

RESIDENT ADVISORS & HOUSEMOTHERS

The involvement of responsible, older adults with Lambda Chi Alpha's undergraduates provides valuable support and direction. A resident advisor helps establish a healthy living environment that provides members a "home away from home." While it is not required that a resident advisor be a college graduate, understanding and firsthand knowledge of higher education and of young adults are important. Desirable personal characteristics include being able to keep an active pace, good judgment, tact, patience, a sense of humor, an objective viewpoint, and the ability to be a good listener and to relate with students.

While it should go without saying, when selecting a resident advisor be certain to determine that the candidate is **free of alcohol or other drug dependencies and is in good physical and mental health**. A resident advisor is a role model to chapter members, and an ambassador to the college/university, alumni, parents, and other guests.

GOALS

A resident advisor serves in an advisory capacity, aims to develop a friendly relationship with members, works with the student officers and alumni board, helps plan social programs for alumni and parents, assists with financial management and operation of the chapter's meal plan, and supervises operation of the kitchen, cook, and kitchen assistants.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Well-acquainted with each member of the chapter.
- Serves as a resource to members and refers students to professional support as needed.
- Reports unusual and/or significant behaviors or incidents to the appropriate authorities.
- Encourages development of responsibility, integrity, and decision making.
- Official host of the living group to parents, alumni, and guests.
- Assists with the education and development of etiquette and interpersonal skills.
- Meets individually with staff members of the Greek life office.
- Attends alumni board meetings as requested.
- Attends executive committee meetings as requested.
- Assists during major campus events such as open house, recruitment, parents' weekend, homecoming, alumni events, etc.
- Additional responsibilities as negotiated by the alumni board.

LIVING ARRANGEMENT

Resident advisors are required to live in the chapter facility. The resident advisor's living quarters generally include a small sitting room, bedroom, and bath. Most are located away from the main house traffic.

TERM OF SERVICE

The term of service is for one academic year, renewable annually. A resident advisor should not accept or be granted a position unless planning to remain for the entire ten-month period as negotiated with the alumni board.

SALARY AND BENEFITS

The position is for a ten-month period (usually August 15 to May 15). Salaries are established by each group in terms of specific responsibilities and may vary considerably. (\$4,000-\$7,500 was the average compensation for housemothers on many campuses.) Compensation, which includes room and board, should be consistent with current minimum wage standards. Taxes on room and board are not required. Specific duties and terms of the agreement are specified in each individual contract, signed between the resident advisor and the alumni board.

Note: Resident advisors in graduate school are generally not given a salary. Typically, salaried resident advisors are housemothers. Resident advisors in graduate school may be appointed as a Resident Scholar by Lambda Chi Alpha Headquarters and receive a stipend from the Lambda Chi Alpha Educational Foundation.

RESIDENT SCHOLARS

Resident Scholars are graduate students who serve as a resident advisor with a chapter. These graduate students typically may receive free room and board from the Alumni Board in addition to a graduate studies scholarship from the Lambda Chi Alpha Educational Foundation in return for their work with a chapter. If you are interested in learning more about the Resident Scholar Program, please refer to the "Roles" section of this guide or contact Headquarters for additional details.