

Alcohol-Free Social Events

Use these ideas to help organize your next alcohol-free social event—or use these party ideas as a springboard to your own chapter's creativity.

Games & Sports

Ice Skating

Here is one that can be done any time of year, but will serve as a great function at the end of the fall term and beginning of the spring term. Simply call the local ice rink and rent the place out for a couple of hours. After skating, invite your guests back to your chapter facility for hot chocolate and snacks.

Psi U Olympics

This is a great way to have fun and build Greek unity!! If you have Greek Olympics for your university, just take some of those ideas and minimize them. Events could include a bed race, apple bobbing, etc.

Casino Night

Set up tables of Vegas' most popular games and try your luck in winning play money. At the end of the evening hold an auction and see which of the big winners walks away with the prizes, donated by local businesses. Contact your campus activities office to see if they rent casino supplies.

Card Tournaments

Have a card tournament targeting those students who sit in the cafeteria and play cards. Play Hearts, UNO, Euchre, or Rummy. Get prizes donated to entice participation.

Intramural Events

Co-sponsor intramural events with other fraternities: arm-wrestling, free throw shooting, football toss, and doubles volleyball. Co-sponsor some co-ed teams with sororities.

Board Game Night

Hold a "Game Night" with a board game competition: monopoly, trivia, Twister, etc. Also include a video game competition with Play Station and Nintendo.

Caddy Shack

Get out those old argyles and knickers, put on your golf shoes, find that old alligator shirt, grab the golf bag, pull out your putter and put on some sunblock...then, hit the course! The golf course for the event could be something as easy as the local miniature golf course or a fantastic course could be created inside the sorority or fraternity house, student union, lodge, or other similar structure. Members and guests should be paired into teams who compete for the lowest score once the course has been finished. Design score cards for the teams, or even use score cards from a local golf course. Set up club house near the course to distribute the party T-shirts. Serve hot dogs and polish sausages. Have potato chips, pretzels, and Baby Ruth candy bars.

Crazy Bowling

Reserve a few lanes at your local bowling alley and have everyone dress in a crazy outfit (you can choose a theme). Every couple of frames, make participants do something different (ex. Spin around 5 times) before, after, or during their shots.

Kickball

Remember this game from elementary school gym class and recess? Find an open field, get a kickball, and invite a sorority to play on co-ed teams. This should not be men against women!

Broomball

Use as a social, recruitment, or brotherhood event. Gather up your guests up and head to the local ice hockey rink and play hockey with brooms and a tennis ball. Don't have a rink, head to the roller skating/blading rink.

Volleyball Tournament

Invite the sororities over for a volleyball tournament. If possible, create a sand volleyball court! Serve up some mocktails and have gag prizes, e.g. "Weakest Serve," "Most Sand in the Eye," etc. For fun, change the rules or use a beach ball instead of a volleyball.

Day at the Driving Range

This activity is simply what it says, a trip to the driving range. Check with a campus or local golf course for a driving range for group rates and availability. Clubs may also be rented there. Golf pros may also be available to assist your members with their swing. Contests such as longest or shortest drive and most wiffs (completely missing the ball) may also bring a bit of competition and excitement to the outing. A thematic pre-or post-outing idea would be to watch movies such as Tin Cup, Caddyshack or Happy Gilmore. Consider prizes for longest drive, most ridiculous (authentic) golf outfit, etc.

My Tie Boardgame Night

Competition at its finest! Challenge your mind, your friends, your own brothers and sisters to an evening of fast, frenzied, and fantastic boardgame playing. Here is the concept: men must supply one of their neckties. All the ties are thrown into a huge pile or box. The women are then instructed to choose a tie and wear it. Each man has to find the woman who is wearing his tie... once the two have found each other, a match is made. They then act as a team and participate in the evening's activities. Set up different boardgames throughout the event location. Each room should have a new game and a game-specific snack and alcohol-free drink. Be sure to have the favorites handy — Monopoly, Trivial Pursuit, Pictionary, Life, Risk, Clue, Scruples and Scattergories are always enjoyed. The teams travel throughout the event and play abbreviated versions of the games. Have teams carry a scorecard. Points are given for each game a team wins... teams that accumulate the most points receive prizes.

Newlywed Game

This is an increasingly popular social event with students across the country. Arrange this event just like the game show... but since there are not too many married couples in college, use couples that have been dating for a long time. It's amazing to see how much couples who have been dating already know about each other. Just be sure to tailor the questions to fit your brand of newlyweds. Questions could be similar to the ones on the television show, but make them more specific to dating, college and the campus, etc. Participants who are not serving as one of the couples should be the audience. You'll find that the members of the audience will enjoy watching and listening to the couples argue as much as those couples who are playing the actual game. So, despite one's introverted or extroverted nature, this event can be fun for everyone. If someone is interested, filming the event is a bonus. Find a video camera and get this on video... You'll be surprised at the number of

times you will view the event after it is over. Think about arranging a nice evening out for the winning couple... possibly a dinner and a movie? Whatever the case, you won't soon forget your version of the Newlywed Game!

Capture the Flag

Create your own Capture the Flag course. The goal is to capture the opposing team's flag. Use squirt guns filled with colored water to squirt them. Have teams of about 10-15 per side. Everyone must wear white t-shirts. The two sides get different colored water. Play a certain time, usually a pre-determined fifteen minutes with four quarters. As the opposing team approaches your Headquarters (where your flag is located), you squirt them. If your colored water hits their shirt, they must return to their homebase. Referees are needed to make sure the game is fair.

Rent-A-Theater/Rink/Alley

This is a super idea for a late night event. Check with your local movie theater to see about renting out the theater after hours or for the latest showing (generally less crowded) of a particular movie. Try to work out a deal with the manager/owner or get a fixed price per person or couple that includes admission, and all the popcorn and soft drinks you can consume. If the movie has a general theme, consider coming in costume or character. If the movie is a sequel, the group should view the video that preceded the sequel prior to going to the theater. Before going to the theater, have dinner at the sorority house or lodge. There are other, similar activities that your group could organize. Contact a local skating rink. Have a late-night skating/roller blading party. There are also bowling alleys that stay open late. Try to work out a deal that would include a few hours of bowling (after normal business hours), shoes, and snacks.

Thanksgiving Dinner Mixer

Before people leave for Thanksgiving break, host a dinner with a sorority. Cook the meal together, if possible. Play some games and enjoy the good food. This can be done for almost any holiday.

Win, Lose or Draw

Secure a few flip chart easels and plenty of white flip chart paper. Get some of those huge markers. Place chairs or couches around the room, facing the easels. Select teams. Play. All you need to do is follow the same format as the TV show. A group will need to select the words or phrases that the teams will draw during the event. Consider cutting words and phrases out of campus magazines or newspapers. Greek-related items are usually fun for people to try to draw. Campus organizations as well as the phrases and sayings particular to your campus and Greek community are good clues as well. Compete with different teams. Win prizes. This is a good warm up exercise before a dance, game or other campus or Greek event. Some Greeks have used this event as a study break activity between a fraternity and sorority. Some Greek communities have done this during Greek Week. Campus Pledge Classes have used this idea to get better acquainted. Some students have done this in the residence halls, or another campus facility. It's an event that everyone enjoys doing or watching.

Dating Game

Conduct this event along the lines of the popular television game show of the same name. This is simple to organize and produces hilarious situations for both members and guests. Those people who sit in the audience usually have just as much fun watching as do the participating bachelors and bachelorettes. Start by finding both men and women who will agree to participate prior to the beginning of the function.

Be sure to keep the identities of those individuals who will be the bachelors and bachelorettes a secret. When people arrive at the event, show them to the seats that have been arranged for the audience. Some sort of stage could be built, if appropriate to the location you will be using. At minimum, you will need to create some sort of division so that the contestant cannot see those who are trying to win a date with them. Some Greeks have used an on-campus auditorium-style room for this event. Find an outgoing individual to play the part of the MC. Those participating should prepare questions in advance. Have actual prizes for the winning couples...usually a dinner out at the local hot spot. Find three bachelors/bachelorettes and follow along like the show did so many years ago. Members/guests who do not play are the audience.

Ice Cream Gutter Party

Similar to an ice cream social but fill a new, clean gutter with all the fixings of an ice cream sundae. Have several gutters, divide people into teams, and have a contest to see who can finish their sundae the quickest.

Crazy Ball

Sponsor a joint softball game with a sorority. Prior to the game, the women establish crazy rules —making the men run backwards, hit the ball with one hand, etc. Top off the afternoon with a cookout.

Date Functions & Mixers

Ballroom Dancing

Contact a local dance studio or campus dance instructor. Have your members and guests dress in suits and formal dresses. Serve nice hors d'oeuvres and sparkling grape juice.

Grab a Date

Have everyone meet at a designated time and place (the house/lodge/etc, if possible). Tell them they have 30 minutes to find a date, and it must be someone they don't know. Go out to a movie, mini-golf, go-karts, or other fun date event. Also, for an added twist, require that the first line you say to your potential date is a cheesy pickup line.

Ice Cream Social

Everybody likes ice cream!!! This is a great event to start off the fall term. On a warm August or September night, call up a sorority and make your way down to the local ice cream parlor to cool off or invite them to your chapter facility, whichever is more convenient.

Party Gras

It's time to have a mixer just like the actual party in New Orleans, but the difference is you don't have to travel. Find plenty of stringing beads so that everyone can make their own chain. Also, don't forget the confetti. For food, get shrimp, crawfish, and some good 'Ole Cajun Cookin'!!!

Hawaiian Tropics

Put on the grass skirts and wiggle your hips as you dine on roasted pig and sip tropical mocktails.

Coffee House

Recreate your facility into a dimly lit coffeehouse. Serve coffee drinks while listening to a performer or two. Offer an open mic section of the party where guests can get up on stand and perform.

Carnival Night

Set up booths with carnival games—dunk booth, ring toss, darts, other favorites. Rent a cotton candy machine and have bucket of peanuts available.

Five Dollar Senior Prom

Men and women are paired and must dress in typical formal attire; the catch is that each person cannot spend more than five dollars on the outfit. In other words, use your best shopping skills at the Goodwill store, Salvation Army Shop, second-hand store or vintage clothing store to find an outfit that is, or was used previously as, formal attire. All the traditional prom-like activities should still be followed. Be sure to go out to dinner prior to the dance, but remember, no more than five dollars for dinner. Fake flowers (cannot afford real ones with five dollars) are a must. Polaroid pictures are also essential (again, five bucks is not enough for a professional photographer). At the prom, be sure to elect a prom king and queen. You may even choose to elect the best-dressed couple. The after-prom could be something inexpensive like bowling, going to the YMCA or a late-night movie...remember only five bucks for whatever you do. The next day, all the clothes can be returned to the thrift shop where you bought them. This turns your party in to a community service event as well.

Go Greek!

Well, go back to Greece, that is! Turn the chapter facility into a mini-Rome. It CAN be built in a day. Give your main areas the air of a Grecian bath or the floor of the senate. Leave plates of grapes out for the guests and palm leaves for fans. Pillows strewn on the floor add a nice cushion effect for comfort. This event might even re-invent the Toga (TOGA! TOGA! TOGA!).

Haunted House

Create a haunted house in your chapter facility and invite guests over to be scared. Or, create this event into a "Grab-a-Date" function and head to the local haunted house. It's a scare-rific time!

Frosted Flakes

Cover the floor with old white sheets, white balloons, feathers, cotton balls, glitter and Styrofoam. You might even want to turn your chapter facility into a ski lodge. Sprinkle tinsel and string white lights. Hang white candycanes. Serve ice cream, snow cones, marshmallows and hot chocolate. When women enter the event, each is handed a small white paper snowflake that has a number printed on it. They are told to hang on to the snowflake until later. Once it has been decided to have the snowstorm, the women are instructed to put their snowflakes into a basket. Each is asked to remember her number. The basket is then taken to a second level where it is dumped on the men. The men scurry to get a snowflake. Without revealing their numbers, the men wait for the women to call out their snowflake number. When the men hear their number, a match has been made. These couples can participate in a variety of activities related to cold weather.

Murder Mystery Party

Okay, social chairpersons and committees- fictionally murder one of your members, founders or alumni. The murder should take place within the fraternity/sorority house, lodge or even the student union. Members and guests, not involved in the creation of the mystery, attend the function to solve the murder mystery. It's simple to plan, kill off Brother Bob Smith. Create a story as to how it all happened. Every participant is given a detective's badge and a clue packet that contains bios of each of the suspects and a place to write down clues. Three hours are given to solve the case by traveling through the house or lodge to different rooms which contains clues. After the allotted time, the detectives are gathered in a lounge area and the case, if not solved, is revealed by the chief detective (social chairperson), or if solved, is revealed by the detective who has cracked the case. The case you develop may be too difficult. Have a squealer who leaks information to detectives! If creativity is a problem go out and buy the game from the local game store!

Mortician's Ball (aka Embalmer's Ball, Six Feet Under Party)

All guests wear black. Decorate with dead flowers, coffins, dry ice, and other items of ghoulish nature. Serve appropriate mocktails and snacks.

An Evening Abroad

Turn that traditional formal into something a little more special. Spend the evening exploring all that a particular country has to offer. Start the evening with a reception at a chapter house, lodge, or even the student union. Serve hors d'oeuvres that are representative of the cultural cuisine. Borrow maps, travel posters, pictures to hang on your walls. Go out to a restaurant that serve from that particular country or prepare a meal at the house.

Dante's Inferno

Three floors/rooms are decorated accordingly...Heaven would be decorated with whites and golds. Balloons, dry ice and flowing, white paper. Peaceful music should be playing. Atmosphere should be bright with white Christmas lights. Food should include white chocolate items, finger sandwiches, marshmallows, and clear soda. Purgatory would be all gray...no colors if possible. Cover walls with gray paper. Play a monotone hum. Serve no food. Sit quietly. Hell would be the lowest level. Decorate with reds, oranges, and blacks. Serve room temperature water, bread, crackers, and chips. When guests arrive, they are given a choice of cards from a box or hat. The three choices are heaven, hell, and purgatory. Whatever one chooses is his or her starting point. The object is to reach all three levels to see who is at the function and to see how to get to the next level either above or below. Participants are asked trivia questions. If they answer correctly, they pass to the next level. Only three tries per level — after that only God or the devil can decide to let a person go.

Day at the Races

Contact the student activities staff about securing pre-recorded tapes of horse racing. If there is no company in your area, consider contacting A Night at the Races, Inc. — official race track cinematographers, at 1-800-252-7373. This company rents the cassettes you will need. You will also need a big screen TV to show the races. Provide racing forms that give information about the horses and jockeys. Locate some white lawn furniture to set about the house. Have a betting window and start everyone off with \$100 in play money. If you have a track in the area, consider going to an actual race.

Fondue Frenzy

Contact the local rental store for a large quantity of fondue pots. Invite another Greek organization to participate with you. Plan this event like a dinner exchange. Set up tables, each with its own fondue pots and equipment. Seat no more than eight people per table. With each new fondue course, play a different type of music. Plan the dinner with three different fondues: cheese, hot oil, and chocolate. The cheese fondue would be served first. Have breads, fruits, and vegetables ready to be dipped into the different kinds of hot cheese. Choose chicken, beef, or pork as the main entree. Take forks to dip the meat into the hot oil. For dessert, chocolate fondue! Make sure you have plenty of fruits and cakes to dip!

Inspector Gadget

Detectives must solve the case of the...(you fill in the blank). Teams of three or more, using Polaroid snapshots as the indicator of the next site, are led from one site to another to answer the riddles, questions, and clues that all fit together to solve the mystery. Teams are assigned as members and guests arrive at the event. Draw playing cards from a hat — all of the fours are a team, Kings are a team, etc. Teams start at different sites. At each site, the participants will find a snapshot of the location of the next clue; and a numbered clue, riddles, or question that needs to be answered. The teams will have a pre-printed form that has numbered blank slots (to be filled with the answers to the questions and riddles located at each new site). The teams need to find all the sites and answer all the riddles, questions, and clues to solve the mystery. The mystery is simply a false event that has taken place at the university or college, or within society. Be sure not to make the mystery too easy to guess!

Laundromat Night

Select a local Laundromat frequented by students and ask the management for a campus night that you could use to spice up washing clothes. Give away mocktails & food that night. You might even give away soap and other laundry materials. Get a nearby sandwich shop to give coupons so people can munch while they wash. What about live music? Turn it into a party!

Cinderella's Ball

Get the social event started with this fun idea. Each female donates a shoe prior to the beginning of the function. When the men arrive, they are instructed to choose a shoe from the large box. From there, the men must search for their Cinderella. Men must find the foot that fits the shoe. Once the match is made, the two can then participate in the various pre-planned activities.

Hay-Ride

Have a hayride and campfire. Take students to a local forest preserve or state park. Roast marshmallows, tell stories, and sing songs.

Cruise Ship

Here's a great event for the women to arrange for the men... in their home. If housing is not available, be sure that the women still arrange this event. What a fantastic way for the women and men in your campus community to cooperate socially. Decorate the facility (house, lodge, room in the student union, barn or whatever) like a ship...palm branches, beach balls, lounge chairs, and sunbrellas. Attire for the evening is cruise or beach wear. For entertainment, set up outdoor shuffleboard. Play big band music for dancing and set up a huge buffet. Have a

captain's table and draw for those who will be lucky enough to eat at his/her table. Provide non-alcoholic fruity boat drinks complete with pineapple slices, straws and little umbrellas.

Black Magic

Here's an idea with a different twist. Card readers, crystal balls, fortune teller, magic crystals, cob-webs...the list of items with which to use during this event is endless. Decorate with blacks and whites. Have vases full of dead flowers. Set dry ice around the event location. Play music from old Halloween movies or from those scary Disney films you watched as a child. During the party, show movies with a black magic theme, such as Ghost. Think about cosponsoring the movies with the program board (remember the copyright laws). Make a run to the local novelty store before and pick up some easy magic tricks that anybody can use. If cost is a problem, ask everybody to bring a magic trick as their ticket to get into the event. Have the card readers provide fortunes to those who ask. Another spot can be the crystal ball area... a professional seer could be used here. Fortunetellers are always good laugh as well. Try to find one or two from your community to participate.

Greek/campus-wide events

Speakers

Talk to your campus activities office or your IFC public relations chairman for ideas on who would be good to come in and speak to the chapter. The topics covered are normally educational (AIDS, Drinking, Etiquette, etc.) which promote healthy lifestyles while earning respect from your peers. Some potential speakers include your school's athletic director, your Greek Official, your faculty advisor, a professor, the police chief, the fire chief, or a famous alumnus.

Greek Party

Every Friday, hold a Greek party from 6-9pm. Have lots of great non-alcoholic drinks, contests, great music (Battle of the Bands?), and discount tickets to movies, bowling alleys and other types of entertainment, which do not include alcohol. After all, students say they drink because they can't think of anything else to do. Establish an award for the best alcohol-free social program each year!

Greek Service Project

Do a Greek service project on a night when everyone would normally be at the bars. Maybe you could sponsor "open basketball night" at a local Boys Club for youth. Or, wash all of the city buses and save your city money. Whatever you do, get some PR for it, make it fun, and make it last late into the evening so that everyone is having so much fun they forget about drinking altogether!

Progressorama

Call your interfraternal friends and organize a progressive party night where men and women from different fraternities and sororities travel from one location to another doing, eating, and exploring a variety of activities. Consider this progressive idea. Have a year in one night progressive theme. Each fraternity or sorority that chooses to participate will decorate its site around one specific holiday. So, New Year's Eve, St. Patrick' Day, Valentines Day, Birthdays and Halloween could all be celebrated in one night, but at different locations. How about this one? Start at ABC chapter house and watch the initial movie of one that has sequels. After the first movie and location, venture onward to another site and watch the sequel. Keep this going as long as you desire. Be sure to have plenty of popcorn and soda. Essentially, the progressive theme can be used with all sorts of ideas: around the world in one

night, fun sports (darts, putting course, baseball toss), dinner, snacks & fun beverages, TV shows, music, bands, themes, activities, etc...

Host a Barbecue

Have a big barbecue. For a fee, students get food, a live band, etc. End the night with roasting marshmallows and making s'mores.

Campus Squares

Organize this event based on the popular television show Hollywood Squares. Solicit the assistance of your favorite Greek leaders, faculty, staff and administration to serve as the stars in the squares. A team could be organized to create the questions themselves. An interesting set of questions would include campus history, famous university alumni and current campus affairs. Try to use an auditorium or lecture hall for the event. Two rows of risers are probably easily obtained through the physical plant department. This option works equally well. A highly personable member should be designated the MC and act as the hostess/host of the show. Perhaps, a local radio/TV personality would assist as the MC? The trivia questions and true/false questions can be taken from Trivial Pursuit or another similar game of riddles, questions and puzzles. Videotape this event for recruitment purposes.

Drive - In

Secure about six white sheets together to create a movie screen. Hang the sheet on the side of the chapter house or from the balcony. Pull it real tight. Rent the appropriate projection machines so that members and guests can view a movie in a drive-in environment. Machines are available through most rental stores. The event can be designed as an actual drive-in where the sheet is hung on the side of the house facing the parking area. Members and guests will be able to sit in parked vehicles and view the movies, eat snacks and relax. The sheet could also be hung facing the roomiest part of the yard. People can sit on the lawn, throw down blankets, or whatever!

Greek Island Camp Out

Pick a warm night, find an extremely large tent and invite your friends over for an evening of music, tall tales, melted marshmallows and S'mores. Rent a large party tent from the local rental store. Set the tent up in either the front or back yard of a fraternity or sorority house, or use a location on campus. Check with the proper authorities about getting permission for building a bonfire/campsite fire. Emphasize the point that the event is non-alcoholic with your members and guests. Spend part of the evening telling ghost stories, tall tales and other campsite fiction. Put on some music and roast marshmallows and hot dogs. Make S'mores. Get out some playing cards and play poker and other card games. Inform everyone that this event is a sleep over. All participants are responsible for providing a sleeping bag and pillow — one sleeping bag for every person. Everyone must sleep in the tent. When the festivities are over, throw down those sleeping bags and crash. Be sure to have breakfast food ready for the morning. You can either cook out again, or head inside for some cereal, bagels and donuts. Be creative, have fun and watch out for the wild animals.

Grand Prix

Race Set up a course and have a Grand Prix race using tricycles or scooters. Award prizes to winning teams, best form, etc. Follow this with a cookout.

Film Festival

Use a theme, or focus on films with a certain actor or director. Co-sponsor this with your campus programming board, and have lots of popcorn and sodas. You can even set it up like a drive-in, projecting the movie up onto a big screen made of sheets tacked up against a wall. Get creative!

Fortune Teller Night

Sponsor a fortuneteller, palm reader, or astrologer to come on campus to demonstrate his/her skills. This can be a fundraiser!

Student Night Out

Set up a student night at local entertainment attractions: miniature golf, movie theaters, coffee shops, sporting events, skating rinks.

Pediatric Party Night

Visit a pediatric hospital in your area and have a game night with the kids.

Late-Night Playground

Remember the games from your childhood? Four Square, dodgeball, jump rope, etc. Have an evening of childhood games for everyone. Make cotton candy and other kid foods for snacks.

Miscellaneous

Chuck E. Cheese Night

Get a group together and head to your local Chuck E. Cheese for some pizza and some games. Provide everyone with a certain amount of tokens.

Study Treats

As a chapter make some cookies or put together a fruit tray. Call a sorority to set up a certain time for the snacks. This will give everyone a chance to break the stress and get his or her mind off studying for a little while.

Local Trip

Sponsor a local trip to a nearby area attraction, beach, mountains, mall, etc. Go sightseeing, shopping or to a show.

Ropes Course

Check with your campus or local campgrounds for a ropes course in your area. Works best when activities are done in a smaller group.

Greek Open House

During Homecoming or Greek Week, open up all fraternity and sorority houses for tours. This is great for potential members, parents, & alumni too.

Minor League Games

If possible, take advantage of the affordable entertainment offered by your town's minor league teams. Whether it's basketball, baseball, or hockey, minor league tickets are cheaper.

Other Party Themes:

Beach Party
Cave party
Chartered fishing trip
Twistin' 50's
Cinco de Mayo
Beach Party

Godfather Party
Midnight Truck Stop
Oldies but Goodies
The Price is Right
Bubba Gump
Shrimp
Putt-Putt Golf

Cowboy Party
Dream Date
Roaring 20's Party
Survivor
Pumpkin Carving
Frisbee Golf

Farmer Party
Decade Party
Haunted House
Human Scrabble
Make Your Own Pizza
Chili Cook-off