

Hypophetes: TKE Experience Retreat Guide

We believe that the essential elements of true brotherhood are love, charity, and esteem; love that binds our hearts with the sturdy chords of fraternal affection; charity, that is impulsive to see virtues in a brother but slow to reprove his faults; esteem, that is respectful to the honest convictions of others and that refrains from treading upon that which is sacred to spirit and conscience; these are the triple obligations of every brother in the bond. ---- from the Declaration of Principles

ELEMENTS OF THE TKExperience

The TKExperience is probably the most effective membership development and team-building retreat your chapter can hold. Following is all the "secrets" to this success...

THE TEAM

A community of fraters, concerned, interested, devoted to one another, together in the Bond of the Fraternity, supporting, consoling, encouraging each other to Live the Fraternity . . . for Life.

TEAM SELECTION

A team of eight to ten fraters, one or two of whom must be alumni, conducts the TKExperience. Members of the team may be selected by a committee of chapter members, which may solicit volunteers from the chapter at large. The team is a cohesive group in which each member supports and helps the others without competition. Each frater tries to exemplify the basic principles of the Fraternity. Overt or hidden conflicts destroy the essential concept of the TKExperience, that of living the Fraternity. Each team member should be able to speak well in a group. In addition, these other criteria should guide the committee's selection of the members.

Alumni Fraters:

1. Should be committed to the Fraternity as a life-time experience.
2. Should have the respect of the undergraduate chapter.
3. Should relate well to undergraduate students.
4. Should exemplify in their lives the Fraternity principles of charity, esteem and love.

Undergraduate Fraters:

1. Should have leadership qualities.
2. Should be making a concerted effort to "live the Fraternity."
3. Should be doing well enough in school to be able to devote the necessary time to the TKExperience.

TEAM PREPARATION FOR THE WEEKEND

Fraters who consent to join a TKExperience team commit themselves to :

1. Attending all pre-retreat team meetings. The pre-retreat team meetings help build a sense of community within the team.
2. Attending the all-day Team Workshop. The workshop provides all team members with the opportunity to rehearse their respective talks, to receive input from other team

members, and to indicate practical needs to be met or problems to be solved for each session.

3. Attending the entire TKExperience weekend. The tight schedule of the TKExperience weekend is designed to accomplish the development of a theme. Team members who arrive at the retreat late or leave during the retreat tend to disrupt this theme development. Since the team sets the tone for the TKExperience weekend, team members should remember and heed the advice given to the new members at the beginning of the retreat:

1. Be open.
2. Participate.
3. Relax, and have a good retreat!

TEAM LEADERS

Three team members have specific roles and responsibilities:

Retreat Leader:

The retreat leader serves as the chairman of the team and is ultimately responsible for the success of the TKExperience. He should keep in touch with the Prytanis and the Hegemon, especially if neither of these officers is a team member. Close cooperation and communication between the team and the officers will ensure a good retreat experience.

The Retreat Leader schedules the team meetings, team workshop, and, in conjunction with the Prytanis and Hegemon, the weekend for the TKExperience itself. During the retreat, he acts as master of ceremonies, announcing the talks, discussions and other activities. He also gives the Rules talk at the beginning of the TKExperience weekend.

Assistant Retreat Leader:

The Assistant Retreat Leader coordinates the acquisition and use of the various supplies and equipment that will be needed for the retreat. He gives the "Why Are You Here?" talk on the first night and also leads the "Who Are We?" activity.

Fraternal Director:

The Fraternal Director is an alumnus, and assists both the Retreat Leader and the Assistant Retreat Leader in their various duties. He leads (or chooses the leader for) the Mystic Triangle activity on the second night. He also gives the Living the Fraternity talk on the last morning of the retreat.

The remaining members of the team give the rest of the talks and also serve as table discussion leaders following several of the talks.

Although an air of secrecy should be avoided in discussing the TKExperience with chapter members, team members should not broadcast their roles before the weekend itself. At times, chapter members may form impressions of the team members and therefore may have difficulty seeing them as team members outside of the context of the TKExperience.

TEAM MEETINGS

Six team meetings are held before the Team Workshop. During the earlier meetings, team members will discuss the retreat program and their roles in it, including the talks that each is to prepare. Later meetings will be devoted on writing of the talks and in general preparations for a successful TKExperience.

TEAM WORKSHOP

The purpose of the Team Workshop is twofold: 1) to enhance team community, and 2) to confirm all preparations for the retreat. The Workshop, held two weekends before the TKExperience weekend and led by the Retreat Leader, consists of 10 to 12 hours spent together in the following:

1. Going over all talks. Each talk is to be given in its entirety.
2. Reviewing the schedule for the TKExperience weekend.
3. Reviewing all plans for the TKExperience.
4. Sharing a meal together.
5. Conducting a team meeting

All members of the team must be present for the Workshop, one of the commitments that a frater makes when agreeing to serve on the team.

TEAM MEETINGS DURING THE TKEXPERIENCE

At least once each day during the TKExperience weekend, the team should gather to see how things are going generally and discuss any particular problems that may have arisen. These meetings should be held on Friday night and Saturday night after the members have retired and on Sunday morning before the members arise. As much as possible, the team needs to avoid separating itself from the retreat group during the TKExperience weekend. If it becomes necessary for the team to gather during the retreat proper, such a meeting should be kept as short as possible.

A WORD ABOUT ALL THESE MEETINGS

For team members as well as the participants, the key to a successful TKExperience is their recognition of the Fraternity as a community of brothers. Before the retreat begins, the team has already begun building its experience of community, to be shared with the participants on the weekend. The team develops its community by the series of meetings leading to the Workshop and by the Workshop itself. By being together, working together, and making plans together, the team develops this sense of community, which is brought to a peak with the team at the end of the Workshop. When the TKExperience begins, however, the team community opens to build a larger community encompassing the participants, which lasts through the entire weekend.

RETREAT LOCATION

The site of the TKExperience must be away from the chapter's normal environment. A church conference center or similar setting is most appropriate, although the facilities must not be distractingly primitive. In addition to rooms for sleeping, a large dining hall or the like is required for the talks, discussions, and activities.

DISCUSSION TABLES

At the beginning of the Assistant Retreat Leader's talk, "Why are you here?", each person is assigned a particular table for the weekend. When possible, new members and team members should be evenly dispersed among the tables. Most of the talks are discussed by the participants under the leadership of a team member. One of the members of the table reports to the rest of the community the highlights of his table's discussion after each talk.

Team members who serve as table discussion leaders do not dominate the discussion among the new members after a talk. A table leader who has just given a talk should leave the discussion room altogether. Finally, discussion leaders should be alert to the direction of the discussion—the content of the talk which is to be considered and discussed—not the speaker's style of presentation.

THE TOKEN

The Token of the TKExperience is given to each participant at the site closing, which is held at the retreat or conference center. The Token is to serve as a reminder of the TKExperience—what they have heard, discussed, shared, learned. Guidelines for the site closing and token assembly instructions are found in "Activity P."

FINAL NOTES

The new members should not be made aware of a number of activities that take place during the TKExperience:

1. The letter for the Mystic Triangle found in Activity M.
2. The site closing found in Activity P.

These activities are important parts of the weekend, presented so as to make the greatest impression on the new members. If they know in advance about these activities, this impression will be greatly reduced.

The next section of this manual contains a schedule that serves as a guideline for the weekend's activities. The members of the team should keep the contents of the schedule to themselves, not to create any mystery, but simply to keep the participants' attention focused on the activity immediately before them. If an activity is announced before the point at which it will take place, the new members will tend to think about what is going to happen rather than focusing upon what is happening.

PURPOSE AND STRUCTURE

The TKExperience has philosophical, psychological and fraternal reference points:

PHILOSOPHICAL

The purpose of this program is to allow the participant to see the value of his fraternity experience within his chapter. With the support of the chapter as a community, he can more easily look within himself and find his relationship to that community.

Specific goals of the TKExperience are:

1. To allow the New Member to experience the Fraternity as a community of brothers.
2. To enable the New Member and other participants to develop a personal understanding of how the Fraternity fits into his life.
3. To help the New Member focus his attention on his role in the life of the chapter.
4. To encourage the New Member to live the ideals of the Fraternity and thus to become an active and vital member of Tau Kappa Epsilon.
5. To develop fraternity leadership potential.

PSYCHOLOGICAL

Young adults face peer pressure to conform at the same time that they are called upon to take greater independent responsibility for their own lives and actions. The retreat

atmosphere of the TKExperience can help the New Member look at himself and his Fraternity membership more freely, more openly, and more honestly.

We are, in fact, social beings.

We need to encounter other people. We need to share our experiences. The trusting atmosphere of the Fraternity should provide opportunities to satisfy these needs. The TKExperience fosters this atmosphere of trust in these important ways:

1. It encourages the participants and team to participate in the retreat as a community experience.
2. It provides the time and opportunity for a spirit of cohesiveness to develop among the participants.
3. It allows each participant to become more receptive of his co-participants, and thus encourages his self-disclosure.
4. It promotes the participants' sharing of personal ideas and attitudes.
5. It breaks down ordinary defense mechanisms to allow the free expression of ideas and emotion.

At the end of the TKExperience, participants will have learned to listen to one another in a new and more responsive way. Knowing each other better, they will then be free to encourage the development of a sense of community in the chapter as a whole.

FRATERNAL

The talks and activities of the TKExperience are grounded on the principles of the Fraternity as outlined both in the Declaration of Principles and in the Rituals. Through this program, the participants can find life and meaning in the words of the Bond:

- to be guided by Charity, Esteem and Love in fraternal relationships
- to share mutual respect and understanding
- to pursue and contribute individual abilities

It is an experience aimed at helping Fraters to live the Fraternity . . . for Life!"

TKExperience TALKS

The retreat team will decide which member is giving a particular talk at the first meeting. Once it has been decided, the Retreat Leader or Assistant Retreat Leader should provide each team member with a copy of his talk outline found in the appendices.

All TKExperience talks follow a pattern that governs the entire retreat. Each talk is aimed at two points: first, to the idea of Fraternity in Action and, second, to the idea of Living the Fraternity. The talks fit together but do not necessarily overlap. Each also serves to stimulate the new member to discuss, to share, and to learn.

A successful talk depends upon the speaker's use of personal examples or anecdotes. Every fact or idea should be supported and illustrated from the speaker's experience. The new members look for concrete examples to draw on, to learn from; if the speaker deals in abstractions—however valuable they may be—the new members will lose interest in his talk. Everything the speaker says has to be backed up with personal examples if he is going to get and keep the participants' attention.

The speaker must be familiar with the outline of his talk when he begins to write. He should review his own Fraternity experiences, looking for those that suit his subject. If he participated in a TKExperience, he might review his notes on that talk. He may not

remember much about who said it: the speaker and his personal examples make the important points. What stuck most in his mind? What points most engaged his tablemates? What points confused or bored the participants? Former team members may also contribute some ideas. The speaker needs to remember that the talk must be his, not someone else's. The TKExperience talks are not sermons. The speaker should present himself as a frater, not a preacher, who wants to share with the participants his experiences at living the fraternity.

All these matters need attention before the speaker begins to write and continued reflection during the whole writing process.

Preparing the talk goes on over a considerable time. Once the speaker has grasped the point of his talk and considered his own experiences, he is ready to begin writing. He should write down everything that comes to mind, even though a particular new idea may not seem to fit with any others. Using these ideas, the speaker begins to fashion his talk into an effective presentation. The speaker should not expect to write the talk in one sitting. Shaping the talk to include all the useful ideas and examples takes time.

Audio-visual materials can be helpful in presenting the talk. Songs, prayers, stories and poems should be printed for distribution to the retreat participants. Having a text helps the other participants to place it in the talk's context, as well as provides them with a tangible reminder to take away from the retreat.

At the Team Workshop, all the talks are given in their entirety to see how they relate to each other, build on each other, and lead toward the conclusion of the TKExperience. This is also helpful in acquiring ideas or insights from other team members as to a particular talk. Following the Workshop, the speaker may then wish to review his talk again to make appropriate revisions based on his presentation at the Workshop.

SUGGESTED TKEXPERIENCE SCHEDULE

Although this schedule runs from Friday night through Sunday, any comparable period of time may be used (i.e. Wednesday night through Friday).

FRIDAY:

7:00 p.m. Team and participants gather at retreat site, check into rooms, return to the group meeting room.

7:30 p.m. Retreat Leader's Talk - RULES (Talk A)

8:00 p.m. Assistant Retreat Leader's Talk - WHY ARE YOU HERE? (Talk B)

Table assignments made, notebooks and pencils given out, questions answered.

8:30 p.m. IDEALS (Talk C)

9:30 p.m. Discussion and Table Reports

10:30 p.m. Group Activity - WHO ARE WE? (Activity D)

11:30 p.m. Lights Out/Brief Team Meeting

SATURDAY:

7:15 a.m. Team Rises

7:30 a.m. Participants Rise

8:00 a.m. Breakfast

8:30 a.m. STUDY (Talk E) and Group Activity NAME TAGS (Activity F)

9:15 a.m. Discussion and Table Reports
10:00 a.m. DIFFERENCES (Talk G)
10:45 a.m. Discussion and Table Reports
11:30 a.m. Break
12:00 noon LUNCH
1:00 p.m. Recreation Period
4:00 p.m. Clean-Up After Recreation Period
4:30 p.m. MAN IS A SOCIAL BEING (Talk H)
5:15 p.m. Discussion and Table Reports
6:00 p.m. DINNER
7:00 p.m. FRIENDSHIP (Talk I)
8:00 p.m. Group Activity - SPONTANEOUS REACTIONS (Activity J)
9:00 p.m. CHARITY, ESTEEM, AND LOVE (Talk K)
9:45 p.m. Group Activity - FRATERNITY IN ACTION (Activity L) (letters)
11:00 p.m. Group Activity - THE MYSTIC TRIANGLE (Activity M)
Lights Out
Brief Team Meeting

SUNDAY:

7:15 a.m. Team Rises
7:30 a.m. Participants Rise
8:00 a.m. Breakfast
8:30 a.m. MANY MEN AS ONE MAN (Talk N)
9:15 a.m. Discussion and Table Reports
10:00 a.m. LIVING THE FRATERNITY (Talk O)
11:00 a.m. Break to pack, clean rooms, shower, dress for closing. Place luggage in designated area.
12:00 noon LUNCH
1:00 p.m. Group Activity - SITE CLOSING (Activity P)
Presentation of tokens, Certificate: Order of the Founders
2:30 p.m. Leave Retreat Center
5:00 p.m. BROTHERHOOD CELEBRATION

TKEXPERIENCE - TALK 'A' --- RULES

PURPOSE:

This talk, given by the Retreat Leader, sets the tone for following some rules throughout the weekend. The Retreat Leader should be firm in giving this talk (but not so firm as to turn the participants against him), so that the participants will know that he is serious about what he is saying to them.

OUTLINE:

- I. We're going to be doing a lot this weekend and, like any group, we need to follow a few simple rules to keep things on track.
 - A. These rules are based on common sense.
 - B. By following these rules, we can all hope to gain much from this TKExperience.

II. No one is to leave the retreat center or use the phones. If an emergency comes up, see me or one of the other team members.

III. The buildings and grounds are not ours. We are guests here.

A. Be neat. Use the ashtrays and trash cans.

B. Have your fun and games outside. We can't waste time cleaning up in here.

C. If you break something, tell us.

D. If you brought radios, TVs, cards, magazines, or other distractions, please put them away.

E. NO DRUGS OR ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES are permitted under any circumstances. If you brought any, turn them into the Retreat Leader. They'll be returned to you when we leave.

IV. We'll be eating our meals in the dining room.

A. Meals will be served cafeteria style.

B. Tables will alternate in cleaning up in the dining room after each meal.

V. We will be operating on a tight schedule. Please be prompt. If you're not here when we begin an activity, you'll not only miss something yourself, but you will also be disturbing the rest of us.

A. We suggest that you leave your watches in your rooms.

(Or, alternatively, team members may wish to collect all time pieces, keeping them in a safe place until the end of the retreat.)

B. Knowing what time it is, is not important.

VI. Pay attention to the person who is speaking.

A. Don't leave your table during a talk.

B. Don't interrupt the speaker. You will have an opportunity for comments following his talk.

VII. Be open to this retreat experience, to the team members, to each other, and to yourself. If you close yourself off, you will gain nothing from this weekend.

VIII. If you have a question, are confused or need something, ask a team member. Don't let something churn inside you for awhile before you say something about it.

IX. Please cooperate. We're not telling you these are the rules to be bossy. It's just that we have a lot to get done.

X. Any questions?

(After setting the rules, the Retreat Leader introduces the Assistant Retreat Leader for his comments.)

TKEXPERIENCE - TALK B

WHY ARE YOU HERE?

PURPOSE:

This talk, given by the Assistant Retreat Leader, clarifies the object of the TKExperience. The talk provides some hints on how to get the most out of the retreat.

It is important to shift the mood at this point. The Retreat Leader's talk on rules was stern and forceful. The Assistant Retreat Leader must now shift the mood into a softer, more caring one.

At the beginning of the talk, the Assistant Retreat Leader makes the permanent table assignments. Until this point, the new members and team members have been sitting anywhere.

OUTLINE:

- I. Right now, I'd like to make the following table assignments for the retreat. (Does so.)
- II. I'd like to spend a few minutes talking about the TKExperience - what it is and how to get the most out of it.

A. The TKExperience is a retreat.

1. A retreat is unique for each participant.
2. The TKExperience is an experience of you, of others, and of the Fraternity you have joined.

B. Your participation is very important.

1. The team will be presenting basic ideas about the Fraternity. You must examine them.
 - a). We're not here to force any ideas on you.
 - b). You must listen and decide for yourself what has meaning to you.
2. The TKExperience is not a spectator sport. You must be involved in it.
 - a). You will get out of this retreat only as much as you put into it.
 - b). Take part in the discussions and activities after the talks. Share your ideas.

What you have to

say is important, and we can all benefit from you.

c). If you sit at your table and watch and listen, you won't be making this retreat - you will be watching

others make a retreat.

3. Be open to what is said and to each person here. Make this retreat an opportunity to bring your Fraternity closer together.

4. Each of you has been given a notebook and pencil. Use them!

a). The note book is very important. It serves to record what you hear (for discussion) and it will be a tangible reminder of this retreat.

b). Write down those things you think are the most useful.

c). You may also be asked by a speaker to write something in your notebook.

5. Nothing extraordinary is going to happen on this retreat.

6. Don't judge this retreat experience until it is over.

III. Why are you here?

A. You are here because your Fraternity wants you to be here.

1. The Fraternity is more than just _____ or _____. (Pick out a couple of terms like "sports" or "parties"—terms which describe your chapter.)

2. We are a fraternity—a brotherhood. We think, and we want you to think, that brotherhood means something.

NOTE: This is an important part of the remarks. Don't be critical. Draw from your personal experiences to say why you think the New Members are here. Sincerity and honesty are important here.

IV. Conclusion

- A. Stay open.
- B. Participate.
- C. Relax, and have a good retreat!

TKEXPERIENCE - TALK C

IDEALS

PURPOSE:

The talks and activities of the first evening examine the question of who we are, particularly as this relates to each participant as an individual. This talk on ideals is followed by a table discussion and reports, which in turn are followed by an activity designed to give all participants an opportunity to get to know each other better.

OUTLINE:

- I. All of us have ideals.
 - A. When we join an organization (like a fraternity), we subscribe to the ideals of that group.
 - B. Not to subscribe to those ideals is to be hypocritical about our membership in that group.
- II. What is an ideal?
 - A. An ideal is a value, desire or goal which motivates us to channel our time, energy and effort toward its achievement. (Reword this definition or use one of your own.)
 - B. Early sources of ideals in our lives.
 - 1. Parents
 - 2. Religion
 - 3. Friends
 - 4. Others?
 - C. From the first three (plus others), we develop our values upon which our personal ideals are based.
- III. Why have ideals?
 - A. Without ideals we are aimless. Ideals give direction, meaning, and purpose to our lives.
 - 1. Why?
 - 2. How?(Answer these questions)
 - B. Ideals determine how we react in different situations. (EXAMPLES)
 - C. Ideals can be either long-term or short-term. (EXAMPLES)
 - D. What about the ideals of the Fraternity?
 - 1. Where do we find the Fraternity's ideals?
 - a). Declaration of Principles.
 - b). The rituals.
 - c). Other sources?
 - 2. Are these ideals long-term or short-term or both? (EXAMPLES)

Cite some of the Fraternity's ideals as you understand them, using references to the Declaration of Principles where possible. Also cite some of your chapter's ideals, again trying to relate them to the ideals of Tau Kappa Epsilon.

E. Ideals change over time.

1. As I grow older, my ideals can change.

a). Why?

b). How?

(Answer these questions)

F. Ideals can be forgotten.

1. There are times when we don't live our ideals.

2. The important thing to remember, though, is that we must keep trying.

Give some examples of when you have failed to live your ideals as a person or as a Frater, the results, and how keep on trying.

G. Ideals can be corrupted.

1. Quantity vs. quality syndrome in rush is an example.

2. Over-competitiveness between fraternities on campus is another.

3. Other examples.

IV. Conclusion.

A. All of us have ideals.

B. Our ideals determine the way we live.

C. Ideals give life meaning.

D. TKE provides a number of high-quality ideals.

E. Only I can live my ideals.

Who are we? activity is to follow.

TKEXPERIENCE - ACTIVITY D

WHO ARE WE?

SETTING:

A dimly-lit room with chairs in a circle so everyone can be seen.

PURPOSE:

1). To serve as an icebreaker.

2). To build community identity between the participants and the team members.

3). To help the new members see themselves as members of the Fraternity.

PROCESS:

The Assistant Retreat Leader, who directs this activity, may begin by saying something like, "We're going to be here for a while at this retreat. We'll be sharing a lot with each other. This is a time for each of us to begin to get to know each other better."

He asks each participant to introduce himself by stating his name, and be talking about such things as high school, major in college, family, job, hobbies, campus activities, and the like. The Assistant Retreat Leader begins with himself and then proceeds to the person on his right and around the group.

Then the Assistant Retreat Leader should ask each participant to respond to the following questions:

1. How did you feel when you got here?
2. Why did you feel that way?
3. What do you expect to accomplish on this retreat?

After the new member has answered, ask each participant why he joined the Fraternity. Simply acknowledge each answer: It does not call for discussion.

At the end of the activity, he tells the participants the team members will be available throughout the retreat if anyone wants just to talk. He encourages each participant to be open to and support the others during the retreat. He encourages each person to respond to the experience, but to be sensitive to everyone's freedom to say only what he wishes to share with the group.

TKEXPERIENCE - TALK E

STUDY

PURPOSE:

The first talk, Ideals, and the first activity, Who Are We?, sought to get the participants in touch with themselves. By examining who and what they are, they can better determine their values and hence their ideals. This talk, however, looks in the other direction, outward from the individual to those with whom he comes in contact.

OUTLINE:

- I. Before you can truthfully call someone your friend, you must first get to know him.
 - A. You must have a desire to know him.
 1. We will meet many people whom we will soon forget.
 2. Those whom we continue to know may become more than acquaintances: They may become friends.
 3. Friendships develop when we learn more about each other.
 - a). We have to work at it.
 - b). It takes time, energy and effort.
 - c). It is, in fact, a study.
 - B. Why should we study other people?
 1. Study is a means by which we come to understand others.
 - a). We should understand ourselves first.
 - b). Other people can help us understand ourselves.
 2. We study other people by watching them, talking to them, and so on, but not in an obvious way.
 - C. What does it take (or mean) to study someone we like as opposed to someone we don't like?
 1. It is easier to study someone you like. The natural attraction between us makes the flow of information much easier.
 2. It's difficult to study someone we don't like, because there's no at and there is even a tendency to tune the other person out, even when he's trying to tell you something important.
 - D. This process of study emphasizes the importance of communication.
 1. Personal growth and personal damage come through our relationships with others.
 2. A relationship is only as good as its communication.

3. Five levels of communication exist.

a). Cliche conversation: (the lowest level). Example: "How are you?"

How is your family? Where have you been?

b). Reporting the facts about others: still almost nothing of ourselves or of the other person is revealed. Gossip items, contention pieces, telling about others goes on at this level.

c). Ideas and Judgment: some communication of me takes place here. But if you respond negatively, I will retreat from you.

d). Gut level: feelings and emotions are communicated at this level, but the substance behind them is still hidden.

e). Peak communications: complete emotional and personal communication between the individuals, an almost perfect sympathy.

II. Why study your brothers in the Fraternity?

A. You probably joined because of people you know.

B. Now you have met others whom you did not know.

1). These whom you don't know are your brothers in the Fraternity.

2). You should get to know them and they you.

C. It is not sufficient just to know someone, though, especially in the fraternity setting. You must understand him as well. (Elaborate here on the distinction between knowing and understanding a person.)

III. We're going to try an activity now called Name Tags, in an attempt to study others.

TKEXPERIENCE - ACTIVITY F

NAME TAGS

INSTRUCTIONS:

A. Writing

1. Turn to the next blank page in your notebook, and put your name in the center page.

2. In the upper lefthand corner write:

a). The place you were born

b). The place you were living

3. In the upper righthand corner write:

a). The name of your best friend in school

b). The name of the person who has influenced you the most.

c). The name of the person who has influenced you the most in the last five

years.

4. In the lower lefthand corner write:

a). The primary reason you joined the Fraternity (in one or two words)

b). What you see as the Fraternity's major strength

c). What you see as the Fraternity's major weakness

5. In the lower righthand corner rank the following three words according to the way you see yourself:

a). acting

b). feeling

c). thinking

6. Around your name, write five or six words describing things or ideas that you value.

B. Observing

Without speaking to anyone, walk around and observe the name tags on the persons present. Notice differences and similarities in the information they contain.

C. Sharing

Choose a partner and form a pair. Talk about what is on your name tags. What is important to you? To the other?

IV. CONCLUSION

As the sharing process of Name Tags is going on, write these three questions on the blackboard:

1. Are you a 'picker' or a 'pickee'?
2. How are you alike?
3. How are you different?

A. Studying people goes on all the time.

B. By studying people, we not only get to know them and they us, but we get to understand each other.

C. In the Fraternity, mutual study is important because we are fraters.

TKEXPERIENCE - TALK G

DIFFERENCES

PURPOSE:

The first two talks asked the participants to look both at themselves and at those around them. As a result of this studying process, it has been shown that people are not alike. This talk, then, serves to highlight this fact and to stress the importance of differences in creating that group which is called the "Chapter.

OUTLINE:

I. By studying ourselves and those around us, we discover that we are not alike.

A. Physically: tall/short, skinny/fat, black/white/yellow/red/brown, male/female, and so on.

B. Mentally: some think in abstract ideas, others in concrete examples.

C. Emotionally: people react differently to the same situation.

D. The same factors that provide us with our ideals also account for our differences.

1. Family
2. Friends
3. Religion
4. Other

All have a direct bearing on our present nature and our future goals.

(Here it might be appropriate to pick out another member of the team, consulting him in advance, of course, and compare yourselves. List those areas in which you are different. Try, too, to highlight those times when these differences have, in fact complemented each other.)

II. What would life be like if we were all the same?

A. Dull, for one thing.

Use other descriptions for life in an "all-alike" society

B. Non-creative? Stagnant? .

C. Progress is made through the interaction of differences.

(Cite examples here, e.g., everyone wearing identical clothes. Point perhaps, to Opportunity Out of Defeat story of TKE where Wallace G. McCauley, by being different, by pushing for the nationalization of TKE rather than another petition to Phi Delta Theta, provided the spark for TKE to become what it is today.)

RUN "OPPORTUNITY OUT OF DEFEAT" VIDEO MODULE, ON THE CENTENNIAL VIDEO

III. What are the values of being different - for more than mere difference's sake?

A. Like our ideals, our differences—and our recognition and acceptance of differences—focuses our relationships.

B. Differences can be formed into a common goal for the common good.

C. Perhaps each chapter should have one resident screwball whose zany actions (within the confines of the Bond, of course) would keep us from relaxing into the "Dead Sea" of conformity.

IV.

A. Have we looked down on other people because they were different, regardless of the reason?

1. Probably, honestly, we have.

2. Why?

a). Prejudice

b). Ignorance

c). Simple dislike of the person - natural antipathy

B. Have we looked down on other people because of their associates?

C. In either case, this can result in conflict!

V.

A. By joining a fraternity, our Fraternity, we have said that we will do two things with our differences.

1. We will temper some of them for the good of the group, but not at the expense of our ideals or principles.

2. We will also contribute ourselves to the group as a whole.

B. Both of these are part of a life-changing process, a continuation of study, for we are influenced by the differences in people around us.

VI. Conclusions.

A. We are not alike.

B. We are all individuals.

C. We have a fraternal obligation to contribute that individuality.

TKEXPERIENCE - TALK H
MAN AS A SOCIAL BEING

PURPOSE:

The phrase "Man is a Social Being" should be familiar to all members of the Fraternity, for it is one of the keystones of the Declaration of Principles. Frater William S. Wilson, who wrote this document, was quite astute in pointing out that our whole social structure evidences the absolute interdependence of man.

The participants have, to this point, examined themselves and their ideals, other people around them, and the results of these contacts. This talk examines further the results of being together.

OUTLINE:

I. Man is a social being.

A. From birth to death, we come into contact with many people.

1. Our first contacts are with family - parents, brothers, and sisters, and other relatives.
2. As we grow older, our contacts expand, especially when we begin going to school.

B. Sometimes, the expansion of a child's social world is traumatic, as, for example, when a younger brother or sister is born or when the child goes to school.

1. He is no longer the center of attention.
2. He must learn that he is only one of the many who make demands on the time and attention of parents and teachers.

C. How an individual functions in the midst of many people is one of the most important growing lessons we have to learn.

(You may wish to provide some personal examples from your early life here - about going to school, making new friends, having a new brother or sister, and so on.)

1. Learning this lesson is not easy.

a). We are very I-centered people.

b). Conflict arises when my demands are opposed to your demands, when my needs

conflict with your needs.

D. What can we do to make living in society easier?

1. We can adapt to other people.
2. We can learn from other people.

E. By adapting and learning, we grow!

II. Part of this adapting, learning, and growing process is the development of social organizations.

A. Social organizations appear early in an individual's life.

(Note that social in this context means having to do with people, not parties)

1. The kids on your block, for example, were a social group.
2. There was probably a group of kids you ran around with in school.

B. These groups have a purpose,.

1. They provide a common outlet for our interests and energies.
2. They provide mutual support and assistance, whether in concrete or abstract terms.

C. Social organizations have their value because they contribute to the process of growth.

III. It is difficult to be an island unto yourself.

A. Our society works against being alone all the time.

B. William S. Wilson, who wrote the Declaration of Principles, encouraged organizations which exist to promote our personal, mental, and moral development.

C. TKE is one such organization.

D. And yet you are not always involved with the Fraternity.

1. There are many other demands on your time - family, school, other friends; - these demands are important, too

.2. These also involve contact with other people.

IV. Conclusion

A. Man is a social being.

B. TKE is a social organization.

TKEXPERIENCE - TALK I FRIENDSHIP

PURPOSE:

With this talk, the participants and team begin to look the fraternity experience directly in the face. It is important to remember, though, that not all Fraters are friends, nor are all friends Fraters. Still, within the Fraternity, we find many friends; these friendships will be long-lasting and substantial ones.

OUTLINE:

I. What is a friend?

A. A friend is a person one knows, whom one prefers to be with, on whom one can place a trust or firm reliance. (Reword this definition or develop your own.)

B. Part of friendship is mystery, freedom, gift.

(Speak a little about each of these qualities as you understand them.)

C. Who comes to mind? (Give personal concrete examples of your own experience of friendship. Tell about your friendship with yourself, with others, with God, and so on.)

D. What are the characteristics of a friend?

II. Sometimes friendship is offered and rejected: gift and freedom.

A. Friendship is a gift, freely offered. Whether or not we accept it is up to us.

B. Friendship is a risk.

1. When offered it can be rejected.

2. Rejection hurts.

C. How does one become a friend? How does one make a friend? (Answer these questions.)

D. What is a substantial friendship? (Give concrete examples.)

III. What happens to a friendship in a time of crisis that occurs outside the confines of that friendship?

A. Who are our friends in these situations?

Answer these questions.

B. Why do we turn to them in particular?

IV. What are the obstacles to friendship?

A. Other people.

B. Outside distractions.

(Give concrete examples here as to what you think are the obstacles to friendship and what the results have been.)

V. What can end a friendship?

A. We don't ever really understand friendship intellectually.

1. That's part of its mystery.

2. It's a very subjective, personal thing.

VI. The value of the Fraternity in making friends.

A. You get to meet many, many more people.

B. By mutual study, we develop friendships.

(Cite examples of persons you didn't know before you joined the Fraternity whom you can now call

friend as well as Frater.)

VII. Conclusion

A. What is friendship?

B. Who is a friend?

C. What are the obstacles to friendship?

D. What is the role of TKE?

There is no discussion after this talk. The Retreat Leader asks all participants to remain at their tables. After about five minutes or so, proceed with the Spontaneous Reactions.

TKEXPERIENCE - ACTIVITY J

SPONTANEOUS REACTIONS

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS:

After many of the talks, each table discusses the content of that talk, especially by relating the talk of the new members as individuals. This flow of discussion and reporting to the entire group can become tedious. Spontaneous reactions break the monotony of discussion, and it also calls for the participants to synthesize what they heard during the Friendship talk and to report that to the group.

OUTLINE:

1. When the speaker has left the room after the Friendship talk, the Retreat Leader presides.
2. Ask the participants to think about what they just heard. Allow about five minutes for reflection.
3. After this reflection, the Retreat Leader comments, We'd like to know your reactions to this talk. Please remember that we're interested in knowing how the talk's content related to you.
4. The Leader then calls on each participant individually. The new member may remain at his table.
5. If there is time after everyone has had an opportunity to share his reactions to the talk, the Leader may announce a short stretch in place break for about five minutes. Ask everyone to remain in the room.
6. After the break, the Leader calls the group to order and announces the next talk, Charity, Esteem and Love.

TKEXPERIENCE - TALK K

CHARITY, ESTEEM AND LOVE

PURPOSE:

Having dealt with ourselves and with others, and with what happens between ourselves and others, we are now ready to deal more specifically with the Fraternity of Tau Kappa Epsilon, one of the high points of the TKExperience.

The Declaration of Principles says that Charity, Esteem and Love are the essential elements of true friendship; we may say that these are the essential elements of true brotherhood. Since we are brothers in the Fraternity, we should consider the basis on which our Fraternity is founded.

OUTLINE:

I. What is charity?

A. The dictionary defines charity as kindness or leniency in judging others (among other definitions).

1. The Fraternity has a similar definition.

2. When we speak of charity, we mean that we will be impulsive to see virtues in a Frater but be slow to reprove his faults.

a). Each one of us has shortcomings.

b). The Fraternity teaches us to look for the positive values that each member brings to the group.

B. Charity does not mean that we:

1. Allow members to default on their obligations to the chapter - financial, academic, time commitments.

2. Permit violations of the rules to be overlooked.

C. Charity does help us to be optimistic about each other. There is no use of the word "judging" in the Fraternity's definition.

II. What is esteem?

A. The dictionary defines esteem as "having great respect for".

1. The Declaration of Principles says that through esteem we are respectful of the honest convictions of others and that we refrain from treading on that which is sacred to spirit and conscience.

2. Esteem helps us to value the individuality, the uniqueness that each one of us brings to the Fraternity.

B. Not only are we to respect the opinions and beliefs of our Fraters, but we are also to respect them as persons.

C. Esteem places a high value on our membership in the Fraternity.

D. We are also taught that when the chapter makes a decision, we have an obligation to honor and support that decision.

III. What is love?

A. In the Fraternity, we are speaking of brotherly love - a feeling of deep affection for our brothers.

1. Why is it difficult for us as men to speak of fraternal love in a serious manner. (Answer the question.)

B. The Declaration of Principles says that

Love . . . binds our hearts with the sturdy chords of fraternal affection.

1. Can we love someone without liking them?

2. On the surface, the answer may be "no," but in TKE, love of our fellow fraters is an obligation of membership.

IV. Charity, Esteem and Love are related to one another.

A. They are based on respect and dedication:

1. To our Fraternity.
2. To our Chapter.
3. To our Fellow Fraters.

B. When these elements, Charity, Esteem and Love, are linked, it is possible to disagree with a Frater without being disagreeable.

1. Acting in this manner is not easy.
2. But it is worthwhile.

(Give personal examples of how you have managed to disagree with a Frater when all three elements have been present. When one or more have been missing. What were the results? How did these particular situations differ?)

C. Fraternal love has consequences in our actions.

1. We give ourselves to our Fraters.
2. We accept our Fraters as they are, not as we would have them to be.

D. Fraternal love is not a search for an emotional high.

1. Small acts are the big thing in fraternal love.
2. It is daily acts of giving.
3. It is sacrificing for our Fraters, even for those whom we may not particularly like.

E. Fraternal love is not limited to our special friends in the chapter.

1. Fraternal love is in and for all Fraters, not just a select few.
2. It is easy to love those who love back; it's difficult to love someone who doesn't return that love.
3. The act of fraternal love is an act of selflessness.

F. Putting your fraternal love into action requires great effort.

1. It is in giving that we receive.
2. The one who loves is never really alone.

G. Many times we fail to put our love into action.

1. Failure is a part of human condition.
2. So is starting over again (hopefully).

V. Conclusion

A. The fraternity in action - the combination of Charity, Esteem, and love - binds the Fraternity together.

1. This retreat is an example of fraternity in action, a community of brothers.
2. The basic elements of true brotherhood are present here.

B. We can take this experience home with us and enlarge it to encompass the entire chapter.

There is no discussion after this talk. When the speaker has finished, the program continues with the activity, Fraternity in Action.

TKEXPERIENCE - ACTIVITY L
FRATERNITY IN ACTION

The talk on Charity, Esteem and Love has laid the groundwork, but one of the biggest problems that the new members may have at this point is in seeing and experiencing these three elements at work, the Fraternity in Action. The conclusion of Charity, Esteem and Love consists of the Fraternity in Action activity. The speaker should point out to the participants that the Fraternity has been in action while we have been on retreat. The results of the friendship and love of our Fraters have been all around us, although we may not recognize them.

The speaker then relates to the new members some of the results of the Fraternity in Action in his life. He then continues by reading aloud some of the general letters that have been sent to the new members and team on retreat - three or four should be sufficient. Finally, the speaker may wish to read aloud the letter to the new members from their Big Brothers. (This May Be Omitted At The Discretion Of The Team.)

In asking the Big Brother, parents, wives/girl friends, and other members of the chapter to write these letters, stress that the letter is to tell the participant how much he is appreciated and how proud we are of him. The letters are in no way to be negative. The letter does not have to be spectacular, but just something from several persons that assures the participant of how much he means to us as an individual. This can be a time and way to share some things that we often just take for granted. There's not always a communication gap between individuals, but sometimes it's just good to see in writing the way one feels about another.

Before this activity, all of the letters should be sorted and separated so that it will be easy to distribute them. After the talk is completed and the general letters have been read, the team members help in distributing the letters to the participants. They are then asked to read the letters and to think of the talk. Stress that the participants are to be off by themselves (individually) and that silence is in order during this time. One or two members of the team should circulate quietly in the area where the new members are and be available if anyone needs comfort or help. The rest of the team will prepare the facilities for the Mystic Triangle.

Background music during the reading of the letters is most appropriate. The music should be something that will help create a mood of brotherhood.

REQUESTING A LETTER FROM PARENTS

Experience has shown that the New Members, and the team members, appreciate receiving a letter from one or both of their parents as a part of the Fraternity in Action activity. The mere request of a letter from the parents can also be an opportunity to demonstrate to the parents that membership in the Fraternity is not all fun and games. One approach that can be used to obtain letters from the parents is to have the Big Brother meet personally with the parents (or in case of a team member, having the the Chapter Advisor make this contact). Personal contact will involve the parents in a closer way to the activities of the retreat and of the Fraternity.

A second approach, especially in cases where the parents do not live in the same town as the school where the chapter is located, is to send the parents a personal letter asking that they write a letter to their son. This is the easiest way to communicate to the parents. The following is a sample draft of such a letter. It is important, of course, that this letter not be seen by the New Member.

CHAPTER LETTERHEAD

Mr. and Mrs. John Smith

123 Streetname

Cleveland, OH 44145

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Smith,

I am pleased that your son Steve will be participating in the TKExperience of Omega-Omega Chapter. The retreat is a look at ourselves, a look at our relationships to others, a look at the Fraternity, and our response to the Fraternity. The TKExperience will be conducted by a team of ___ members from the chapter, and our alumni advisors.

Since it is important to have you, his parents, involved in your son's retreat, I have a very important request to make of you.

I'd like very much for you to write your son a letter telling him just how much you really appreciate him and how proud you are of him. This may seem like a difficult task, but I know that the results will be well worth your time and effort. In our busy world, we seldom say so many things that we do feel for people, and this can be a time to share with Steve some of these things. The letter you send will be incorporated into our retreat program during a talk entitled Charity, Esteem and Love.

I would like to have this letter mailed to me at (address). Please use the enclosed self-addressed envelope to return your letter. The envelope has been coded to ensure confidentiality and your son will receive your letter. (Place a number on the bottom left-hand corner of the envelope which corresponds to the name of the new member.) Could I receive this letter before (date)? The success of this portion of the retreat is only possible without your son's prior knowledge.

Thank you for your help. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at (phone) or e-mail me at xxxxx@tekes.com.

Sincerely yours,

Signature here

(Retreat Leader or Big Brother or Chapter Hegemon or Chapter Prytanis)

TKEXPERIENCE - ACTIVITY M

THE MYSTIC TRIANGLE

On the first night of the retreat, each participant had an opportunity to tell the others who he is. The Mystic Triangle also allows the participants to talk to one another and to share some of their feelings. This activity has more depth than the first night's activity because everyone has shared much more during the preceding 24 hours.

The Mystic Triangle allows each participant to share himself with the others. It is an opportunity to demonstrate further the concept of the Fraternity in Action.

This activity takes place at night. The room should be dimly lit, preferably with candles, three of which are for a triangle inside the triangle of the participants. The Mystic Triangle is led by the Fraternal Director or his appointee. All team members and new members participate, whether as an entire group, by tables, or by chapter (in multi-chapter retreats). Team members need to be sensitive to each new member's condition when this activity begins. The length of time involved will depend on the willingness and stamina of the group, since both team and new members are probably tired.

No undue pressure to respond is placed on anyone. The right of the new member and team members to remain silent must be respected. A person is given an opportunity to share when he is willing to do so.

The activity leader gives the following directions in his own words:

1. We were together last night (as a group) (by tables). Much has happened since then. This time is a time of sharing.

2. We are going to be here for awhile. Get comfortable. Take your shoes off. Relax!

3. Each person will be given an opportunity to share with the group:

a). How he feels about the Fraternity right now.

b). How he feels about himself right now.

4. Feel free to respond to anyone after he has finished speaking. Look at him, not me.

Don't talk about him - he's right here!

Any response should be supportive as well as honest.

5. We trust each other. Everything anyone says is said in confidence. Out of context, some remarks might be misunderstood. Don't repeat elsewhere what this group shares here—not to friends at school, to a girl friend - to anyone.

6. Abstract philosophy is not our object. We are here to speak to each other and to listen to each other as genuine brothers.

7. After you speak, you may think you're finished. You're not. Remain attentive and present to those who talk after you, because listening is part of your responsibility, too.

8. You can say as much or as little as you wish, but we hope you say something. That's up to you.

9. Let's pause now and get our thoughts together. Reflect on the retreat and on the Fraternity as a whole.

At this point, the activity leader may wish to call upon another team member to lead the group in a moment of prayer. A suggested prayer is found below. After this brief reflective time, ask who would like to begin.

The leader must see to it that the new members and the team are talking to one another through out the Mystic Triangle.

At a point when the activity leader feels that everyone who wanted to say something has done so, the leader may ask for any closing remarks.

1. Thank everyone.

2. Make sure everyone is okay.

3. Conclude with a sign of peace.

The leader may wish to take the lead in this by shaking hands of everyone.

4. Remind the group that what has been said is confidential.

5. Tell everyone to retire quietly.

Team members may wish to keep their eyes on any new member who may be having a rough time at this point. Have a few team members help to clean up the room and be ready for tomorrow's activities.

SUGGESTED PRAYER FOR MYSTIC TRIANGLE:

O Thou Father of all, we call upon Thee to bless our beloved fraternity. As we gather tonight in this Mystic Triangle, remind us of the courage of our five founders. Cause us to be courageous now as we continue with them to build our brotherhood with Charity,

Esteem and Love. Let us, like them, renew our faith in You when our determination to be Fraters is opposed by others. Help us to know the hope born of success in achieving together what we cannot do alone. Teach us to be like our founders, not content to enjoy fraternity for ourselves alone, but eager to share it with others.

With this prayer, unite us with all our Fraters, remembering the founders of our past, and the founders of our chapter, so that we may join them as founders of our future in Tau Kappa Epsilon.

This we ask in solemn adoration of Thy most precious name. Amen.

APPENDIX N

MANY MEN AS ONE MAN

PURPOSE:

The talks and activities to this point highlight fraternal relationships between members of the chapter. In this talk, we point out that the chapter comprises many men as one man, stressing the unity that we find within the Bond of the Fraternity.

At the same time, however, the chapter cannot move forward in its activities if its members

sit around being fraternal.

We are required to be leaders, whether in positions of authority and responsibility or as members of the chapter.

OUTLINE:

I. Tau Kappa Epsilon stresses the idea that leadership is a challenge, not a reward.

A. We emphasize the importance of leadership in the Fraternity.

B. Elective or appointive officers of the chapter should be leaders.

C. But leadership is not limited to these officers.

II. What is Leadership?

A. Leadership is the quality of being able to formulate goals and objectives and then of motivating people to achieve these goals and objectives.

1. Leaders are optimistic themselves and infect other people with their optimism.

2. Leaders persevere.

3. Leaders have self-control and sound judgment.

4. Leaders are decisive.

5. Leaders have courage and ruthlessness.

a). They do not appreciate inefficiency or those who waste time.

b). They are ruthless with themselves.

III. Leadership also implies a knowledge of human nature.

A. We work with people.

B. These people appreciate honesty and sincerity.

C. The opportunity and challenge of leadership is available to all Fraters.

1. There are only a few elective or appointive positions in any chapter.

2. Those who hold such positions are expected to be leaders.

3. The rest of the chapter should be leaders as well.

(Give examples here of one or two Fraters who don't hold elective or appointive office but who are, in fact, leaders in the chapter.)

D. Willingness to accept responsibility and obligation is a sign of maturity.

1. It takes a mature man to accept his responsibilities.

2. It takes a mature man to be a TEKE.

IV. By being a leader, by working together within the fraternity, we demonstrate to the rest of the community that we are united as a chapter, as a community of fraters.

A. We are many men as one man.

B. When the chapter decides on a particular project or course of action, we need to take and lead to see that project completed or that course of action followed.

C. You are now part of a group, not just an individual.

D. Advance the interest of your Fraternity by the earnestness and sincerity of your leadership.

V. Conclusion

A. TKE is an adventure in group living - not necessarily in the same building, but as a group working together.

B. In TKE, each person has the opportunity to develop his leadership ability in an atmosphere of friendship and brotherhood.

C. TKE helps its members develop into poised, self-confident men, equipped with a keener mind, a greater appreciation and broader sympathies, fortified by true and understanding friends who will abide throughout life.

APPENDIX O

LIVING THE FRATERNITY

PURPOSE:

The talk ties the weekend together. It reviews what has happened on the retreat and ends with the challenge to the participants that it is their responsibility to realize what they have heard, seen, and done in their lives as members of Tau Kappa Epsilon.

OUTLINE:

I. Reviewing the Retreat

A. (Go over what has happened on the retreat - the trip to the retreat site, the seven talks, the letters, the Mystic Triangle. Use substantive examples.)

B. All of these experiences have been real.

1. We have experienced a true example of a group of individuals living and acting as brothers in a fraternity.

(Mention instances when you felt real community.)

2. Our experiences have been as real as we have dared to be or could be with ourselves, with our Fraternity and with each other.

C. Today we will be going back home.

1. We may have mixed emotions about that return. (Many have indicated that they would like to stay here longer.)

2. But our wishes do not change the fact that we are going home.

3. This retreat is not necessarily over !

II. Living the Fraternity

A. This retreat is three days long, more or less, but you can make today, the third day, last for as long or as short a period as you want.

1. This third day is the most important one.

2. Today is the day in which each of us is challenged to Live the Fraternity, to put into action what we have learned and what we have experienced here as a group.

B. What does Living the Fraternity mean?

1. Concrete examples

- a). Stay in touch with yourself.
- b). Really listen to your fraternity brothers.
- c). Be open and honest with yourself and with your Fraters.
- d). Show genuine concern for your Fraters - live in a spirit of Charity, Esteem and Love.
- e). Think before you speak or act.
- f). Look at your notebook and letters from time to time; these are visible reminders of Living the Fraternity.

2. (Give personal examples of how you "Live the Fraternity.")

C. Living the Fraternity is worthwhile and possible, but not easy.

1. This retreat center and what we have done here is an ideal situation; we will be going home to the real world.
 - a). We will come down from this high.
 - b). There will be times when no one seems close to us - even those of us here - but this does not change the reality of this TKExperience.
2. We will also fail to Live the Fraternity. (Give examples.)
3. Don't give up!
 - a). Remember the spirit of the Fraternity - Opportunity Out of Defeat.
 - b). The Fraternity's recovery from the Depression and several wars.
4. As those early Tekes decided to spread the Fraternity experience and its message of Charity, Esteem and Love, so must we.

III. Practical Advice

A. Be sensible about this retreat.

1. Don't go home to family, friends, the chapter, and act like you've somehow suddenly "got fraternity".
2. Don't talk constantly about the retreat. The best way to demonstrate the TKExperience is to live it through your actions.

B. It is really hard to talk about this retreat.

1. One way might be to say that you've come to know a lot more about what the Fraternity really means to you.
2. Also remember that there are certain activities that , if taken out of context, can be misunderstood. So, keep the letter and the Mystic Triangle confidential - don't talk about them to any one.

(Emphasize again that things said during the Mystic Triangle were said in confidence.

Honor that trust!)

C. Your job is to Live the Fraternity with all your Fraters.

IV. Conclusion

A. (Summarize Briefly)

1. This retreat, this TKExperience, has been real.
2. But the most important part of the TKExperience is yet to come.

B. Challenge team members.

1. The rest of the TKExperience is up to you.

2. We will be able to turn to each other for support when we need it, but each of us will have to determine whether this retreat will soon fade into a pleasant memory, or if it will remain a real and vital experience.

3. The question is not, Can I Live the Fraternity? but rather, "Do I want to Live the Fraternity?"

4. For the message of Tau Kappa Epsilon to be real, the answer has to be a resounding YES!

APPENDIX P

GROUP ACTIVITY - SITE CLOSING

This activity is called the Site closing because it takes place at the retreat center. Following lunch, the New Members and team members gather in the main hall of the retreat center. The Retreat Leader begins this activity with the presentation of the Tokens of the TKExperience.

THE TOKEN:

The Token is a strip of teakwood, 1 ½ inches long, 1 inch wide, and about ¼ inch thick. It is suspended from a thin gold or white cord. On the face of the Token are the letters TKE in Gothic style placed vertically from the top. At the bottom center of the Token is the Coat-of-Arms of the Fraternity. The Coat-of-Arms is available from the Offices of the Grand Chapter.

PRESENTATION OF THE TOKENS

Each participant who has never received a token is presented with one.

The person to conduct this part of the closing should be determined at the Team Workshop and would preferably be either that Retreat Leader or the Chapter Advisor.

The team members should distribute the Tokens to the participants, asking them to simply hold the Token in their hands. Before investing them with the token, the presenter should explain the significance in his own words:

- The wood is teakwood. This is a nice play on words, but if you look at the end of the Token, you will find that teakwood is a very heavy wood, because the fibers are so closely bound together. In the same way, we are bound together in the Bond of the Fraternity.

- On the face of the Token you will find our Fraternity identification - the letters TKE in old Gothic style letters - indicating that we are a fraternity with traditions, and that the TKExperience is one of them.

- The Coat-of-Arms is placed on the Token to remind us of the bond we took upon being members of the Fraternity.

- The cord is (gold to indicate the value that we place on our membership), (white to indicate the lofty nature, the high value of our ideals of Charity, Esteem and Love.)

- The Token is given to you to serve as a tangible reminder of what we have done here this weekend.

The presenter then walks to each new member, takes the Token from him, placing it over his head and around his neck, to the statement

(name), Live the Fraternity . . . (pause) . . . for Life!"

ORDER OF THE FOUNDERS CERTIFICATE PRESENTATION

After vesting the new members with the token, the presentation of the Order of the Founders certificate can take place. When presenting the certificate, state the following in your own words:

You, as members of Tau Kappa Epsilon Fraternity, have satisfactorily completed the formal education process and are acknowledged of this achievement by reaching the Order of the Founders level of fraternal achievement.

Although you have ended your formal education process, your education in the fraternity has just begun. The founders of our beloved fraternity continued their education process as the fraternity developed. You two are like the founders as you enhance your education to ensure the future of Tau Kappa Epsilon.

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS

FINANCES

Funding the TKExperience is a responsibility of the Chapter, though recommendations from the Retreat Leader and the team. The primary item of expense is the retreat center where the TKExperience will be held, but there will be cost for various other materials:

Coat of Arms badge for the Tokens

Material for the Tokens

Notebooks/pens/pencils

Other supplies for the retreat weekend

The TKExperience may be funded in any of the following ways:

1. Everyone pay his own way
2. The Chapter pays everyone's way; or
3. The Big Brother pays for his Little Brother, and the team pays their own way.

Having the Chapter fund the TKExperience is probably the simplest method, and this can be done either by making the program a budgetary expense item or by raising funds through special projects to cover the cost of the program.

MATERIALS CHECK LIST

I. Preparation for the Retreat

TKExperience Manuals (2)

From the manual, the Retreat Leader should Xerox a copy of the schedule, the method for writing talks section, and the talk outline for each team member giving a talk.

II. Odds and Ends

Letters

Matches

Candles (for Mystic Triangle)

Records, slides, films (plus lyrics for songs)

First Aid Kit

Pens/pencils

Notebooks

Felt Markers

Poster Board

Scissors

Masking Tape

TKE Experience Tokens

Chalk and eraser

3. AV Equipment - TKE CENTENNIAL VIDEO and VCR

Others As needed

4. Recreation Equipment

Footballs

Basketballs

Volleyballs and net

Frisbees

5. Food

As needed

RECOMMENDED MUSIC FOR TALKS

IDEALS: _____

STUDY: _____

DIFFERENCES: "The Stranger"

MAN AS A SOCIAL BEING: "Cheers" theme

FRIENDSHIP: "You've got a friend"

"He Ain't heavy he's my brother"

CHARITY , ESTEEM AND LOVE: "Good Riddance" (The Time of Your Life) -

Greenday

"Friends" theme

MANY MEN AS ONE MAN: _____

LIVING THE Fraternity: "Looking Through the eyes of Love"

"That's what friends are for"