

Volunteer Guide to Philanthropy & Service

Local Philanthropy

While it is important that we continue to work with Special Olympics as our national philanthropy, we also want to encourage philanthropic involvement with other deserving organizations as well. To this end, we encourage all chapters of Sigma Tau Gamma to select their own local philanthropy partner.

It is important to understand that anyone deserving can be your local philanthropy partner. A good rule of thumb: does this group or organization do something that better the lives of someone, somewhere? If yes, then it is certainly a group deserving of all the great efforts we, as fraternity members, can put forward. Having trouble finding a worthy cause? Groups like the Chamber of Commerce, local government offices, and your own church often have records of who in the area needs help.

Partnering

1.) Contact the organization you are interested in working with. Different organizations are going to have different methods of contact, so make sure you look into the best way to reach your chosen group. When you establish contact, make sure you explain WHY the chapter is interested in working with that organization. Groups like Big Brothers/Big Sisters want volunteers who are genuinely interested in helping, not someone who's participating just because someone told them they have to. Your chapter should have a vested interest in the organization you choose. When you contact them, ask them how best your chapter can support the organization.

2.) After establishing contact, the chapter will begin planning or participating in events for the organization. If you are planning your own event, make sure you plan a time, date, location, and any supplies you need for the event. Always make sure you keep your chosen organization informed of your events, and invite them to send representatives if anyone would like to attend. If you are attending an event hosted by the organization, be sure to contact them ahead of time to see if there need any help with the program or activity.

3.) After every event, evaluate it. How did it go? Did you meet your goals? Share your results with your chosen philanthropy, and both you and they can use that information for the future. Keep good notes! Remember, your exec board changes every year. The more you write down, the easier it will be to build and maintain your relationship with your philanthropy.



Sigma Tau Gamma
A PATH OF PRINCIPLES



Need some ideas on who your chapter can partner with? Try looking into some of these great organizations!

Charitable Causes:

- Humane Society
- Red Cross
- Big Brothers/Big Sisters
- Habitat for Humanity
- Women's/Children's Shelters
- Food Banks
- Relay for Life
- Wounded Warriors Project
- Boys and Girls Club of America
- Make-a-Wish Foundation
- Toys for Tots