

College To the Fullest Potential: The Fraternal Experience

All over news and social media you hear about bad apples when it comes to fraternities, people getting drugged, raped, hazing the list goes on, but this is not what happens at 99% of fraternities and sororities. At NJIT I would say joining a fraternity or sorority is the best thing you can do as a student. Greek organizations allow you to get the true college experience at a school that has one of the worst reputations of terrible social life. Montclair State University, William Paterson, Rutgers Newark, Seton Hall, Fairleigh Dickinson University, Kean and more all come to NJIT for social events. With NJIT almost being the hub for night/social life, being in a social Greek organization enhances the experience.

1. Being A Pledge/New Member

The negative connotation on the news of hazing, drinking, many people are scared to take the initiative to pledge a fraternity or sorority, I can tell you in my experience and stories that this is not the case. I and everyone else in any Greek organization has gone through the new member process and have been able to develop those bonds that hold fraternities together. Most new member



Some of the brothers at a campus organization event



My First Day of Pledge ship with the brothers around me and my Pledge brothers

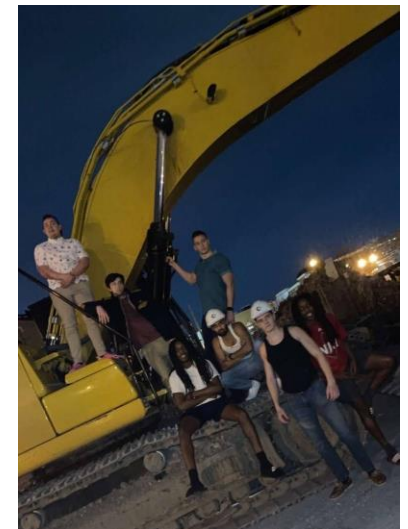
processes are short 2-6 weeks and then you get the rest of your time in college and after college with the closest brothers/sisters and friends you will ever meet.

2. Living In a Fraternity House

The best thing that had happened to me once becoming a member was being able to live in the Fraternity House, while it might not sound that nice, we tend to keep ours clean and almost all the rooms are bigger than most apartments in Newark. That is not the best part though, living with my brothers and sharing experiences with them have allowed me to grow as a person and share memorable moments with people who I look up to, friends for life, and role models for my daily, and future life. The experiences are endless living with 15 of your closest friends. Spontaneous trips to NYC, going fishing during virtual classes, playing drinking games before class, then after class continuing, many things I could list here would seem neglectful for a college student to do while balancing classes and workload, but the best part is making it all work. I have now lived in the house for 3 years and stayed through summer and winter and wouldn't do anything differently.



Brotherhood Thanksgiving 2021



3. Being Social



Hawaiian Themed Mixer with a Sorority



Redneck Themed Mixer with A Ramapo Sorority

Before joining a fraternity, I would say I had less than ideal social traits and being able to socialize is one of the most important things in life, to get a career you need to socialize, to make friends you need to socialize, to get help in any aspect you need to socialize. Being in a fraternity you are guaranteed to socialize more, mixers, parties, Greek events, alumni visits, and being with the rest of the organization, you are socializing all the time. The skill will naturally develop, I have seen people who would whisper under their breath unconfident in what they are saying turn into confident individuals who develop into a leader. The social aspect of a social fraternity is huge part of why many join and the social traits you develop and learn set you up for success in all aspects of your life

Going back to parties and mixers (a private party for Greek life usually involving one Fraternity and one Sorority), these events while they might just seem like a place to drink and mingle can teach individuals a lot about the way people act, the way you are seen as an individual, and finding a niche of people who you enjoy being around. NJIT gets a bad reputation for the lack of social events from its own students to those people I would say they didn't

try hard enough to be social. Thurs - Sat NJIT has some of the biggest parties, people flooding the streets to get in, being in a Greek organization you get some special privileges at these parties and without them I wouldn't go half the amount I go to now. The reason for the privileges is that you are more trusted in social situations, for example you are allowed to stay later than most because they trust you will control yourself.

Mixers are the best parties there are, all Greek organizations attending do not need to worry about randoms or people causing issues, everyone can just have a good time. Most organizations look forward to their mixers that are planned no matter what other organizations are attending.

4. Career Development

One of the opportunities that many overlook is the career opportunities that arise just because you are in a Greek organization. Heading into the end of my senior year I have had alumni reach out to me for recruiting opportunities, one that comes to mind is recently an alumni reached out to fill out a position at MLB network as a Network Security Engineer. Most fraternities also have their own job boards where alumni from all over the nation would post their job opportunities for brothers to apply to. The reason many would hire a brother over a normal applicant is because they have a pre-existing notion of who they are as a person and many traits of being in a fraternity lead you to a better coworker and leader for the rest of your life.



Recent Graduates from the Brotherhood

5. Community and Philanthropic Contributions

Finally, the thing that gets overlooked by every media and social outlet is the contributions, donations, and volunteering that gets done by the organizations. Last semester my organization allowed me to take part in fundraising for toys for tots where we were able to donate \$1500 to the organization in toys and other accessories they requested. It may not seem like it from an outside perspective but there is still a goal to improve the community while you are in a fraternity, it allows you to learn additional traits and skills as well as contribute time and money to the ones who need it.



Branch Brook Park Cleanup



Toys, Clothing, and other goods given to a children's ward at a local hospital