

Frequently asked questions:

Who can write and send a Recommendation/Reference (REC/RIF) ?

Once a sorority member graduates from college, she is considered an alumna of her organization. An alumna of a sorority can fill out a *Recommendation/Reference* for a Potential New Member (PNM). Please note that it is not mandatory that the alumna have attended the university you are attending, only that she be a member in good standing of her sorority.

Can an Active member write a Recommendation/Reference ?

A few sororities allow current collegians to submit letters of recommendation and letters of support as long as they are not a current active member of the chapter they are sending the recommendation to. The actives need to check with their chapter advisor on the individual sorority rules.

Can an Aunt or sister write a REC?

Yes, an Aunt or a sister can write a REC/RIF or a Letter of Support. If a family member writes a recommendation letter (or turns in a legacy form), it is recommended by some campuses that you have a recommendation letter from someone outside of your family as well.

Who can write a letter of support?

A *letter of support (LOS)* is a personal letter written by an alumna or active (depending on the sorority) that knows your daughter. They are not a requirement. The letter of support is basically a second endorsement so it needs to be written by someone other than the person writing you a Recommendation/Reference. There is typically already space on the Recommendation/Reference form to put personal information so a letter is not necessary. *Letters of support* are generally handwritten and do not require an "official" form. The quantity of LOS preferred varies greatly from sorority to sorority and can be *suggested* or *highly recommended* **AFTER** you obtain a RIF. No more than 2 LOS should be sent to any sorority.

If someone agrees to write a Recommendation for me what do I need to give them?

You need to provide them with a copy of your transcript with test scores, resume, and 3 photos. It is customary for the Potential New Member to provide stamps and a large envelope to make it convenient for the person doing this favor. If the reference is needed through Katy Panhellenic then stamps and envelopes are not necessary, our fee covers this cost. The Alumna has access to their sororities Recommendation/Reference forms from their sorority member websites. Once the alumna or collegian has completed the *Recommendation/Reference Form*, she will send it in to the sorority chapter's address or Alumna Advisor. Keep a master copy of your packet that you can easily copy in the event you receive additional requests for recommendations.

What if I only like a couple of houses, should I only get recommendations for them and not worry about the others?

NO. Our number one rule during recruitment is to **keep an open mind**. No matter how you feel about the sororities before recruitment, there is always the chance that you will meet a new person or find out something about the house that you never knew before that could change your mind. The vast majority of preconceptions that you may have about sororities are most likely false. It is almost impossible for you to know how you truly feel about the sorority before you even meet them. Always remember that this is **your** decision and that the sorority you choose will be the one that **you** spend the next 4 years in. Therefore, you should definitely get a recommendation for all sororities on your campus. We would hate for you to miss out on the opportunity to be in the house that you belong in merely because you did not provide a recommendation. With such a large number of girls participating in recruitment, the process grows more competitive every year, and your first shot at maximizing your chances of being placed in a sorority is by getting recommendations for every house.

If I have a reference do I still need to send in a packet to Katy Panhellenic?

Yes, that way when you also give us the list of people who are writing you a RIF and LOS. we can contact them on your behalf to make sure they have sent it in. If for some reason they are not able to get it in on time then we would be able to make sure it is taken care of. In addition, several alumnae groups meet with local actives and review packets. If a PNR does not turn in a packet, then the alumna would not have an opportunity to review it with the actives and possibly write additional letters of support.

Why do I need to start finding people to provide REC/RIFs so early?

Please keep in mind, alumnae generally write RIFs for *many* girls. On an average it takes at least 30 minutes to write one REC! Several Katy Panhellenic Alumnae write hundreds of RIF's in a year!!! As a result, **we highly recommend** you get your packet to your alumna contacts early in the spring so they have plenty of time to write a "glowing" RIF on you. They have to turn all their forms into the different sororities by June 15th.

Is it OK to be asked to social events before the silence rule is active?

Here is the response from a few collegiate Panhellenic bylaws: There shall be no contact of potential members or high school students outside of normal social contact by individual sororities (new members, actives, or alumnae) during the academic year and summer proceeding formal Fall Recruitment. Normal social contact includes interactions between co-workers, roommates, family members, neighbors and close friends that would have occurred regardless of recruitment. Chapters shall not entertain, spend money on, or otherwise influence a potential new member.

Panhellenic strongly discourages potential new members from attending any fraternity activities for their own protection. A prospective potential new member may not stay over night nor visit a sorority house for an extended period of time unless she is a sister of a sorority member living in the sorority house. At no time during the summer break should a chapter house be used for recruitment purposes.

What is the benefit of registering with Katy Panhellenic ?

Katy Panhellenic is your support network. We are here to guide you through the process and provide you with the information necessary to go through your recruitment week with confidence. We help you understand the necessary items needed for recruitment, and what to wear and expect the week of recruitment. We are also here when you have exhausted all of your personal resources, and still have not been able to secure a *Recommendation/Reference* for a particular sorority. We are also the contact person in the event a sorority alumna would like to write a RIF for you but is unfamiliar with the process. Plus, when you register through Katy Panhellenic and have become a member of a sorority you are able to apply for our scholarship.

Should I send Thank You Notes?

We recommend that you keep **excellent records** of each alumna writing for you – her full name, sorority, mailing address, phone numbers, when you contacted her, etc. Shortly after delivering your packet to an alumna, write a thank you note. This process shows you have good manners and is also a gentle reminder to complete your packet and send it on for processing.