Parents Said…

On Bid Day in 2012, we asked the parents of our new members what advice they would give to someone in your shoes. Some was easy, some was hard, some was very frank. But it was all from people whose daughters had just completed recruitment. We have condensed it down and provided here in no special order. We hope this helps you!

- I always have told friends with daughters who are rushing that sororities seem so important that week, but they are not the focus like that after the week is over.
- Advise them to have daughters keep open their options. Every day brought different favorites for my daughter and in the end she was very happy with choice and it was not even on her radar screen the first several days.
- At least try rush out. My daughter’s roommate had no idea what she was missing by skipping rush and now feels like she knows nobody.
- Go to bid day.....it is fun!
- I’m not sure there is any way to prepare a family or daughter for recruitment. The road was not always pleasant. My daughter pledged a great sorority, but recruitment is not for the faint of heart!
- Be prepared for the emotional ups and downs. Do not try to stay around and see your daughter through the week. It just frustrates them. I was not able to stay in the area and I’m glad I didn’t. Her roommate’s mom did and it frustrated her because she couldn’t give her mom the time she wanted.
- My first daughter warned her sister that the girls will use expressions like “we’ll definitely see you again”, “see you next time”, etc. My first daughter took this literally and was very hurt when these sororities didn’t ask her back. My second daughter was prepared for this and did hear these expressions also.
- Read these emails good advice. Some good tidbits to pull from.
- This is not your grandmother’s Panhellenic council... times have changed as have the women involved... I have seen firsthand the positive effect the Greek life has had on my girls.
- One sorority mom texted me throughout the week about how much her daughter’s sorority wanted my daughter and made inappropriate comments about what was going on from the sorority
side and trying to persuade me to convey to my daughter how much they wanted her. This same mother also was texting another girl's mother about the same things.

- Just because you're a legacy, it doesn't mean that you will get in to that sorority.
- Parents need to do their best to keep tight-lipped about their daughter's experiences at each sorority, and only offer positive comments to their peers. I was surprised at how many of my peers came out of the woodwork to ask me what my daughter was thinking. Some of these were parents of current actives at Auburn. Though the actives can't talk to the girls, their moms get info and feed it back to their active daughters. I know this back-fired in one case.
- There were times during the week that I had to encourage my daughter not to give up.
- Keep your cell phone on and be prepared for lots of texts. Encourage your daughters to always maximize their options and tell them all sororities have something to offer. There are no bad sororities.
- Read the emails. Share email information with your daughter
- It is good to let people know that if their daughter decides to drop out it is not the end of the world. Also, the advice about not listening to former members is good advice. What they are saying, and what actually happens can be two very different things.
- Encourage your daughters that this is a time to enjoy making new friends and settling into their new homes and get to know your way around the campus. Also, just because sororities have to limit their invitations as the days go by, you can still enjoy the friendships and acquaintances you have made, whether you go back to that group or not--these will be the familiar faces you will see in class and around campus. Be happy for your longtime friends who may or may not join a sorority that you had expected, you'll still be friends and you can appreciate the new friendships you all make!
- Flexibility and adaptability are the keys to survival--by both daughter and mother! The girl rushing doesn't just "choose" a sorority, it is a combination. Disappointments need to be handled with a look forward at the sororities that did invite your daughter back. Keep an open mind.
- Don't put any Pressure on your child for any sorority. My daughter said some girls were crying because they knew their mom wanted a certain sorority for them.
- Even if they get the sorority they liked, they still will question why others dropped them.
- Be ready to help your daughter if she doesn't get her first pick.
- Do not share your daughter's choices (who she keeps, drops, or what order) with people. It can only set yourself up for disappointment. She cannot be kept by everyone.
- Prepare your child to not get the sorority they have their hopes on.
- The length of the days, commitment to these days and time spent with pi chi group in addition to recruitment is tremendous! My daughter was totally overwhelmed.
- Remind their girls that their host may lead them to believe they will be invited back and this is not always the case. A host or members of a sorority can easily mislead a PNM that they will receive a bid and this often doesn't happen.
• Stay calm. Encourage your daughter to keep a positive attitude each day. Keep reminding her not to become fixated on a particular group, she will end up with the right group of girls and finally, have the attitude that it is an honor and a privilege to be invited back by any sorority.

• Read the emails and take advantage of all offered info. Plan ahead to be there on bid day if possible.

• Try to not emphasize one sorority being better than another. This process has been working for years and the girls DO end up where they should be. When my daughter was cut from some of the groups that are popular in our hometown, I was concerned but didn't let my daughter know. My worries were ridiculous as I think back on yesterday. She is right where she needs to be. Read the emails, be upbeat in communications with your daughter, and remember they are going non-stop from 5:30am until 8:00pm and may be grumpy and short tempered when you talk at the end of the day :).

• Have your daughter rest up the week before.

• Remain open minded and believe in the system. My daughter had great recs for 5 sororities and was released by each of them. We were prepared for that possibility because the emails explained that that didn't guarantee a bid in one of those.

• Send their kids to Auburn!!

• The process is not what people our age would expect. It is surprisingly much nicer, less mean spirited, than things were when we were in college. Overall, this seems to be a very positive and clean-cut experience.

• Read the emails and have discussions about expectations. Encourage your daughter to have an open mind. And prepare for it to be a roller coater week!

• It is a wild roller coaster ride. Embrace, support, and love.

• Prepare your daughter early - discuss with daughters that they need to be energetic and engaging when entering a party. Think of topics to talk about and not just the normal or routine topics - i.e. football tickets, summer vacations - sometimes the girls on the other side are just as nervous!

• Prepare your girls for the long hours. My daughter was exhausted. She also had trouble sleeping because of her nervous excitement.

• Make sure your daughter is VERY prepared. It can be very disappointing and disheartening.

• Prepare your daughter to understand the process.

• Don't talk too much about any one sorority, or set your own expectation for your daughter. Also, understand that your daughter may have a top two after Ice Water Teas, and completely change her preferences after Philanthropy or Skit days. Just listen and be supportive. Do NOT tell your daughter about the conversations you may be having with other moms, or what their daughters are saying.

• READ the emails, especially if you are new to Greek life. The stories you hear from other sorority members outside of Auburn are not true.
• The emails did a great job stressing importance of certain things but our family had never had anyone go Greek before and I felt that I did not realize how competitive it could be.

• Prepare their child for many down moments, but then the next day’s events can lead to high moments. Really encourage their child to be strong if this is what they want to do because events and people get really tense. Remind them to have FUN and meet different people even if they know this is not what they really want to do.

• Prepare your daughter for a grueling week, physically and emotionally exhausting. Be prepared to give much needed emotional support and bring family members and friends to celebrate bid day.

• No expectations would be best. It allowed us to have a lower stress environment. Probably the best advice you sent.

• Allow your daughter to go through the process on her own without adding any undue pressure from home, such as challenging their thoughts, decisions, etc. Our daughter thoroughly enjoyed the process and did not stress, I think, due to this approach.

• Encourage your daughters to participate in Recruitment Week. Regardless of the outcome, they will meet literally hundreds of new people and establish a network of familiar faces during their transition to college life. Whether they ultimately join a sorority or not, these connections will yield all kinds of benefits down the road. And rest assured that the Pi Chi’s who help them navigate the process will be well-trained, compassionate, and enthusiastic.

• On the day before Prefs, I told her to put any family connections aside (such as a legacy) and choose the group that she felt most comfortable in.

• I think I overestimated the importance of rec letters, and learned it really didn't make much of a difference - I would advise future parents to not spend as much time as we did trying to find them.

• Emails were helpful. Save them in case you need to refer back to them.

• Just do it!! Great way for a girl to make friends even if she doesn't pledge.

• Get out your wallets and start saving now

• My advice would be to 1) attend the Panhellenic presentation at CWE as this was a good start to preparing for Recruitment, then 2) read the emails & save them for future reference.

• That there will be an element of stress as the invitations diminish as the week goes on. I was a wreck with the possibility that my daughter may not receive an invitation! :) Also, having the girls arrive a week before the rest of the students was a great way for the girls to make friends, get acclimated to each other and their surroundings, regardless of which sorority they were choosing.

• Start looking for recs early. It allows people time to complete and mail them in. When possible, print the PNM form off of the sorority's page and mail it with resume and pic. People writing recs greatly appreciate that.

• Stay positive and use simple rationale to help your daughter make the right decisions. This is not the same as high school so forget that strategy and environment. Move forward.

• Stay neutral and don't reveal your daughter's preferences - even to close friends.
My daughter went in with a top five list that she thought she wanted to be involved in. But, once the week got underway she changed her mind and started looking at others. What you think you like on paper is not what you may really want. My daughter decided two days before Bid Day that she liked a group that was not even considered by her on the first day. She is so happy with her choice.

Stress to your daughter that a lot of wonderful girls do not get in and it will be fine and she will have a wonderful college experience without being in a Sorority.

Tell your daughters to be open minded and trust in the process. Not getting invited back by a specific group after your daughter thought things went great can be emotional but in the end it most likely wasn't meant to be. We had a few of those moments this week and the bid came from a sorority that seemed to be in the middle of the pack during the entire process but was consistent. After one day with her "sisters" my daughter said she is "home" and couldn't be happier with where she ended up.

They may not sleep well for a variety of reasons-the recruitment process as well as being away from home so remind them that their emotions are heightened by a lack of sleep as well.

They are better off not listening to the hype of people around them, sharing rumors and gossip, rather than really knowing what they are talking about, with regards to the sororities.

It's a roller coaster ride, but as the process continues she will settle in and begin to understand what is best for her. She may be surprised at how much her wishes will change as the week progresses. Do not smother.

Trust the process and remind her to eat and to stay hydrated and to sleep whenever possible! A hungry, thirsty, tired young lady will not make a good impression.

Turn off your phone for the week and have a glass of wine.

Make sure your daughter begins working on recommendations and packets early. It takes time and you need to follow up with those that agreed to do recommendations because like anything some get set aside and without a reminder they might not get done.

We were warned how competitive it would be and my daughter seemed ready but still was a little bit overwhelmed. I think it takes one to be there though to get the full feel for the whole process. Just have patience and support your daughter no matter what.

Make sure they check their emails for any and all updates from Auburn and make sure your child checks their Tiger mail each day, as mine did, to stay in the loop. Be involved!!

Your daughter's openness and positive attitude is everything! Being willing to talk to everyone, not embarrassed to ask questions and feel comfortable in initiating and contributing to conversations is essential.