# 44 Ways to Foster Brotherhood & Sisterhood Virtually

**Phired Up** 

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# 44 Ways to Foster Brotherhood & **Sisterhood Virtually**

It is crucial now, more than ever, that we find ways to connect in an online world. Don't let a week go by without ensuring that every single member of your organization has connected with someone else from the organization. After all, "social distancing" does not have to mean social isolation. Here are some essentials and ideas you can use to come together online.

#### The Essentials

Establish a video service and group communication platform that everyone can use. We suggest Slack for the ability to create channels for the organization of topics as well as Zoom or Uberconference to host large groups on video.

**Video Conferencing:** Zoom, Uberconference, Skype, or Google Hangouts

Group Communication: Slack, GroupMe, SnapChat Group, Instagram Group, Facebook Group, Tumblr, Discord, Google Hangout Chats, Marco Polo

#### **Ways to Connect Online:**

- 1. Schedule a weekly video call to keep in touch with members. You can provide discussion questions in advance, host a specific topic, or just offer a "we're here to listen" time.
- 2. Setup virtual study times. You can host calls for specific subjects or general help. Use apps like 'Studytable' to connect with others outside your chapter with similar topics.
- 3. Create a "Movie Watch Party." Pick a movie, start it at the same time and have a video or messaging group to discuss, quote, and share your favorite parts.
- 4. Create a chapter Tumblr account to share photos with each other.
- 5. Create fitness challenges members can complete while watching a show or movie.

#### 44 Ways to Foster Brotherhood & Sisterhood Virtually (continued...)

- 6. Have a Netflix Party!
- 7. Conduct a virtual check-in. Post three to five statements or create a poll and have members like/select how they are feeling. For example, "I'm Great!", "I'm Mehh", "I'm Not So Good". Follow up with members who may not be feeling great.
- 8. Create a chapter bingo board. Have members compete to do a collection of tasks to create a bingo or fill in their whole board to win a prize. (e.g. Log 10 study hours, post a photo in letters on social media, post on social media what you are thankful for, have one facetime coffee date with another member, etc.)
- 9. Setup a whole chapter SnapChat group and Instagram group to send photos and videos, inspirational photos, or something to laugh together at.
- 10. Get a group together to play an online board game.
- 11. Send some snail mail. (e.g. Write letters, postcards, or set up a "traveling notebook" to send to each other.)
- 12. Ask each member to create a virtual memory board that visually shows why their chapter is important to them. Share your boards with each other.
- 13. Wear your letters! You may not be on campus, but you can still show your fraternity/sorority pride. Designate a day to wear letters and post on Instagram using a specific #hashtag.
- 14. Assign weekly "outreach buddies/groups" who are challenged to connect with one another virtually for at least one hour during the week.
- 15. Create vision boards then jump on a video to share with each other.
- 16. Craft live! Watch a bob ross painting video together, learn to hand weave, or find other virtual classes to create a craft together.
- 17. Teach a skill. Have a member teach everyone else a skill they have on a live video. Record the video to share with those who couldn't attend.
- 18. Start a Book Club (or two!). Pick a developmental book and a for-fun book to read as a group. Designate some intervals to have discussions.
- 19. Throw a "Senior Send-Off Party." Class online for the rest of the semester, honor your seniors by having a video party. Have members prepare speeches about individual seniors impacts, and send them a gift in the mail!
- 20. Practice your recruitment conversation skills via individual phone or video calls. Create a list of open-ended questions to ask and stories to share.
- 21. Post a daily inspirational quote for that day in your group chat.
- 22. Post a story on your Instagram account about what you love about your chapter and use a specific #hashtag.
- 23. Attend an online workout class as a group.
- 24. Play a game together! Look into the Jackbox Games and a screen share service like discord to play a game remote and
- 25. Set up a mail gift exchange on elfster.com.
- 26. Highlight a member each day to do a takeover on the chapter's Instagram story.
- 27. Curate a group playlist, jump on video, and have a dance party.
- 28. Learn about each other. Have members showcase their hometowns by doing a social media highlight. You can even do hometown tours on a private channel or public social media.

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- 29. Start an online style roleplaying thread for those who like to write.
- 30. Host a virtual discussion on specific topics. These can be chapter related or not but should encourage deeper conversations.
- 31. Play multiplayer games together online (e.g. Minecraft, fortnite, MarioKart etc.) and have a Discord channel while playing.
- 32. Find an online course to take together. Check out places like Udemy and Course.
- 33. Attend virtual group experiences together such as yoga, church, or performances.
- 34. Find a new sport to watch and cheer on. We hear marble racing is the new rage.
- 35. Host a daily meditation session to do together.
- 36. Have a Nintendo Switch? Use Discord or Marco Polo while playing an online game of MarioKart, Mario Party, or Animal Crossing.
- 37. Share a meal together. Cook the same dish together over video or gather for dinner time with whatever you are eating in a video chat.
- 38. Send a treat using UberEats or local delivery to send a friend your favorite snack or meal.
- 39. Host a Bible/Religious document study over a video chat.
- 40. Host an MTV Cribs episode: Have members show their houses and rooms on a video call.
- 41. Host a TikTok dance class or a TikTok dance challenge.
- 42. Post a picture of one member per day (either on social media or in a chapter chat) and have members write what they love about that member.
- 43. Have someone different from your organization or campus council to take over your Instagram story every day.
- 44. Do Something That Matters. Find ways for members to have positive impacts from home, pick up trash in your surrounding area, video a book reading for kids, tutor online, or deliver groceries to those in need. Gather around doing good during this time and share your positive impacts internally and on social media.

Thank you to contributors: Phired Up staff, Alpha Sigma Alpha, r/sororities, Trevor Holland, Rani Somers, Leslie Merritt

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