

WHAT CONSTITUTES AN EVENT?

“Defining an "event" is often challenging; however current suggested organizational guidelines define this as “while on chapter premises or during a fraternity event, in any situation sponsored or endorsed by the chapter, or at any event an observer would associate with the fraternity”

Determining if the Event is on “Chapter Premises”

1. Is the event being hosted in your chapter house or a university-provided meeting space? Y N
 - a. If so, every event you host there is considered a chapter event.
2. Is the event being hosted in an on or off campus location where you traditionally hold your events? Y N
 - a. If so, events you host there would probably be considered a chapter event.

Applying the “Reasonable, Objective Observer” Standard

The following factors are considered when determining whether an event could be considered an event by a reasonable, objective observer.

**Fraternity and Sorority Life appreciates and utilizes these questions as it removes the ambiguity and provides concrete questions to ask when determining if an event is a chapter event.*

1. Is the event being hosted or planned by one or more members of the chapter and supported by the Executive Council? Y N
2. Is the event financed by the chapter and/or being hosted on chapter property? Y N
3. Is the event being hosted or planned by one or more members and supported by members/associate/new members? Y N
4. Does the Executive Council have prior knowledge of the event? Y N
5. Is the event listed or advertised on the chapter website or social media accounts [e.g. Facebook, Twitter, etc.]? Y N
6. Do online invitations refer to the organization [e.g. Facebook events]? Y N
7. Is the event listed on a chapter calendar [public or private]? Y N
8. Will the event be announced at a chapter meeting? Y N
9. Will members of the Executive Council be in attendance? Y N
10. Will the event be marketed over the chapter listserv? Y N
11. Are members attempting to rename the event in order to give the appearance that it isn't associated with the fraternity? Y N
12. If guests were stopped on their way to the event, would they say they were going to a “XYZ” event? Y N
13. Is the event actively or passively endorsed by a majority of the active chapter? Y N
14. Have members of the chapter lied about the event? Y N

While answering yes to any one of these questions may not guarantee that the event is a chapter event, they are helpful guidelines. As one begins to answer yes to more than one, it becomes clearer and clearer that it is a chapter event.

As always, chapters MUST follow all inter/national policies regarding social events. GVSU will support all policies. In the instance that one policy is more conservative than the other, the chapter must adhere to the more conservative of the two.

If an organization wishes to meet with a member of FSL to review any event they can do so by calling 616-331-2345 to schedule a meeting or stopping in to the Office of Student Life, Kirkhof 1110.