

Suggestions for Member Involvement

Members highly value having an active chapter in which to participate. The following suggestions for chapter activities are based on comments from member surveys.

Roll out the welcome mat!

New members need to feel welcome at chapter functions. Having older members call and personally invite a new member to an upcoming meeting or event, and then greeting them at the door will make the new member feel a part of the chapter more quickly. Getting new members engaged in the chapter also will increase participation in chapter activities.

Offer opportunities to give back.

Members appreciate having meaningful community service projects. It also brings a sense of pride to the chapter.

Get on their calendars early. Members want to be involved in chapter activities, but everyone today has a busy schedule. Provide students with the date, time, locations, and purposes of meetings as far in advance as possible, at least 3–4 weeks. Be sure to send a reminder e-mail the week before the program and again several days before the event.

What's in it for me?

Chapter meetings are the perfect time to remind members of their national membership benefits. Consider handing out member benefits information during one of your meetings. Or, you may want to discuss several benefits at each meeting, such as scholarships and grants and career assistance.

Provide networking opportunities.

Members like to network with students from their chapter and from other nearby chapters, as well as local teachers and administrators. Chapter programs that involve practitioners/alumni, such as a panel discussion, are easy ways of addressing this expectation.

Use members' time wisely.

Meetings that have an agenda and are professionally run are appreciated by members. With time being the most valuable commodity, students will value the fact that the chapter is using their time efficiently.

Treat members as individuals.

If your chapter has a large number of members, consider having special interest groups (SIGs). Having breakout sessions for elementary, middle/secondary, and special education students during professional development programs will provide added benefit by meeting members' individual professional needs.

What's next?

After a fulfilling chapter experience, members want to maintain a connection with other KDP members after graduation. Share information about Chalk Talk Cafés with members before they graduate. Information about local networking groups is available on KDP's Web site.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to Kappa Delta Pi!



Contact the Chapter Services Department for more information at 800.284-3167.