Off-Campus = Off-the-Hook?

Summer is here, and many of your members may be home, pursuing internships or jobs, or traveling. Moreover, many of your summer recruiting events may be held off-campus at a lake, a rental, a house, or the beach. Does being off-campus mean that you are off-the-hook as far as risks for those activities? “Not so fast,” as Lee Corso would say.

Off-campus activities have many risks and potential impacts:

- **Liability**: The same risks that may impact Greek events at your chapter house may impact events your organization hosts off-campus. Is security sufficient? Are the premises safe?

- **Criminal**: Criminal laws, like hazing statutes or underage drinking laws, apply on- and off-campus. In fact, being out-of-town could be worse for the offender. Police and Courts don’t look fondly on those who bring crime to their jurisdiction.

- **Insurance**: Will your chapter insurance protect your group for events that are hosted off-campus? Do you need an event policy? Better check.

- **Reputation**: Your reputation and the reputation of your group may be ruined by off-campus misconduct. Did anyone ask if the OU bus incident during which racist songs were sung was on or off-campus?

- **Student Code**: Your student code of conduct may also allow punishment for certain off-campus wrongs.

Summer can be a great time of freedom. However, don’t mistake it for a time that is free of risk or responsibility. Off-campus does not mean off-the-hook.