Welcome, new members!

Per requirements from both the ATO National Organization and our chapter’s standards, the Alpha Rho Chapter is required to participate in 8 meetings with its new members regarding the fundamental values and importance of being in ATO and all of the responsibilities that come with it.

Foreword: The Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity represents a national leadership development program that strictly discourages and prohibits hazing of any kind amongst our new members. We believe that hazing is an institution that breaks down organizations rather than building them up.

Chapter Hazing Protocol: We are a zero tolerance fraternity and any member found hazing will be reported to the Board of Trustees and our national organization and will be punished or terminated from the organization. Any actions within the realm of hazing should be reported via either the Lehigh hazing prevention page (http://studentaffairs.lehigh.edu/hazing-prevention) or the anonymous reporting form (https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?LehighUniv&layout_id=15).

Below is a tentative schedule that lays out the backbone of these meetings:

2/16 @7 pm: Welcome to ATO and the Brotherhood
   -Meant to acquaint the new members with each other and the chapter
2/20 @7 pm: Greek 101 and Introduction to ATO
   -Learn about basic ATO National’s history and basic Greek history
   -Includes details about the Alpha Rho chapter specifically to educate the new members on the brothers, the culture, and our values
2/27 @7 pm: Risk Management
   -Used to educate the new members on ATO’s Risk Management Policies and personal safety. The first order of business will be to administer test #1.
   -Breaking down the “Not So Top 10” of Risk Management
3/6 @7 pm: Recruitment, Leadership, and Innovation
   -Used to educate the new members on ATO’s Recruitment practices, our Leadership Development and steadfast commitment to Innovation. The first order of business is to return test #1 and then administer test #2.
   -Introduce and teach the concept of ATO STUDS Recruiting.
3/9 @7 pm: Local Chapter History and Alumni Involvement
   -Used to educate the pledges on your local chapter and campus history. The first order of business is to return test #2 and then administer test #3.
3/20 @7 pm: Academics and the Importance of Dedication
   -In this meeting specifically done by the Alpha Rho Chapter, we invite our Advisor, Professor Nandu Nayar, to educate the new members on the importance of getting good grades and looking at the big picture
Advocates for new members to become involved in the campus community and get to know their professors

3/23 @7 pm: Preparing for the Future
- Used to educate the pledges on preparing for the future. The first order of business is to return test #3 and then administer test #4

3/24 @7 pm: Continuous Reeducation of Members
- Although this meeting does have a date and time, it is used to educate our new members on the continuous reeducation of ATO members throughout their time in the chapter and throughout life

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Statement of Purpose:
Now that the schedule has been addressed, you may ask yourself: what is the reason behind all of this? The mission statement and goal of the Alpha Rho chapter of Alpha Tau Omega is to educate our new members on the morals and values of the Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity that will not only aid a man throughout his professional life, but also raise his social standards both throughout his involvement with ATO and throughout his life. This education does not end with the initiation of our new members, as it is also the job of the membership educator to continue to educate the members of the chapter on the morals and values learned about throughout new member education. This continuous reeducation of our members is what distinguishes Alpha Tau Omega as a leadership development fraternity compared to other Greek organizations.

Big/Little Program:
One of the best parts of our education plan is the selection and celebration of the Big/Little Ceremony. Each new member is selected by a “lineage” that consists of brothers who were initiated in prior years both by their lineage and by the chapter. After the revealing and initiation, the new members are mentored by the older members of their lineage in how to be the best brother possible. The selection process is simple, the new members write down on notecards whom they have become most close with in the house. With those lists are taken into consideration, the brothers select their new Littles. In order for a currently initiated brother to become a Big Brother, he must have done all of the following:
1. Show a level of dedication to the membership leadership development program.
2. Participate in at least 20 hours of philanthropy while in ATO.
3. Make an active effort to befriend the new members prior to the selection process.

During the reveal, the entire brotherhood gathers in our Chapter Room, standing, awaiting their new Littles. Each lineage is apportioned a different space within the room, and once their Little’s name is called; the lineage is seated for a period of icebreakers and games amongst themselves. Once the icebreaking stage has been completed, each lineage goes out to dinner. At dinner, the Big Brothers in each lineage teach their new Littles about the norms of their lineage and a little more about the brotherhood itself. The Littles are then dropped off at their dorms and the Big/Little Reveal concludes.

Expectations of new members:
1. Be on time, No man who makes it in this world is late.
2. Grasp the concepts of the lessons learned and use them in your everyday life.
3. Come to the house in your free time! Chapter unity and friendship are the backbone of ATO.

Expectations of Current Members:
No hazing of any kind. We expect our current brothers to treat the new members with respect and kindness. Current members should be becoming friends with the new members and mentoring them to become great ATO brothers.

**Expectations of Alumni:**
We find that our alumni are always keeping in touch with their old ATO brothers, even working with old brothers. Because they feel so connected to the house even now, we typically expect our alumni to visit when they can, and give back to the house with donations. We also expect them to uphold the values of the house within their professional and personal lives.

**Final Word:**
We, the brothers of Alpha Tau Omega, look forward to educating our new brothers on the morals and values of ATO and on the best way to excel at Lehigh, while making lifetime friends along the way. Becoming leaders within our campus community is something that we have been working on over the last few years, and we plan to continue this support for our community through our new member education process and continuing education program. Welcome to the brotherhood, PC ’17!