



**University of Tennessee, Knoxville**  
**Office of Sorority & Fraternity Life**  
Fraternal Excellence Awards

The Office of Sorority and Fraternity Life (OSFL) supports values congruence by embracing the key values of scholarship advancement, relationship building, diversity, personal development, and communication. The Fraternal Excellence Awards recognize outstanding chapters and individual student, faculty, and staff leaders and advisors for embracing these principles.

**2024 Fraternal Excellence Awards Important Dates:**

**2023 Calendar-Year Chapters**

- October 1, 2023 - Applications and Nominations open at noon
- November 15, 2023 - Applications are due at noon
- May 1, 2024 - Fraternal Excellence Banquet at 6:00 PM

**2023-24 Academic-Year Chapters**

- March 1, 2024 - Applications and Nominations Open at Noon
- April 7, 2024 - Applications are Due at 11:59 PM
- May 1, 2024 - Fraternal Excellence Banquet at 6:00 PM

*Questions about the Fraternal Excellence Awards Program? Contact [Hunter Carlheim](#), Assistant Director for Greek Leadership and Training, or an OSFL staff member.*

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### **Chapter of the Year**

**About this award:** This award recognizes the organization with the highest number of points awarded through the Standards of Fraternal Excellence (SOFE). Academic-year chapters and calendar-year chapters can review SOFE points through [gogreek.utk.edu/sofe](http://gogreek.utk.edu/sofe). Chapters are responsible for the submission of materials, attendance at events, and asking questions through the year to receive points through SOFE. The chapter(s) that receive the most points in SOFE are awarded the Chapter of the Year Award.

### **Chapter President of the Year**

**About this award:** The nominee for this award must have exhibited service and leadership to the sorority and fraternity community, their chapter, the campus as a whole, and demonstrate a high level of scholarship. This award shall go to the chapter president who has bettered the spirit of their organization through their leadership. There can be up to four (4) award winners in this category; one (1) per council.

#### **Application/Nomination Details:**

- Describe a time when this chapter president showed exemplary leadership skills in areas of administration, education, and/or service.
- How has this chapter president supported individual members of the chapter and executive board?
- Under this chapter president's leadership, how has this organization excelled in areas of conduct, service, campus collaboration, and/or council support?
- Supplemental information

#### **What judges are looking for:**

- Devotion to their chapter and the betterment of the sorority/fraternity experience
- Contribution to the sorority/fraternity community, university community, and/or surrounding community through areas of education, administration, pursuit of academic scholarship, civic engagement, immersive leadership involvement, excellence in chapter conduct, community service, campus collaboration, and council support.
- Demonstrated ability to better the spirit of the organization through their leadership
- Supplemental information to speak on the president's impact, character, and leadership



## **Sorority & Fraternity Life Member of the Year**

**About this award:** The nominee for this award must have exhibited exceptional service and leadership to the sorority and fraternity community, their chapter, and the university. This award shall go to the man or woman who has bettered the spirit of the sorority and fraternity community. Individuals that receive this award should represent what it truly means to be a fraternity or sorority member. All SFL members, including council executives, are eligible. There can be up to four (4) award winners in this category; one (1) per council.

### **Application/Nomination Details:**

- How does this individual live out the values of their council and organization in the campus community?
- Describe why this individual is deserving of this award
- Supplemental information

### **What judges are looking for:**

- Devotion to their chapter and the betterment of the sorority/fraternity experience
- Ability to show what it truly means to be a member of the Greek Life community at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville
- Lives out a deep value for service and leadership within their organization, the sorority/fraternity community, and across campus
- Personal commitment to the pursuit of scholarship
- Demonstrated ability to live out the values of their council and chapter



## **Outstanding Advisor of the Year**

**About this award:** The nominee for this award must be a current volunteer advisor to an IFC/MGC/NPHC/Panhellenic organization. The individual chosen for this award shall have exhibited exceptional guidance and leadership to the chapter they serve, the sorority and fraternity community, and continue to represent the values of the organization they serve as an alumni/a member. Advisors must be registered advisors with OSFL, nominees do not need to be listed as the 'primary advisor.' OSFL staff members are not eligible for this award. There can be up to four (4) award winners in this category; one (1) per council.

### **Application/Nomination Details:**

- Describe a situation where this advisor's guidance contributed to the ultimate success of the organization and/or members
- How does this individual continue to live out the values of their organization as an alumni member? If the advisor is not an alumni member, how do they model the way for the chapter to live their values?
- Supplemental information

### **What judges are looking for:**

- Commitment to provide guidance to the chapter
- Exemplar leadership in the sorority/fraternity community
- Ability to connect chapter to a larger sense of sorority/fraternity
- Demonstrated ability to live out the values of their council and chapter beyond their collegiate experience
- Mentorship to chapter leaders and members through ongoing support and detailed examples



### **New Member/Neophyte of the Year**

**About this award:** The nominee for this award must have exhibited service and leadership to the sorority and fraternity community, their chapter, the campus, and demonstrate a high level of scholarship. This award shall go to the new member/neophyte who has bettered the spirit of the sorority and fraternity community and their organization through their efforts. Individuals eligible for this award must have joined their organization within three semesters of that given Fraternal Excellence Awards application (e.g. 2024 FEA is hosted in May 2024, so new members in spring 2024, fall 2023, and spring 2023 are all eligible). There can be up to four (4) award winners in this category; one (1) per council.

#### **Application/Nomination Details:**

- How has this member pursued leadership and fellowship since joining?
- Describe a time where this member brought forth an innovative idea, program, or vision that led to positive change in their organization or the community.
- Supplemental information

#### **What judges are looking for:**

- Engages in service and leadership opportunities within their chapter, the sorority/fraternity community, and throughout campus
- Personal commitment to the pursuit of scholarship
- Demonstrates emerging leadership potential to the campus and/or surrounding community
- Seeks ways to actively learn about the sorority and fraternity life community beyond their new member experience in their organization
- Promotes health and safety through wellbeing and leadership in sorority and fraternity life



## **Outstanding Program of the Year**

**About this award:** The program selected for this award is an educational program, sister/brotherhood event, philanthropic/service event, or any other type of program that has been implemented within a chapter or council for its members over the last course of the election cycle (i.e. a program hosted by the chapter within their election cycle). Programs nominated should be unique, have evidence of its impact or outcome, provide innovation or a solution to a problem, and generally uphold the values of the specific chapter or council. Collaborations between chapters, offices on campus, or outside community agencies are welcome and accepted. The event must have been approved on VOLink to be considered. There can be up to four (4) award winners in this category; one (1) per council.

### **Application/Nomination Details:**

- Provide documentation that this program was executed following Office of Sorority & Fraternity Life and campus event policies in the event planning process.
- If applicable, how did the impact/outcome of this program promote cross council collaboration?
- What was the outcome of this program for members of the organization?
- How did the impact/outcome of this program utilize or showcase campus resources?
- How did the impact/outcome of this program serve a greater need within our student body and/or the Knoxville community?
- Supplemental information (photos, flyers, attendance, etc. are highly encouraged)

### **What judges are looking for:**

- Execution of the program and event planning; OSFL and Campus policies followed in the program planning process
- Impact/outcome of the program in promoting cross council collaboration, utilizing campus resources, and serving the University of Tennessee and Knoxville communities
- Program's illustration of the chapter and council's values
- Overall impression of program including media reception of the program
- Innovative purpose or goal behind the program



## **House Director of the Year**

**About this award:** The nominee for this award must be a current House Director for a fraternity or sorority with a housing facility. The individual chosen for this award shall have exhibited exceptional guidance and support to the organization they serve. One House Director will be selected from the recognized houses through OSFL (Sorority Village (13), Fraternity Park (13), 1730 Melrose Pl., 840 20<sup>th</sup> St., and 913 21<sup>st</sup> St.).

### **Application/Nomination Details:**

- How does this individual promote a holistic and healthy lifestyle?
- Describe a time when this individual showed a willingness to learn and invest in the success of the organization they are responsible for.
- Supplemental information

### **What judges are looking for:**

- Adherence to and compliance with housing and facility guidelines of the inter/national organization, Office of Sorority & Fraternity Life, and the University of Tennessee
- Demonstrates a strong value for accountability in their leadership style
- Willingness to learn and invest in the success of the organization
- Commitment to collaborating with the University of Tennessee, the Office of Sorority & Fraternity Life, and Facility Services
- Promotes a holistic and healthy lifestyle within the facility



## **Alumni Chapter/Group of the Year**

**About this award:** The alumni chapter/group nominated for this award must exhibit a true representation of the organization's values. This is showcased through a visible commitment to being active as an Alumni Chapter/Group and being connected to the undergraduate chapter at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Only one chapter/group is chosen for this award, and there must be an active undergraduate chapter on campus for the Alumni Chapter/Group to be eligible for this award.

### **Application/Nomination Details:**

- How has this group lived up to the values of their organization as model alumni members?
- Describe this group's commitment to upholding their organization's mission and values alongside the Office of Sorority & Fraternity Life.
- Supplemental Information

### **What judges are looking for:**

- Adherence to and compliance with guidelines of the University of Tennessee, Office of Sorority & Fraternity Life, and inter/national organization
- Commitment to uphold the mission and values of the organization and the Office of Sorority & Fraternity Life; role modeling and interaction with the undergraduate chapter through programming, mentorship, events, etc.
- Devotion to their organization and the betterment of the sorority/fraternity experience
- Demonstrated ability to live out the values of the organization beyond their collegiate experience through responsible event planning, collegiate collaboration, and/or philanthropy/service
- Continued representation of the organization's values as alumni members





## **Young Alumni Award**

**About this award:** Nominees for this award are graduating seniors or members who have graduated within the last 2 years. The student must be in good standing with the university, their chapter, and inter/national organization. Where the Sorority & Fraternity Life Member of the Year celebrated contributions to chapters, councils, and the community, this award looks at either the overall impact that a young alumni have had at Rocky Top or the success the early success that they have earned in their professional careers. Nominators should celebrate graduating seniors and recent alumni who are continuing to live the values of their organization, are rising stars in their industry, or demonstrated outstanding promise as they prepare to graduate. There is no minimum or maximum number of award winners for this category.

### **Application/Nomination Details:**

- Based on the description, why does this individual deserve to be recognized as the recipient of the Young Alumni award?
- How does this young alumni live out the values of their organization?
- Academic and professional information about the nominee will be asked (graduation date, post-graduation plans, employment, etc.)
- Supplemental information

### **What judges are looking for:**

- Embodiment of the chapter's values
- Model alumni of the organization and university
- Demonstrated ability to live out the values of their council and chapter beyond their collegiate experience
- Commitment to serving the University of Tennessee
- Articulated/documentated achievements in personal/professional life demonstrate promise in the future



### **Campus Partner**

**About this award:** This is an opportunity for OSFL staff & students to recognize community and campus partners that have greatly contributed to the SFL community at The University of Tennessee, Knoxville. The mission of this is to recognize the community partners, campus departments, administrators, and/or faculty members that support the Fraternity & Sorority Experience at The University of Tennessee, Knoxville and have contributed highly to its success.

#### **Application/Nomination Details:**

- How has this campus or community partner contributed to the success of a chapter and/or community within the given year?
- Supplemental information

#### **What judges are looking for:**

- Showcase of partnership, support, education, and/or commitment to helping the SFL community
- Willingness to learn about and invest in the success of the sorority and fraternity life community



### **Other Awards & Considerations**

**End-of-year superlatives** – at the annual Quad-Council Installation, the four councils will award values-driven awards and superlatives to chapters and individuals. These are fully sponsored by the Interfraternity Council, Multicultural Greek Council, National Pan-Hellenic Council, and Panhellenic Council.

**Sorority & Fraternity Life Hall of Fame** – this application/nomination process is no longer solely attached to the Fraternal Excellence Awards program. While applications/nominations can still be submitted through the FEA program, OSFL will keep this form open on [gogreek.utk.edu/hall-of-fame](http://gogreek.utk.edu/hall-of-fame) year-round. Honorees will be inducted into the Hall of Fame in October of each year at the Greek Gala.

**General Good News** – OSFL is happy share out good news about a chapter and/or individual within the community! Email your good news, celebration, anniversary, outstanding member, etc. to [greeklife@utk.edu](mailto:greeklife@utk.edu) to get featured on social media, in our weekly newsletter, or promoted through UTK.

*Please note that for all awards, applications/nominations are reviewed by OSFL staff members, chapter/council presidents, and/or a panel of judges made up of campus-partners. Previous winners of awards will be considered, but preference will be given to those that have not won that given award within 4 years. Other considerations may be made for award eligibility. For questions about the awards process, please contact the Office of Sorority & Fraternity Life at [greeklife@utk.edu](mailto:greeklife@utk.edu).*