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# VCMEP

Virtual Continuing Membership Education Program  
Kappa Kappa Psi National Honorary Band Fraternity

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<http://www.kkpsi.org>

## Meet the parents: Involving parents in KKPsi

We know that parents are interested in what we do as a Fraternity. They are interested for many reasons.

Many are interested because they naturally want to know about the successful things their children are doing. Many have never gotten to know an organization with greek letters, and are learning with you, particularly since we are an honorary Fraternity, and quite unlike “social” fraternities. Some were initiated “back in the day.” We see

more legacies in chapters all the time.

There are many reasons to care about what parents think, and connect them meaningfully with KKPsi. Parents are part of the partnership we can develop that includes the directors, the university, and the National Fraternity.

Share this publication, as well as your love for KKPsi, with your chapter’s parents.

Malinda

## Why and how do we involve parents? What do they add?

Parents are a great resource for our Fraternity. Our campuses understand this well. Many of their fundraising strategies are targeted at parents, developing them as future donors even as they may still be paying some of your bills today.

Let’s start at the beginning, though. Parents, like any other people, should not be seen as walking wallets. They provide great support, wisdom, and help in our endeavors. Parents can provide trust in you if they know you.

Parents can be a part of some social and service elements of your chapter.

### **Social**

Most campuses have a Parents Week at some time during the year. What a great time to have a program, host a lunch, or have a tailgate for parents from your chapter. They can get to know you all as Brothers, and understand the references their students are making when they come home at breaks. This is also a great chance to understand where your Brother got that laugh, the crazy sense of humor, or the idea for his or her major. Other parents may start asking their students why they aren’t members, and help with your recruitment.

### **Service**

Parents often have connections, on a campus or in the community, to help you plan a service activity. They can help with thinking through ideas, giving their own professional expertise, and sometimes extra hands for the task.

### **Fundraising**

Many parents are happy to help their students (and friends) set up fundraisers. Sometimes parents are customers, sometimes parents lend the Sam’s Club card to get groceries, and sometimes parents may have facilities you can use for fundraisers. Don’t be pushy with this – as we all know, most of our parents have been helping with band fundraisers from the time we first held an instrument.

### **CMEP**

Parents can lend expertise for parts of your continuing membership education program. Parents might lead sessions on financial planning, how to get into their professions, how to start in the band world (if they are directors themselves), or any number of other topics. This is a great way to bring the strengths of parents into our work. They bring their wisdom to what we do.

### **In short**

Parents provide a great extension to Kappa Kappa Psi, and can add to our education. Involving them and inspiring their trust may go far to improve your chapter and band.



## Kappa Kappa Psi

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*Strive for the Highest*

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

[www.kkpsi.org](http://www.kkpsi.org)

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### *What about the parent who is an alumni member?*

Many students have parents who were initiated as Brothers (or Sisters) years ago. Both of these groups deserve extra love and attention.

For those parents who are Brothers, this is a great moment to reconnect them to Kappa Kappa Psi. You'll want to prepare to make sure this is a great experience for these parents. The Fraternity has dramatically changed to such a degree over the past two decades that it may well be unrecognizable to parents, except for our Ritual. When I introduce myself to fathers at my chapter as the sponsor, their education starts with the fact that a female is in that role. For many parents, they had not known that when they were active members.

#### **So, how do you get started?**

Put the parent in contact with our website ([www.kkpsi.org](http://www.kkpsi.org)), and particularly point to our Guide to Membership. Much has changed in the last two decades, including the

presence of a flag, call out, and hymn; the educational offerings at the district and national levels; the presence of CFRs, the size of HQ staff, and the physical presence of a HQ facility; and the policies that both this Fraternity and college campuses have around substance use, hazing, and discrimination.

While those who are not Brothers cannot participate in our Ritual, they too will enjoy learning about KKPsi today and what makes it special for you. This will be a reconnection for them, and a moment to learn about Tau Beta Sigma as well

For all of these parents, what hasn't changed is our love for band, our seriousness to advance excellent band work of students and directors, and the ideal to Strive for the Highest. A parent may have "catch up" to do to learn today's Fraternity. However, as I have seen from parents of Brothers in Nu Chapter, they love reconnecting.

### *What do we give parents? How do we educate them?*

KKPsi's national website is a good place to start educating parents. You may well find that parents will look at many of the items, and then talk with you about Fraternity history. That is a wonderful way to start conversation. The material for honorary members (on member CDs) may be an easy start as well.

As you plan recruitment of new members, have materials ready that can go to both recruits and their parents. More and more students are consulting parents about a variety of decisions they make while in college. Make it easy for a parent to learn about KKPsi and about how to support a candidate through the process. Be sure to be clear about our policies on hazing, discrimination, and substance use. Parents are asking for these more and more.

Some parents will wonder what is in KKPsi that benefits students after college. Describing awards, scholarships, and district and national

events will help parents understand what KKPsi adds to their student's education.

Some students go on trips for the first time without parents when they are a part of band or KKPsi. Have some good descriptions of the events we have.

Colonies have a special opportunity to bring parents into involvement by inviting them to chapter installation. While non-member parents cannot see the Ritual, they can see chapter installation itself, meet other students and dignitaries, and get to know KKPsi in a tangible way.

You may think "this is what all Brothers and candidates should have." You would be right. Just as we educate candidates, we want our parents to have the best foundation of knowledge about KKPsi. They are allies, can provide support, and may become most valued parts of our larger family.