

## Road Trip!!!!!!!!!!

What can cause otherwise sane Brothers (and their TBSigma Sisters) to think that it is a perfectly good idea to cram 3-10 people into a small metal canister flying down the road for hours on a diet of Mountain Dew and Fritos singing along to the latest (or not so recent) downloaded music? The chance to travel and visit other Brothers and Sisters.

In this issue, we discuss how to make the most of a trip. This includes planning, preparation of your own expectations, and most importantly, consideration for the

time and efforts of your hosts, whether at a convention, a game, or another chapter visit.

You'll rarely ever again in life have the freedom to just pick up and meet other people for the weekend. Promoting positive social relations between bands is a vital part of Kappa Kappa Psi, so make the most of this opportunity.

I look forward to seeing many of you during travels in the next two months. Keep striving, and keep those questions coming!

Malinda

### *Preparing for the visit: From being a good guest to having a good drive*

Some Friday you decide to throw a bunch of Brothers in a car at the last minute and travel to a chapter. On the road, you leave a cell phone message with someone at that chapter saying that you are arriving in 3 hours, and you'd like to go out with the whole chapter. Of course, you'll need a place to stay. What could go wrong?

Now, imagine yourself on the receiving end of this cell message having just organized in your weekend a concert, a pep band performance, studying, work, and a meal with your parents.

Can you see the clash?

To avoid this clash, keep a few basic tips in mind:

- Contact a chapter well in advance to see if Brothers are available to gather.
- Look up a few fun facts about the chapter's history or the campus. Being able to talk with your host and ask questions about what makes them special will be a great way to start conversation if you don't know each other well.
- Bring gifts. Gifts can be a paddle commemorating the occasion, a special token from your chapter, or a fun (not disrespectful) item reminding of other trips.
- Be flexible and take in the local culture. If it isn't violating our policies, appropriate laws, or principles of physics, it is probably worth considering.
- If you do plan a last minute trip, make sure you have contact with a chapter before leaving town. Do not think a chapter is unbrotherly if it must decline to host you. We all know that Brothers will try many things to be good hosts, but we shouldn't expect them to throw away other plans (particularly academic, musical, or family plans).
- Check the car before leaving town. We know many college cars have problems. A little prevention can prevent many hours standing at the roadside waiting for AAA.
- Pack well, check weather reports, and include your auto club membership, insurance cards (auto and medical), cell phones, and photo ID. Strangely, some people forget to pack these basic documents. Don't let that be you!



## Kappa Kappa Psi

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### *Strive for the Highest*

### We're on the Web!

See us at:

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

### Stillwater attractions:

Everyone at Headquarters  
Oklahoma State and one of  
the best college basketball  
facilities in the country  
Gallagher-Iba Arena  
Lake Carl Blackwell  
Boomer Lake Park  
Lake McMurtry  
Stillwater Community Center  
Town and Gown Community  
Theatre  
National Wrestling Hall of  
Fame and Museum  
Oklahoma Museum of Higher  
Education – Old Central  
Sheerar Cultural Center and  
Museum  
Washington Irving Trail  
Museum  
Bad Brad's BBQ  
Eskimo Joes  
Other Joe's restaurants  
Nation's first Sonic Drive In.

### *National Headquarters visits – how to specially prepare*

A National HQ visit is a special event. Extra planning in advance makes a positive trip for everyone involved.

A few planning tips go far:

- *Let National HQ know well in advance when you might like to visit.* HQ, like any other host, likes to plan and be ready for guests.
- *HQ staff are not available 24/7.* Just as you are not available to your job anytime someone might like to see you, HQ regular hours are Monday-Friday 8-5 CST.
- *Ask about work weekends or other ways you can help HQ staff.* If you ask well in advance, HQ can be ready to tap your talents. You help the entire Fraternity if HQ has time to plan your project.
- *Contact your Brothers.* The Alpha Chapter is in Stillwater. Contact them while you plan your trip. They can help you plan housing,

and if they are free help you navigate Stillwater.

- *Do not assume that people will be available to give tours or house you overnight.* Advance requests and brainstorming can help you make a great trip. It is not HQ's responsibility to house you while you are there. There are options of hotels, camping, and staying with chapters in the area.
- *National Council members do not live in Stillwater (except Adam, but email him in advance).* We probably won't be there—we'll be in our towns at our regular jobs.
- *Now that you've planned, enjoy your time.* The reason you worry about details early is so that you won't worry throughout the trip. You can enjoy the great people at HQ, take in historical sites, and love KKPsi even more.

### *Preparing for conventions and other special district events*

Conventions (as well as block meetings, precincts, retreats, area workshops, state days, or leadership conferences) are trips that have specific agendas and more Brothers and Sisters to meet. In addition to the travel tips, prepare in these ways:

- *Agendas.* Review the agenda for the event in advance. This could be a simple schedule of a couple of workshops for an afternoon event, or a more elaborate three day series of workshops, musical experiences, and other events. Reviewing early allows you to plan and pack appropriately.
- *Check in with your band director, and if needed other faculty.* If there is a thought of missing rehearsal or class, clear that with the faculty early.
- *Register.* Never assume that any event will already be prepared for you. You are special – which means you should register and let hosts know you'll attend.
- *Attend to all deadlines.* For some events, you need to both register with the hosts and reserve a hotel room with the

hotel directly. You may also have other deadlines to submit applications for district office, awards, or other opportunities. Don't miss out on great events by failing to meet a deadline.

- *Bring a notebook and your ideas and questions.* Take advantage of the opportunity to learn from other Brothers (both leaders and participants). At the same time, why not use the chance to talk about your chapter's challenges or gather ideas for new chapter endeavors.
- *Meet people and have fun.* You have no idea which of these people will make a mark on your life. Get to know many of them.
- *Start planning for July 2007.* National Convention arrives sooner than you think. Start initial fund raising now for this and for district travels.

There are many wonderful district and national opportunities in KKPsi. Take advantage of our national scope and bring great ideas home!