



Beta-Chi Chapter of the Kappa Sigma Fraternity New Member Manual Fall 2025 & Spring 2026

History:

- Approved by the MS&T Dean of Students Representative and Student Involvement Coordinator Jack Jaworski, Alumnus Advisor Ryan Howe, and House Corporation Representative Stephen Hoffmann on May 9, 2025

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Introduction

Welcome to the Beta-Chi Chapter of the Kappa Sigma Fraternity! Kappa Sigma is the largest college social fraternity in the world with more than 200,000 members, including 17,000 undergraduates. The Beta Chi Chapter of Kappa Sigma at The Missouri University of Science and Technology has won the prestigious FACE award four of the last five years, including back-to-back years in 2023 and 2024. FACE is the “Founders Award for Chapter Excellence” and is the national benchmark award in Kappa Sigma recognizing the very best undergraduate chapters. Our chapter was established in December of 1903, and since our founding we have prided ourselves with having a long track record of developing young men for successful careers. Highlights of our successful alumni ranged from Fortune 100 CEOs, to private business owners, to university presidents, to CIA operatives, and high level military personnel. Many of our successful alumni developed much of their experience while being a part of our chapter during college. Their strong careers began with a strong educational foundation and strong interpersonal skills that were developed and nurtured during their membership of our chapter. To that end, our new member period, our “pledge period”, focuses on academics and interpersonal skills required to have a successful career after college. Our members are focused on academics, philanthropy, community involvement, fitness, leadership, and fellowship.

The following New Member Manual will give a clear view on what is to expect during the first semester of college for an incoming new member of the chapter. It will address the new member education program, academics, events, and our commitment to have a welcoming, accepting, and hazing-free organization.

Academics:

Academics is the most important pillar of our fraternity. We have a scholarship chair that is a head of the scholarship committee that monitors both active and new members GPAs to help ensure that everyone hits their academic goals. Quiet hours for the purpose of sleep are from 10pm to 8am Sunday through Thursday. We have study hours, along with quiet hours for the purpose of studying, from 6pm to 10pm Sunday through Thursday. This period of time is for the sole purpose for studying, and no house activities are to occur during this time. The scholarship chair will go around to rooms throughout the time period of study hours to ensure that people are studying and working on schoolwork. If New Members have other obligations taking place during study hours, they are encouraged to email and/or physically contact the scholarship chair about their obligation, so that he is aware why they are not at their desk. They can also leave a note at their desk as well. Acceptable, excusable obligations include but are not limited to the following:

- Work
- University activity (including class or work-study)
- Other Register Student Organization obligation/activity
- Studying on campus or studying in a different room in the house
- Fraternity obligation/activity
- Other obligations or activities approved at the discretion of the Scholarship Chair. The Scholarship Chair's decision on approval can be appealed to the Grand Procurator.

Study hours are not required for those whose previous semester GPA was higher than the chapter's scholarship requirement for study hours. All new members living in the house, along with other active members who did not meet the previous semester GPA requirement as detailed in our by-laws, will be on study hours. New members are to have study hours because it gives them four hours a day, five days a week to focus on their studies. The transition from high school to college in regards to academic difficulty and time commitment can be staggering for incoming freshmen. Allotting this time period that is solely focused on academics allows for a greater chance of academic success here at Missouri S&T. They will also have weekly GPA check-ins with the scholarship chair to ensure that they are on the right track throughout their semester. New members who live out of house during their first semester are not required to participate in study hours.

We are proud of our academic accomplishments, and we reward those who go above and beyond in their academic performance. For those who get a 4.0, they are rewarded with an all expenses paid steak dinner at Sybil's, a fine dining restaurant in St. James. Just this last fall semester we had eight members achieve 4.0s, and over 40 members got a 3.5 or above. Our average new member gpa for fall of 2024 was 3.396, which is well above the all male average, and top half on campus for new member GPA.

New Member Education Program:

New Members of the Beta-Chi Chapter of the Kappa Sigma Fraternity are to be pledged during the second chapter meeting of the fall semester. During this time they are officially a new member of the Kappa Sigma Fraternity. Their only obligations are to maintain a 2.5 GPA at the Missouri University of Science and Technology and learn Chapter history along with Kappa Sigma history. The pledging period will be 8 weeks long (not counting for fall or spring break), allowing for midterm grades to be reported and to see if the 2.5 GPA has been fulfilled.

During this time period, they will take 6 tests in which they will check their progress on their knowledge of the history of Kappa Sigma, knowledge of the Code of Conduct, knowledge of the structure of the Fraternity and its programs, and knowledge of the history of the Beta-Chi Chapter. The questions and format will strictly follow the “BIA for Pledges” knowledge checks that are published by Kappa Sigma International Headquarters.

Freshmen Move-in-Day: Sunday, August 17th, 2025

First Day of School: Monday, August 25, 2025

Pledging Date (Second Chapter of the Semester): Monday, September 1, 2025

New Member Test Days:

1. Thursday, September 4th, 2025
2. Thursday, September 11th, 2025
3. Thursday, September 25th, 2025
4. Thursday, October 2nd, 2025
5. Thursday, October 16th, 2025
6. Thursday, October 23rd, 2025

In addition to the test days, all members, but particularly new members, are encouraged to attend lectures over the history/structure of the Kappa Sigma Fraternity, Code of Conduct, and Chapter History. These presentations are to take place on the following dates. These lectures will strictly follow the lesson plans and slide decks found in the “BIA for Pledges” material that are published by the Kappa Sigma International Headquarters.

Lecture Dates:

1. Tuesday, September 2nd, 2025 → Founding
2. Sunday, September 7th, 2025 → Code of Conduct
3. Sunday, September 14th, 2025 → Fellowship and My Brother’s Keeper
4. Sunday, September 21st, 2025 → Leadership
5. Sunday, September 28th, 2025 → Endowment Fund and Scholarships
6. Sunday, October 5th, 2025 → A Greater Cause and Military Heroes Campaign

7. Sunday, October 19th, 2025 → Chapter History Pt 1 and Kappa Sigma Awards
8. Sunday, October 26th, 2025 → Chapter History Pt 2 and Campus History

Initiation date: Saturday, November 1st, 2025 *

**Date is subject to change due to the University not yet scheduling the date of homecoming weekend for Fall 2025. If homecoming is to occur this weekend, the initiation date will be the weekend before homecoming weekend. Lectures and New Member Tests Days will be moved around if necessary. This will be reflected in the Standards of Excellence Submissions for Fall 2025.*

New members will also have bi-weekly meetings with our membership development chair to cover various topics about how to succeed at this school, deeper understanding of campus RSOs and national headquarters operations, and advice on getting ready for the real world.

Topics covered:

1. Career Fair (resume building, elevator pitch, follow up).
2. How to Study, apply yourself, and get good grades.
3. 4 Pillars of Kappa Sigma.
4. Guide to Clubs and other RSOs on campus at Missouri S&T.
5. (Time and interest permitting) How the Supreme Executive Committee, Volunteers, and International Headquarters Works.

Events:

Three events will occur during the semester that are unique traditions of the Beta-Chi Chapter. These events are our Big-Little Event, Paddle Days Event, and Kappa Sigma Class Olympics. More detailed descriptions of these events along with their rules and regulations are below.

Big-Little Event:

The Kappa Sigma Fraternity requires that there be a “Big Brother Ceremony” in the BIA for Pledges program. Big Brothers are to act as mentors that guide them throughout the new member program, and behave as guides for the little brother during their first semester, and all following semester while at college. The details of the ceremony are not clearly defined outside of the Kappa Sigma Fraternity Code of Conduct which states that, “No alcohol may be present preceding, at, or following any activity that is part of the Pledge Education Program, including... big brother/little brother events”. With this in mind, the Big-Little event for the Beta-Chi Chapter of Kappa Sigma will be held at Alex’s Pizza in downtown Rolla. The goal of this event is for the big and little brothers to spend time with each other and get to learn more about each other during this pizza dinner. See the expected date and the “Big-Little Event Rules and Regulations” for more information about policies that are to take place during the event.

Expected Date: Wednesday, September 17th, 2025

Big-Little Event Rules and Regulations:

The Big-Little event is an event that allows for big and little brothers to meet each other and be able to bond over a pizza dinner at Alex’s Pizza in downtown Rolla. It will be the responsibility for the New-Member Educator to reserve the proper amount of seats at Alex’s Pizza for the event. It is expected that each member of the fraternity will be present at the event, with the bare minimum of each big and little brother to be present. At this event, no alcohol is to be consumed by any member, including members who are of legal drinking age. No member will encourage consumption nor allow consumption of alcohol at the event. The event is to occur on a week in which there are no common exams that could conflict with the event, and the event should not interfere with any quiet hours. Below are the penalties for violations of the above mentioned rules and regulations involving the event.

If any of these rules and regulations are broken members will potentially be subject to action under the house rules, the by-laws, Kappa Sigma Nationals, and the UM System, in addition to the following punishments:

1st Offense: Member receives a \$20 fine along with 2 tiers.

2st Offense: Member receives Brother in Bad Standing for 4 weeks.

3rd Offense: Member receives Suspension charge.

Paddle Days:

“Paddle Days” is an event in which new members will have the opportunity to meet each individual active member in the chapter, in which they learn more about each person, along with their experience with being in Kappa Sigma. Below are the expected dates along with the “Paddle Days Rules and Regulations” that have previously been outlined and approved by the Student Involvement Office.

Expected Date: Tuesday, October 7th - Thursday, October 9th, 2025

Paddle Days Rules and Regulations:

Paddle Days will take place over a 3 day period. Spanning from 7 pm on one day, and ending at 10 pm on the 3rd day. These Days will consist of the active Brothers getting interviewed by the new members. The first day will be Seniors and up, second day will be Juniors, and the last day will be the sophomores. No interviews shall take place during chapter quiet hours, as outlined in the By-Laws. The point of these Days are for the new members to meet and converse with older Brothers. Once the questions are asked/answered the active member can then sign the new member’s paddle.

Examples for questions from actives:

1. What has been your favorite memory so far?
2. What is the most valuable lesson you have learned?
3. What are the most rewarding positions in the house?
4. What is your favorite room in the house?

Questions should follow this sort of theme, with the main goal is that the new members leave the “interview” knowing more about the house and the Brothers in it.

If any of these rules and regulations are broken members will potentially be subject to action under the house rules, the by-laws, Kappa Sigma Nationals, and the UM System, in addition to the following punishments:

1st Offense: Member receives written warning.

2nd Offense: Member receives Brother in Bad Standing for 4 weeks.

3rd Offense: Member receives Suspension charge.

Kappa Sigma Class Olympics:

The Kappa Sigma Class Olympics is a one day event in which flag football and cornhole will be played between the different classes: Freshmen, Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors/Superseniors. The flag football game(s) will take place on the front lawn of the chapter house, and the cornhole games will take place on the patio of the chapter house just outside the basement. The event is voluntary for participation, but attendance is expected unless individuals have school, campus, or other organizational conflicts that members are to be there for attendance on the sidelines. More details are below.

*Expected Date: Saturday, August 29th, 2025**

**(Backup Dates due to possible forecasted weather conflicts) Football: Thursday, August 28th, 2025, Cornhole: Friday, August 29th, 2025*

Flag Football

Flag football will consist of a “Group Stage” in which all classes play each other once, similar to the group stage format of the NHL’s *Four Nation Face Off*. Each team will play three games each throughout the afternoon’s group stage, playing each class once. During each game of the group stage, the regulation time winners of the specific game will receive 3 points for winning in regulation. In case of a tie at the end of regulation, the game will go to overtime. During overtime, each team will start at midfield and have four downs to score a touchdown. The overtime period will continue until one team scores a touchdown and the other one does not. When a game goes to overtime, each team will score 1 point, and the winner of the overtime period will score an additional point. A team that does not win during regulation will score 0 points for that game. At the end of the group stage, the two classes that have the most points will continue to the Flag Football Championship Game. The Winner of the Flag Football Championship will be determined by the winner of the Flag Football Championship Game.

Cornhole

Each class will have four teams of 2 partners each. There will be a total of 16 teams and 32 participants. The format of the cornhole tournament will be a single elimination open tournament. Seeding will be randomized with the caveat that teams from the same class cannot play each other during the first two rounds.

Overall Scoring

The winner of the Flag Football championship will receive 75 aggregate points, and the runner up will receive 25 points. For cornhole, the top 4 team’s respective classes will earn aggregate points towards the overall scoring. First place in the cornhole will receive 45 points, second place will receive 30 points, third place will receive 15 points, and fourth place will receive 10 points. The class with the overall highest amount of points will be crowned the winner of the Kappa Sigma Class Olympics and awarded a trophy.

Kappa Sigma Class Olympics Rules and Regulations:

The Flag Football games will be refereed by members of the house that work for the IMs department, of which we currently have five active referees. The rules will follow the exact rules for IM Flag Football. The one rule that is different is that there will be two halves of 10 minutes each during the group stage, while the championship game will have two halves of 15 minutes each.

The rules and regulations of cornhole will be the exact rules and regulations as seen in the Greek Week Games Packet. Members who are not participating in the cornhole tournament will be able to do a sign up in which they referee cornhole games. Training for the refereeing for cornhole will be done by the IFC junior rep the day or day before the Kappa Sigma Class Olympics, and the IFC junior rep will be the head referee for cornhole games.

If rules are broken during the games, flags and penalties will be called by referees in accordance with the rules set forth by the IMs flag football rules packet and the Greek Week games packet respectively. Referees are to use their best judgment and strive for impartiality. If a referee determines that specific conduct or behavior goes against the spirit of the games or goodwill towards another competitor, at their discretion they may utilize the following guidelines:

If any of these rules and regulations are broken members will potentially be subject to action under the house rules, the by-laws, Kappa Sigma Nationals, and the UM System, in addition to the following punishments:

1st Offense: Member receives verbal warning from referees, with the possibility of an additional penalty

2nd Offense: Member gets ejected for the duration of the current game

3rd Offense: Team gets disqualified, behavior of specific individual(s) will be brought up to the EC for further assessment of punishment

No-Hazing Policy:

The Beta-Chi Chapter of the Kappa Sigma Fraternity shall maintain a strict No-Hazing Policy at all times. If anyone is in violation of this standard, the individual shall immediately be brought up for suspension or expulsion trial, in accordance with the Constitution, By-Laws and Rules of the Kappa Sigma Fraternity.

The Missouri University of Science and Technology Defines Hazing as the following:

“**Hazing**, defined as an act that endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student, or an act that is likely to cause physical or psychological harm to any person within the University community, or that destroys or removes, damages, defaces, or tampers with public or private property, for the purpose of initiation, admission into, affiliation with, or as a condition for continued membership in a group or organization. Participation or cooperation by the person(s) being hazed does not excuse the violation.”

The Beta-Chi Constitution and By-Laws states the following:

Article VII, Section 2: Hazing

“Hazing of any kind in connection with any aspect of the activities of the Beta Chi Chapter of the Kappa Sigma Fraternity is hereby prohibited, and the policies of the National Fraternity concerning hazing shall be strictly upheld.”

To Report Hazing:

1. Emergencies: Members and prospective members shall take responsible action in emergency situations, even if prohibited hazing may have occurred in conjunction with such emergency. The responsible action should include, but is not limited to:
 - (a) Immediately alerting appropriate officials (e.g., calling 911) of the emergency, including providing the student’s own name and the location and description of the emergency;
 - (b) Remaining at the scene of the emergency, so long as it is safe to do so; and
 - (c) Cooperating with emergency officials.
2. Non-Emergency & Emergencies:
 - (a) Any members or prospective members who may have witnessed or experienced hazing should, as soon as they are reasonably able to do so, report said behavior to Stephen Hoffmann of the Kappa Sigma House Corporation at stephenjhoffmann@gmail.com or by phone at (314) 302-6814.
 - (i) The Kappa Sigma House Corporation should conduct a joint investigation of any hazing allegations with the Executive Officers
 - (ii) The Executive Officers reporting obligations of any hazing allegation is outlined in the Constitution and By-Laws of the Beta-Chi Chapter of Kappa Sigma Fraternity, as amended.

Contacts:

If you have any questions about the New Member Manual, or about the fraternity in general, please feel free to contact the following individuals:

Chapter Officers:

Grand Master (President)

Henry Wilson

hpwknk@umsystem.edu

(479) 320-1088

Grand Procurator (Vice President I)

Jack Holm

jmhnmh@umsystem.edu

(816) 548-0828

Grand Master of Ceremonies (New Member Educator, Vice President II)

Jack Parker

jrphnh@umsystem.edu

(314) 347-7781

House Corporation Officers:

President

Robert Hoffmann

roberth@hoffmannbros.com

(314) 537-3193

Vice President

Ben Prueter

ben.prueter@gmail.com

(913) 449-7393

Treasurer & Legal

Stephen Hoffmann

stephenjhoffmann@gmail.com

(314) 302-6852

Appendix A: Generalize New Member Process Timeline

**Note:*

- *For the Fall Semester: Events like Greek will typically occur on week 2 or week 3. Homecoming typically occurs on the weekend of week 6 or week 7.*
- *For the Spring Semester: Events like St. Pats typically occur during week 4 or 5.*
- *Initiation date will alternate due to breaks such as Spring Break, Fall Break, Spring Recess, or others. For that reason, this is a “Generalize” timeline that gives a clear image of what is to happen when. It will be a requirement for the President and Executive Committee to give specific dates by the time of the first Standards of Excellence submission.*

Week 1:

Monday: New Members get Pledged in

Tuesday: Lecture #1

Thursday: New Member Test 1

Week 2:

Sunday: Lecture #2

Thursday: New Member Test 2

Week 3:

Sunday: Lecture #3

Wednesday: Big-Little Event at Alex's Pizza

Week 4:

Sunday: Lecture #4

Thursday: New Member Test 3

Week 5:

Sunday: Lecture #5

Thursday: New Member Test 4

Week 6:

Sunday: Lecture #6

Tuesday - Thursday: Paddle Days

Week 7:

Sunday: Lecture #7

Thursday: New Member Test 5

Week 8:

Sunday: Lecture #8

Thursday: New Member Test 6

Saturday: Initiation

Appendix B: Spring Semester Dates For New Member Education Program

Freshmen Move-in-Day: Sunday, January 18th, 2026 or Monday, January 19th, 2026

First Day of School: Tuesday, January 20th, 2026

Pledging Date (Second Chapter of the Semester): Monday, January 26th, 2026

New Member Test Days:

1. Thursday, January 29th, 2026
2. Thursday, February 5th, 2026
3. Thursday, February 12th, 2026
4. Thursday, February 26th, 2026
5. Thursday, March 5th, 2026
6. Thursday, April 2nd, 2026

Events:

Big-Little Event: Wednesday, February 18th, 2026

Paddle Days Event: Tuesday, March 3th, 2026 - Thursday, March 5th, 2026*

**(Adjusted for St. Pats and Spring Recess)*

Kappa Sigma Class Olympics: Not to be held in during Spring Semester

Lecture Dates:

1. Tuesday, January 27th, 2026 → Founding
2. Sunday, February 1st, 2026 → Code of Conduct
3. Monday, February 9th, 2026 → Fellowship and My Brother's Keeper (Adjusted for SB Sunday)
4. Sunday, February 15th, 2025 → Leadership
5. Sunday, February 22nd, 2025 → Endowment Fund and Scholarships
6. Sunday, March 1st, 2025 → A Greater Cause and Military Heroes Campaign
7. Sunday, March 8th, 2025 → Chapter History Pt 1 and Kappa Sigma Awards
8. Sunday, March 15th, 2025 → Chapter History Pt 2 and Campus History

Initiation date: Saturday, April 4th, 2026