



# Circle of Sisterhood 101

## Starting a Circle of Sisterhood Committee

Benefits of starting a Circle of Sisterhood Committee:

- Maximize your potential to spread awareness about the global issues affecting women and girls and the importance of removing barriers to education
- Increase the involvement and engagement of Fraternity/Sorority members on campus
- Create leadership positions for emerging leaders within your community
- Provide an understanding and appreciation of cultural and human differences
- Gain a stronger sense of responsibility of civic and social justice with a global perspective

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## Sample Circle of Sisterhood Committee Structures

### COMMITTEE EXAMPLE A

A great way to spread awareness about Circle of Sisterhood throughout your university's sorority community while benefiting from input, support, and the hard work of women in all different chapters is to create a Circle of Sisterhood committee. Here is a guide for how to start the committee:

#### **Application:**

A simple way to create an application for a Circle of Sisterhood Committee is to use Google Docs. Share the application link with chapter presidents on listservs and on all social media websites used in your sorority community to ensure that everyone is aware the opportunity. Set the final date that applications will be accepted and be sure to frequently share the application link and reminders about the deadline up until that date.

Sample question ideas:

- Name
- Email address
- Year in school
- Affiliation
- Other commitments throughout the term
- Any positions the applicant has had within her own chapter
- Availability for meetings
- How did you hear about Circle of Sisterhood?
- Why are you passionate about Circle of Sisterhood?
- Please share one (or more) fundraising idea(s) for Circle of Sisterhood.
- Please share one (or more) idea(s) for an educational event for Circle of Sisterhood.
- Please share any experience you have with fundraising, social media, event planning, (etc.—any skill that would benefit the committee).

#### **Committee Member Selection:**

Once all applications have been submitted, the person (or group) that is currently in charge of all things Circle of Sisterhood on your campus should review the applications in order to identify the strongest applicants. Once these applicants have been identified, you can either immediately extend offers to join the committee or decide to add an interview round to the selection process, extending offers to the top applicants afterward. It might also be helpful to ask for feedback from chapter presidents when selecting committee members to supplement the information given on the applications.

Send an email to the chosen committee members offering your congratulations and sharing important information like the time/date/location of the first meeting and the contact information for the committee chairwoman\*.

Send a list of all committee members to the chapter presidents, encouraging them to congratulate their members who have been selected to join the committee.

When sending emails to any applicants who have not been selected for the committee, be sure to encourage their continued support of Circle of Sisterhood and the committee.

\*See "Structure" for ideas about how to select a committee chairwoman.

## Structure:

It is important to pick a structure for your Circle of Sisterhood committee that best meets the needs of your sorority community.

If your Panhellenic or Sorority Council has adopted Circle of Sisterhood as its official philanthropy, you might decide that the committee should fall under the auspices of the council and a council officer can serve as a committee chairwoman. This helps to eliminate disconnect between the Panhellenic/Sorority Council and the committee members that might be created by a free-standing committee. Below are some ideas for a potential chairwoman:

- Panhellenic/Sorority Council president
- Programming chair
- Community service/Philanthropy chair
- Scholarship chair

The committee's internal structure will vary based on your number of applicants and desired committee size. Here are some ideas for structure based on committee size:

Small-to-medium committee:

- Each committee member can be assigned an area that she would like to work in,
- Or the whole committee can work together, deciding who will accomplish tasks what as needed.
- Each committee member will communicate directly with the chairwoman.
- A typical month might look like:
  - Week 1: meeting with entire committee
  - Week 2: off week (schedule meeting if needed)
  - Week 3: off week (schedule meetings if needed)
  - Week 4: meeting with entire committee

Medium-to-large committee:

- The committee chairwoman can select work group leads who will essentially serve as an executive board of the committee. Ideas for work group leads are:
  - **Liaison to Chapters**
  - **Fundraising**
  - **Communications/PR**
  - **Education/Awareness**
  - **Community Outreach (involving others in the campus community to work of CofS Committee)**
  - **Event Planning**
- The committee chairwoman can then assign members to each work group, which can be done based on member preferences and skills.
- Each work group member will communicate directly with her work group lead.
- And each work group lead will communicate directly with the chairwoman of the CofS Committee.
- A typical month might look like:
  - Week 1: meeting with committee chairwoman and work group leads
  - Week 2: meeting with work groups leads and their work group members
  - Week 3: off week (schedule meeting if needed)
  - Week 4: meeting with entire committee

## **COMMITTEE EXAMPLE B**

### Greek Unity Board/Committee

The Greek Unity Board is a committee made up of each of the sorority chapters in the community. It is a group that falls under the umbrella of the Panhellenic Council. The responsibilities of this committee are:

- to plan, organize, and facilitate Panhellenic Pride/Circle of Sisterhood Week each academic year
- to educate our campus about Circle of Sisterhood
- to facilitate fundraisers throughout the year for Circle of Sisterhood
- to foster an environment that is conducive to the development and sustainment of Panhellenic/sorority pride on campus

The primary focus of this committee, and of Panhellenic/Circle of Sisterhood Pride Week, is to bring Panhellenic members together by focusing on the common causes of women's empowerment, but primarily Circle of Sisterhood.

The chair of this committee is one of the Panhellenic Vice Presidents. Her role on the board is to oversee the plans and goals of the committee and to hold the committee accountable for follow through.

Ideas for committee work groups are:

- **Liaison to Chapters**
- **Fundraising**
- **Communications/PR**
- **Education/Awareness**
- **Community Outreach (involving others in the campus community to work of CofS Committee)**
- **Event Planning**

## COMMITTEE EXAMPLE C

### Circle of Sisterhood Committee

The committee meets every other week to discuss and plan awareness, educational, and/or fundraising events. Committee members (ambassadors) should represent – at a minimum - each sorority chapter on campus. The best option may be to have two representatives from every sorority chapter on campus to serve as Circle of Sisterhood (CofS) ambassadors.

Circle of Sisterhood Ambassadors (committee members):

- Must attend Circle of Sisterhood bi-weekly general meetings
- Any member of the sorority community can attend general meetings as a way to be updated on events and get more information about involvement with CofS
- The ambassador position allows for consistent member involvement in events and as a feeder to Director role

The Leadership Team of the CofS Committee consists of the following:

Leadership Team could meet once per month separately from general meetings of the committee (this could be before a general meeting) to discuss goals and work of the committee.

- Two CofS Directors
- President of College Panhellenic (CPC)
- Vice President of Public Relations (CPC)
- Other officers of interested Councils (NPHC, MGC, IFC, etc.)
- Fraternity/Sorority Advisor

To be a Circle of Sisterhood Director, one must:

- Fill out application on Office of Fraternity/Sorority Life website
- Serve on CofS Leadership team
- Serve as main contacts for the CofS Committee

Ideas for committee work groups are:

- **Liaison to Chapters**
- **Fundraising**
- **Communications/PR**
- **Education/Awareness**
- **Community Outreach (involving others in the campus community to work of CofS Committee)**
- **Event Planning**

## Example - Circle of Sisterhood Committee Application

(for ease collection use a service like Google Forms)

Circle of Sisterhood is a U.S. Charity founded and powered by sorority women committed to removing barriers to education for the more than 60 million girls and women out of school around the world. Sororities were founded in a time when women had to fight for their right to a higher education. Now, over 170 years later, as one community of educated women, we continue the legacy of our Founders by standing together to help girls and women achieve education around the world.

Being a part of this committee entails attending bi-monthly meetings, planning fundraising events, awareness programs, and being committed to helping girls and women receive an education. For more information on Circle of Sisterhood, please visit [www.circleofsisterhood.org](http://www.circleofsisterhood.org)

Applications are due by XXX (date).

\* Required

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**Name \***

**Email \***

**Year in School \***

**Affiliation \***

**What other commitments will you have for the XXX semester? \***

i.e. course load, position in sorority, other organizations you are affiliated with, work

**Have you had positions in our organization in the past? If so, what position(s)? \***

**What is your availability during the XXX semester for hour long meetings? \***

i.e. Mondays 1-2, Tuesdays 5-7

**Have you read the book or watched the documentary *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide*?**

**If you have not read the book or watched the documentary, would you be able to do so between now and the beginning of the XXX semester? \***

**Please share one (or more) fundraising idea(s) for Circle of Sisterhood \***

**Please share one (or more) idea(s) for an educational event or awareness program for Circle of Sisterhood \***

**Please share any experience you may have with fundraising, event planning, social media, or any other skill that would benefit the committee \***

**Would you like to add anything else?**