



**OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY, INC.
STOP THE VIOLENCE PROGRAM**

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

1. What are the goals of the program?

Answer: To establish in the Fraternity, through each Chapter, a consistent anti-violence message that resonates throughout our Brotherhood. Additionally, to have the Fraternity take an annual leading role in developing community-based solutions to reduce the level of domestic violence, sexual assault, youth and gun violence. Each Chapter's work with a community domestic violence/sexual assault/youth violence support group will ensure continual engagement and work by our Fraternity to reduce violence in our communities. This is not a one time effort. It is an annual commitment.

2. What will the anti-violence program cost my chapter?

Answer: Very little. The program has two principal components: (1) a community discussion forum with either a panel of persons knowledgeable about domestic violence/sexual assault/gun violence issues, or a single speaker with that expertise and (2) Chapter Brothers working with domestic violence/sexual assault/gun violence support groups in the Chapter's area. The program may require minimal expenses (approximately \$100-\$500) related to audio/visual equipment, publicity and/or facility rental.

3. Is the Chapter required to follow a specific format?

Answer: No. The community forum may be either a panel discussion or single speaker.

Each Chapter is free to select a program that best suits the Chapter given its membership, resources, location and available experts. The Fraternity has provided a suggested program outline on the Fraternity's website to guide each Chapter's presentation of the community forum. However, Chapters are free to create their own program so long as it facilitates a discussion and, more importantly, an action plan to combat violence in the community in which the Chapter is located.

Chapters are, however, required to directly engage and support an anti-violence group in the Chapter's community/area.

4. Should a Chapter be the sole sponsor/host of the community anti-violence forum?

Answer: No. Sole sponsorship is not recommended. There is strength in numbers. Each

Chapter is expected to be a facilitator of the community forum. Chapter members should collaborate with community leaders, anti-violence advocates, sororities and others to present the program. The community event is not a showcase for Omega Psi Phi. Rather, the Fraternity is simply the neutral convener of the program.

Chapters likely will encounter limited attendance if the program is viewed as a fraternity event. Additionally, several Chapters in a city or area may wish to collaborate on a single community forum to raise the profile of the programs.

Collaterally Chapters may be a combination of graduate/graduate or under graduate/graduate.

5. Who should participate in the community forum?

Answer: If a Chapter chooses a panel discussion, then each panelist should have experience in recognizing the signs of violent acts. Panelists also should have experience in developing strategies that communities can employ to reduce the level of violence in that particular community. The same is true for any single speaker.

6. How do I sustain my Chapter's commitment to the STOP THE VIOLENCE effort?

Answer: A designated Chapter member should contact the leadership of an anti-violence agency in your community, stating the Chapter's willingness to help advance the work of the group. The Chapter should follow the suggestions of the anti-violence advocates. Help may take the form of clothing drives, book drives and fundraisers, to name a few initiatives.

7. Where can I host a program?

Answer: Select a convenient location that is easily accessible to your projected audience. You also should consider the audio/visual capabilities of the facility. Churches, school lecture rooms, libraries and community centers are a few suggested locations to host the forum.

8. How can small Chapters put on a community forum?

Answer: If possible, smaller Chapters (fewer than ten Brothers) should identify other Omega Chapters in their area and plan a joint program. Additionally, because this is not a Chapter only event, the Chapter should involve community activists and other anti-violence advocates to increase the level of participation in the program, which should result in larger attendance.

9. If my Chapter chooses a panel discussion, whom should I invite to participate on the panel?

Answer: Psychologists, psychiatrists, social workers, medical doctors, anti-violence community activists, college professors and law enforcement officers, to name a few professionals. In other words, persons experienced in both (a) analyzing the effect of different types of violence on members of the community and (b) developing anti-violence strategies that have practical application and success. This is not a mere discussion designed to define and re-define the problem of violence. Rather, the objective of the community forum is to identify community-specific violence issues with community-specific solutions that can be immediately implemented. The program should also identify strategies that are already being deployed in the community so that those strategies can be expanded with the direct participation and assistance of your Chapter's members. The same expertise should be sought in an individual speaker where a Chapter chooses to present a single speaker forum.

10. How do I obtain audience participation?

Answer: It is important to use the materials and statistics provided by the Fraternity in this toolkit. These materials are designed to encourage thought and participation from members of the audience. At different points in the presentation, the audience should be asked questions by the moderator or the moderator should take questions from the audience directed to either the panelists or speaker that spark a dialogue about the (1) statistics regarding different types of violence, (2) scenarios described in the materials provided and (3) solutions to deter violent conduct. Furthermore, the Chapter should include time for questions and answers after the program.

You will find a sample outline for a suggested program format in the toolkit. That outline will be helpful as Chapters plan their program.