings.
- **Collegiate Communications:**
Four times a year, collegiate chapters will receive e-newsletters designed to share ideas, projects, and programs within EΣA's network of campus chapters. Each member also has special access to timely information on the EΣA website.

Each semester, trimester, or quarter, campus chapters are asked to submit a chapter report to confirm that the academic, service hours and chapter program goals are being met. Each chapter is expected to actively communicate with their chapter sponsor.

For further information, contact:

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