

SOCIAL EVENT PLANNING

THEMES, COSTUMES & BUILDS

BEST PRACTICES

The following are not policies, rules, or restrictions. They are simply suggestive measures and guidelines to help you and your chapter think about the way you represent yourself, your organization and Texas Tech University to the larger community.

BEFORE YOUR PARTY, ASK YOURSELF

- Does the theme of this event rely on the stereotypes of certain groups?
- Does the theme encourage offensive dress or costumes?
- Does the theme or title of the event stereotype men or women?
- Is the theme sexist? If you're not sure, try interchanging the word/theme with a racial word/theme.
- Is the theme centered on making fun of a particular group of people, culture, or campus organization? If it's not, is there a likelihood that some brothers or guests may take the theme there anyway?
- Would you be willing to send pictures of the event to your parents, your national organization, the campus newspaper, or your university president?

THEMES TO AVOID

- Themes involving or encouraging blackface
- Themes involving or encouraging men to dress like women
- Themes using the word "Ho" or "Whore" in the title of the event
- Themes involving or encouraging binge drinking
- Themes involving or encouraging dress of other race or ethnicity
- Themes involving or encouraging members or guests to wear another Greek organization's letters

PROPER PLANNING

When planning an event you should be intentional and preventative in an way you can. Always make sure you allow yourself enough time to plan accordingly. Think the event through beginning to end. Involve all appropriate officers and advisors in the process and ensure your event goes as planned by communicating all plans with members and guests attending.

BUILDS

While builds are a long standing tradition at Texas Tech it is important to consider the liability and risk your organization is taking on each and every time you chose to build. Please consider any and all steps toward minimizing your risk.

- What do they accomplish?
 - How much does it cost? What else could you spend that money on?
 - Who builds, builds? Are they truly qualified to build things?
 - How could your new members and members better spend their time?
 - What do intoxicated people do on builds? What do intoxicated people do in general? Dance? Fall down? Why is this a bad idea at 10 feet in the air?
 - Who cares? Are guests really coming to your event because you have the best builds on campus?
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This document is a resource to help interpret policy. Always observe federal, state, local law in addition to national organization policies.

Source: Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity Party Themes Facts Sheet [<http://www.pikapp.org/>]