CORNELL UNIVERSITY
Sorority and Fraternity Life

What Constitutes a Chapter Social Event?

Any social activity or social event sponsored or endorsed by the organization, including those that occur on or off chapter premises. **Please note:** ***For the remainder of the 2026-2027 academic year, all parties and social events in IFC Fraternity Houses are suspended, per the Presidential Statement issued on October 13, 2026*****.**

Determining a "Social Event" of the Chapter

The following factors are considered by the university when determining whether an event is a social event of the organization. Be honest and go through the list. The more you answer yes, the more likely the event is a chapter social event.

EVENT PLANNING

- Is the event being planned by one or more members/new members?
- Are the officers aware of the event being planned?
- Are any officers involved in event planning?
- Do the officers have prior knowledge of the event?
- Is the event actively or passively endorsed by a majority of the active chapter?
- If a crisis occurred, would the chapter president take charge?

TERMINOLOGY

- Are members attempting to rename the event in order to give the appearance that it isn't associated with the chapter?
- Is the event being coined as "unofficial" or "unregistered"?
- Is the event occurring before or after an event ("pre-game" or "after party")?

COMMUNICATION

- Is the event listed on a chapter calendar (public or private)?
- Is the event listed or advertised on the chapter website (public or private)?
- Is the event listed or advertised on social media accounts (e.g. Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, GroupMe, Google Chats, etc.)?
- Do online invitations refer to the organization (e.g. Facebook events)
- Will the event be announced at a chapter meeting?
- Will the event be marketed over the chapter texts/list serves?
- Is there a theme for the event?

- If guests were stopped on their way to the event, would they say they were going to a the "XYZ" event?
- If guests posted on social media, would they say they were at the "XYZ" event?

FUNDING

- Is the event financed by the chapter?
- Is the event being financed by collection of funds from a group of members?

LOCATION

- Is the event being hosted on chapter property?
- Is the event being hosted in a house/apartment/chapter annex/live outs where multiple members live?
- Is the event being hosted in a university provided meeting space?
- Is the event being hosted in a location where you traditionally hold your events?

ATTENDANCE

- Is the entire chapter invited?
- Are new members invited to attend?
- Are certain pledge classes invited to attend?
- Is a majority of the chapter invited?
- If a member/new member showed up, could he/she attend the event?
- Will officers be in attendance?

This guidance has been adapted, with permission, from Holmes Murphy's "What Constitutes an Event?" one-pager, linked below.

https://www.holmesmurphy.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/What-Constitutes-an-Event-one-pager.pdf