

Ivan Allen Jr. Rush

Frequently asked Questions

Alumni

Q: Alumni from one of the local colleges in our area have had an event like this in the past. What makes this event different?

A: Alumni have probably been identifying only the rushees planning to attend the school that houses their local chapter exclusively. This event will benefit all of the Σ AE chapters in the area and the country wherever the rushee plans to go to college.

Q: Our local alumni are mainly from two area colleges that are very competitive. How can they be convinced to work together?

A: There are several things to consider: 1) an area event does not need to be competitive. The men going to each of the competitive schools will have already decided where they are going prior to the event, so the alumni will not be competing for students. 2) an area event does not need to replace any local alumni chapter rush initiatives. 3) an area event will identify and involve more rushees than are going to the local colleges, thereby benefiting all of Σ AE, and 4) there is more leverage when resources are combined: perhaps a better venue, a more widely known speaker and a more lasting, impressive experience for the rushees.

Rushees

Q: How is the best way to identify local high school graduating seniors who would be outstanding potential rush candidates?

A: The most difficult part of the plan is getting the names and contact information for a large number of potential rushees. The names will come from a variety of sources

Sources of Rushee invitees:

High School contacts - The first challenge is to identify the top high schools that will have students graduating who would most likely make good SAE brothers. 1) Make a list (there is a web based template) of all of the high schools. On the list include basic contact information and location. Like most areas, the list is long and there is no apparent way to cover them all. 2) Assign a subjective score to the school A = very top school, B = Excellent school, C = among the lower third. The score should be influenced by academic performance. 3) Also identify any web sites that the "A" schools have.

The objective is to find people (alumni, chapter members, parents and students) who can identify the rush candidates for as many A schools as possible.

Chapters – The Rush Chairman can assist two ways: 1) Give you the names of the men in the area that they are planning to rush. They should be invited to your event and the Chapter will have the benefit of a rushee who is more pre-disposed to Σ AE than otherwise. 2) Give you the names and contact information of all of the freshmen in the chapter who went to high school in your area (also get the name of their high school). It is not unreasonable to ask them to identify the top men who were juniors when they graduated last year.

Alumni – Your local alumni have a number of relationships with teenagers and adults that can assist in identifying top high school graduates.

High school aged assistance - Many of your area alumni have sons, daughters, nephews, nieces, and neighbors who go to high school. Ask them to identify the top graduating seniors in their school.

Adult assistance - Also those high school students have parents who are involved with the school and who could be asked to do the same. Other alumni may be on the board of local private schools. Still other alumni might know a high school administrator or teacher.

There is a web template of a spread sheet that each volunteer can use to document their candidates.

Q: What qualifications should we use to screen potential rushees?

A: Generally you want men who would make good SAE's. That is, men of good moral character, socially adept (or with the potential to be), and who have demonstrated strong academic proficiency. Remember that the Chapters will decide who gets a bid, the rush party is a way to get them together.

Chapters

Q: How can we make sure that rushees we invite to our event get considered by a Chapter and get a Σ AE bid?

A: Chapters are obligated to give recommended candidates a fair "look". Your event will result in a "rec" being sent on behalf of the rushee.

Rushees need to be told that they are responsible for earning a bid; that the process has to result in them liking the men in the chapter and vice-versa.

Fathers and uncles representing legacy candidates need to be told that the rush event does not preclude the things that they need to do to get a bid for their legacy.

The Rush Event

Q: When is the best time to host the event?

A: The Atlanta event has been hosted at a variety of times over the years. The best time is when you can get the most coverage and attendance and there are pros and cons for each.

Early spring: You'd think gathering the potential rushees prior to high school graduation would be the ideal time, but the Atlanta Association has not found that to be true. While the men are mostly available, 1) they don't all know where they're going to college at that time, 2) they are focused on High School exams, their Prom or if closer to graduation, their graduation activities and post graduation trips.

Early summer: After the HS graduation, most young graduates take a summer trip, either with their parents or their HS class mates. The rushees are still not all decided on college and are not yet focused on getting ready to go.

Mid summer: Those rushees taking trips have not yet returned.

Late summer: This has been the best time for the event in recent years in Atlanta. The men are all focused now on college and all have decided and been accepted somewhere. Many, by this time, will have been contacted by various fraternities and are curious if not already familiar with Greek. All of the Σ AE chapters are busy identifying rushees, so you can get the Chapter's attention.

Colleges are starting earlier and earlier, some as early as the first week of August, so the end of July is a good time for a rush event. Check the various popular colleges' academic calendar on-line for starting dates.