

## **RESIDENT ADVISORS & HOUSEMOTHERS**

The involvement of responsible, older adults with SigEp's undergraduates provides valuable support and direction. A resident advisor helps establish a healthy living environment that provides members a "home away from home." While it is not required that a resident advisor be a college graduate, understanding and firsthand knowledge of higher education and of young adults are important. Desirable personal characteristics include being able to keep an active pace, good judgment, tact, patience, a sense of humor, and objective viewpoint, and the ability to be a good listener and to relate with students.

### **GOALS**

A resident advisor serves in an advisory capacity, aims to develop a friendly relationship with members, works with the students officers and alumni and volunteer corporation, helps plan social programs for alumni and parents, assists with financial management and operation of the chapter's meal plan, and supervises operation of the kitchen, cook, and kitchen assistants.

### **RESPONSIBILITIES**

- Well-acquainted with each member of the chapter.
- Serves as a resource to members and refers students to professional support as needed.
- Reports unusual and/or significant behaviors or incidents to the appropriate authorities.
- Encourages development of responsibility, integrity, and decision-making.
- Official host of the living group to parents, alumni, and guests.
- Assists with the education and development of etiquette and interpersonal skills.
- Meets individually with staff members of the Greek life office.
- Attends alumni and volunteer corporation meetings as requested.
- Attends executive committee meetings as requested.
- Assists during major campus events such as open house, recruitment, parents' weekend, homecoming, alumni events, etc.
- Additional responsibilities as negotiated by the alumni and volunteer corporation.

## **LIVING ARRANGEMENT**

Resident advisors are required to live in the chapter facility. The resident advisor's living quarters generally include a small sitting room, bedroom, and bath. Most are located away from the main house traffic.

## **TERM OF SERVICE**

The term of service is for one academic year, renewable annually. A resident advisor should not accept or be granted a position unless planning to remain for the entire ten-month period as negotiated with the alumni and volunteer corporation.

## **SALARY AND BENEFITS**

The position is for a ten-month period (usually August 15 to May 15). Salaries are established by each group in terms of specific responsibilities and may vary considerably (\$4,000-\$7,000 was the average compensation for housemothers on many campuses). Compensation, which includes room and board, should be consistent with current minimum wage standards. Taxes on room and board are not required. Specific duties and terms of the agreement are specified in each individual contract, signed between the resident advisor and the alumni and volunteer corporation.

NOTE: Resident advisors in graduate school are generally not given a salary. Typically, salaried resident advisors are housemothers. Resident advisors in graduate school may be selected as a resident scholar by Sigma Phi Epsilon Headquarters and receive a stipend from the Sigma Phi Epsilon Educational Foundation.