



**FSL | FRATERNITY &  
SORORITY LIFE**

FLORIDA GULF COAST UNIVERSITY

**Second Year Experience  
Informational Manual**



# **WELCOME TO THE SECOND YEAR EXPERIENCE MANUAL!**

This manual has been designed to serve as a resource guide for those taking part in the Second Year Experience program, as well as a resource guide for campus partners, chapter officers, or general members who are curious to learn more about what is included within this program. The Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life is an office within Campus Life in the Division of Student Success & Enrollment Management. Fraternities and sororities contribute to an effective learning environment by preparing students to live in an ever, growing, multi-cultural society and global community. Fraternities and sororities serve as a medium, supporting academic excellence, personal growth, leadership development, intercultural understanding, community service, and lasting friendships.

The Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life is a resource for fraternities and sororities to use in order to have the most fulfilling co-curricular experience at FGCU. The Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life is located on the second floor of the Cohen Student Union. OFSL provides numerous opportunities to develop the leadership skills of all members and help organizations because the best they can be. OFSL provides a variety of programming throughout the academic year for members and organizations, and works to better the organizations that belong to the fraternal community.

Second Year Experience, a new program being designed by the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life with the help of campus partners, will be launching in the Fall of 2022 and OFSL is excited to see the positive impact this program will have on the members, chapters, and overall community. Second Year Experience focuses on working with members within their second year of membership in an FSL organization while putting an emphasis on chapter retention, increasing chapter members sense of belonging and developing cross-council relationships.

Read on to learn more about Second Year Experience and the features that make this program unique and empowering. Any questions related to Second Year Experience can be emailed to Michael Rafo, Coordinator of Fraternity & Sorority Life at [mrafo@fgcu.edu](mailto:mrafo@fgcu.edu).

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# Preface

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# Section One: OFSL & SYE

## Introductions

### **Fraternity and Sorority Life (FSL) Mission Statement**

The Florida Gulf Coast University FSL Community believes in respect and equality for all of its members, providing Brotherhood and Sisterhood through service, scholarship, and leadership opportunities that contribute to and improve the college experience.

FGCU's FSL Community fulfills this mission by:

- Promoting the intellectual, social, recreational, moral, and career development of students
- Providing opportunities for training in leadership to enhance personal and social skills
- Promoting student involvement in co-curricular activities
- Offering undergraduates an opportunity for personal development, organizational management, and self-governance
- Fostering an appreciation for different lifestyles and cultural heritages
- Promoting scholarship and participation in community service projects
- Fostering and building strong alumni relationships

### **Relationship to the University**

Recognition of Fraternities & Sororities by the University shall not imply support for any student organization's purpose, philosophy or activities. Fraternities & Sororities are entities independent of the University, and the University assumes no legal liability for any student organization's activities.

As a guest on the FGCU campus, social fraternities and sororities must be in compliance with the university's regulation (FGCU-PR4.009) for social fraternities and sororities, the FGCU Student Code of Conduct, FSL policies and procedures, University policies, inter/national organization policies, and their respective FSL governing council and individual chapter by-laws.

### **Benefits/Privileges of a Recognized Fraternities and Sororities**

Recognized Fraternities & Sororities in good standing are granted privileges including:

- Use of University facilities for meetings/functions
- Permission to recruit on campus
- Use of the University's name as part of the organization's name
- Ability to invite guest speakers and performers to campus
- Use of the University's address for business purposes
- Ability to establish dues and sponsor fundraising projects
- Permission to grant awards and honors to organization members

These privileges are subject to change due to policy changes within the University.

## **Second Year Experience Introduction**

Second Year Experience is a new program beginning in the Fall of 2022 that has been designed by the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life staff and the Second Year Experience Steering Committee. Second Year Experience focuses on working with members who joined within the Fall 2021 semester or Spring 2022 semester, and are in their second year of membership in an FSL organization. This program aims to help these members create a stronger sense of belonging with the Fraternity & Sorority Life community while building connections across chapters and the councils. Second Year Experience puts a focus on community retention efforts, mentorship, professional development, and helping to build up today's members into tomorrow's leaders.

The Steering Committee came together during the summer of 2021 to begin addressing concerns with retention in fraternities & sororities and the overall experience within Fraternity & Sorority Life. The Steering Committee was recruited during the summer of 2021 with staff and faculty members that either have affiliation with fraternities or sororities, work directly with fraternities and sororities in an advisory capacity, or have direct experience in the field of retention services.

The Steering Committee began their meetings at the beginning of Fall 2021 to discuss retention within fraternities and sororities and what could be done to help increase the sense of belonging within the fraternal community, along with what improvements could be made to the Standards of Fraternal Excellence program. Monthly meetings took place from there for planning purposes including the creation of the learning objectives, curriculum for Second Year Experience, and the planning timeline for implementation of the program.

Implementation timeline for the Spring 2022 semester included presenting on Second Year Experience to the chapter presidents and governing council officers during their Leader's Retreat in January. With feedback from presidents and governing council officers, the Steering Committee made modifications to the curriculum and planned out the rest of their timeline for the Spring semester. The Steering Committee finalized their schedule and planned to conduct chapter visits for those that have public meetings, to give presentations on Second Year Experience to the members within the community.

Second Year Experience planning during Spring of 2022 and Summer of 2022 will include the creation of program materials, finalizing details for the large-scale events, creating more curriculum for the mentor program, and continuing the marketing efforts to members of Second Year Experience to ensure that preparations for the 2022-2023 academic year are ready to go, prior to the SYE Kickoff.



# Section Two: Second Year Experience Purpose

## Second Year Experience Purpose

Second Year Experience aims to improve the retention levels within fraternities and sororities while helping members within their second year of membership build stronger connections in the fraternal community and with members in other chapters and councils. By hosting large scale structured events each month, creating a mentorship program, and providing second year members the opportunity to connect with each other and campus resources, this program aims to be a catalyst for growth for these members on their fraternal journey and as they become the next generation of leaders in their chapters, councils and community.

The overall purpose of Second Year Experience is to help members within the fraternal community create a stronger sense of belonging as fraternity or sorority members while helping these members further develop their sense of purpose to their organizations, councils, and the FSL community. The three pillars of Second Year Experience are retention, community, and connection.

Retention focuses on ensuring that the chapters and the councils can retain the members within the community and help the members create a stronger sense of belonging. By creating a stronger sense of belonging, these members will be more inclined to step up for their chapters and councils, and help the Fraternity & Sorority Life community be a thriving and positive influence on Florida Gulf Coast University.

Community focuses on building relationships among different chapters and different councils. Second Year Experience puts an emphasis on members meeting members in other chapters and councils and creating connections that will go beyond the member experience, and impact the organizations directly. By creating a community that develops awareness and appreciation for other chapters and councils, these members will be more inclined to collaborate and build a stronger community for all FSL members.

Connection focuses on helping second-year members create connections with each other, with their mentors, and with campus partners that can help them succeed in their future. Second Year Experience puts an emphasis on members creating authentic connections to help them build the strongest relationships that will help them grow to be the best leader and member they can be. By creating authentic connections with each other and other entities, these members will be able to build their network while building their sense of belonging within the fraternal community.

## **Second Year Experience Learning Objectives**

Learning objectives for Second Year Experience include the following:

- Recognize the value that the member has within their organization, and the impact that they can make on other members within said organization.
- Develop and apply best practices in leadership dynamics, relationship building, critical thinking, and collaborative programming, to best set the members up to take on future leadership roles within their organizations and councils.
- Create an ongoing sense of purpose for those members that are in their second year of membership in a fraternity or sorority in order to create a values-centric community that fosters the ideals of their organizations and councils.
- Identify organizational and campus stakeholders that can support the expectations and visions set by the members, and help the organization progress in their initiatives.
- Develop and strengthen cross-community connections for the members and organizations to allow for stronger relationships and more collaboration.
- Increase organizational retention levels within the Fraternity & Sorority Life community to develop healthy organizations that strive to accomplish their mission and purpose.

## **Florida Gulf Coast University Survey Data on Retention & Engagement**

With a focus on retention and engagement, the Second Year Experience Steering Committee reviewed data from Florida Gulf Coast University in the form of the Entering Student Survey and the New Student Survey from Fall 2021. These surveys were sent out to First Time in College (FTIC) students prior to beginning their first semester in college (Entering Student Survey) and close to the conclusion of their first semester in college (New Student Survey). Because Second Year Experience will be working directly with those students who joined within the Fall 2021 semester or Spring 2022 semester, a good portion of members who joined their organization completed the surveys that were sent out.

Both surveys were conducted by the Office of Retention & Graduation Services and summaries from each survey were shared with the Second Year Experience Steering Committee to help the committee best plan for Second Year Experience. Below are data points from both surveys that are relevant to Second Year Experience

- 38% of incoming students that started in the Fall of 2021 are first-generation students, compared to 15% of students who completed the same survey in the Fall of 2020.
- 24% of incoming students said they would participate in a fraternity or sorority (Entering Student Survey) while 11% of these students ended up participating in a fraternity or sorority within their first semester (New Student Survey).

- 56% of incoming students said they spent more than 5 hour a week socializing with their friends in high school (Entering Student Survey) compared to 38% of students saying they spent more than 5 hours a week socializing with their friends in their first semester of college (New Student Survey).
- 19% of incoming students said they were very or extremely concerned with making new friends and meeting new people prior to their first semester (Entering Student Survey) compared to 28% of students saying they were very or extremely concerned with making new friends and meeting new people after their first semester (New Student Survey).
- 64% of incoming students said it is very or extremely important for them to develop a strong sense of community at FGCU (Entering Student Survey) compared to 32% of students who said they had a strong sense of community at FGCU after their first semester (New Student Survey).
- 70% of incoming students felt confident in their ability to develop close friendships with other students (Entering Student Survey) compared to 39% of students who felt as though they were very or extremely successful in developing close friendships after their first semester (New Student Survey).
- 68% of incoming students felt confident in their ability to feel like they're a part of the university community (Entering Student Survey) compared to 32% of students who felt successful in their ability to feel like they're a part of the university community after their first semester (New Student Survey).
- 63% of incoming students felt confident in their ability to know what events and activities are happening on campus (Entering Student Survey) compared to 30% of students who felt successfully in their ability to know what events and activities were happening on campus, after their first semester (New Student Survey).
- The biggest challenge that students said they faced within their first semester at FGCU was social development with 31% of students listing this option on the New Student Survey. The next highest category listed from students was personal health and wellness at 23%.

### **Data Conclusions**

Based on the data above, the following conclusions were determined:

- Many students expressed interest in joining a fraternity or sorority however not as many ended up doing so. The way that fraternities and sororities market themselves may be an area that needs to be addressed.
- Multiple categories listed above showed students feeling confident in their ability to be social and make friends prior to their first semester but upon the conclusion of the student's first semester, many of those data points decreased significantly.
- Many students indicated they did not feel like they were a part of the university community after their first semester or even understood how to get involved or what events to go to during their first semester.

- Even though there are multiple ways for students to get involved on campus, these numbers show there is significant room for improvement in helping students get involved, make friends, and feel confident being a part of the FGCU community.
- Social development being the number one challenge listed on this survey shows the degree to how serious this issue is and that many students do not feel a sense of belonging at Florida Gulf Coast University.
- A lack of sense of belonging will lead to students transferring to other institutions, not getting the most of their collegiate experience, or dropping out of college all together.

### **The Why – How Second Year Experience Ties In**

Second Year Experience is an opportunity to bridge some of those gaps when it comes to a lack of sense of belonging within the FGCU community. Within the Fraternity & Sorority Life community, we see members dropping from chapters on a consistent basis due to not being able to meet the expectations of the organization, not having that sense of belonging, or other reasons related to finances, mental health, or family. 11% of the participants who completed the New Student Survey indicated they were involved with a fraternity or sorority along with 32% involved with a Registered Student Organization and 16% involved in Club Sports. Even with students involved in different areas like Fraternity & Sorority Life, the statistics on engagement and satisfaction within the FGCU community are low and need to be improved, and Second Year Experience will provide that opportunity to focus on retention levels within fraternities and sororities.

An area that the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life has been focusing on is members disaffiliating from their chapters. The Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life created a disaffiliation form on EagleLink beginning in the Fall of 2021 to track this data. While more individuals have disaffiliated from organizations, than have been reported, per roster data that OFSL tracks, the ones that have been reported have majorly been related to personal reasons involving not feeling a sense of belonging within the organization or not understanding the expectations of membership. OFSL continues to use this data to understand retention trends and Second Year Experience is an action step designed to help the community increase sense of belonging levels.

Second Year Experience is an opportunity for the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life and its' partners to address retention levels with existing resources and supporting membership at a time where members may not be getting as much attention. Members often get the most attention when they first join the organization, and when they are close to graduation, however those middle years where the most growth is expected to happen in a fraternity or sorority, does not get as much attention. Second Year Experience will focus on working with second-year members to help them build their sense of belonging in their organizations and in the FSL community while helping them develop the skills to support future members that are joining their organization. With focuses on social development, professional development, intellectual development,

and identity development, Second Year Experience aims to build members into holistic leaders that are ready to take on leadership roles within their chapters, councils and the FSL community.

As Second Year Experience becomes a part of the Fraternity & Sorority Life culture, this experience will yield positive results that will have an impact on the entire community. Positive results will include an increase in member satisfaction, an increase in positive publicity for fraternal organizations, and the development of holistic leaders that not only will give back to the FSL community, but the entire FGCU community. Increased member satisfaction will be visible through higher retention rates in fraternal organizations and a decrease in members dropping due to a lack of sense of belonging. Increased positive publicity will be achievable by creating stronger relationships with campus partners and showing the campus community the impact that fraternal organizations have on the entire lifetime of a member during their undergraduate years. Positive publicity will lead to greater word of mouth of the fraternal organizations and will lead to more interested parties wanting to join the organizations. The development of holistic leaders will allow for fraternal organizations to thrive under strong leadership and will also allow these members to take on leadership roles in non-fraternal related organizations and departments. This further expands the outreach and impact that Fraternity & Sorority Life has on the campus of Florida Gulf Coast University.

# Section Three: Second Year Experience Schedule

## Fall 2022 Calendar

Event Date, Time & Location	Development Category	Event Information
Second Year Experience Kickoff - August 19, 2022 at 3:00pm in the Cohen Ballroom	Social, professional, intellectual, and identity development	The Second Year Experience Steering Committee will be hosting their kickoff event for Second Year Experience members to learn more about the program, meet their mentors, and connect with the other attendees. This is the only <b>required</b> event during the program.
Second Year Experience Mocktail Mixer –	Social and professional development	The Second Year Experience Steering Committee will be

<p>September 26, 2022 at 4:30pm in Cohen 214</p>		<p>hosting a networking program for Second Year Experience members. This program will give members the opportunity to understand how to network in a professional setting and things to consider when applying for jobs and conducting interviews. Following the presentation, participants will have the opportunity to test out their new skills with chapter advisors in a mocktail setting.</p>
<p>Second Year Experience Pumpkin Social - October 12, 2022 from 11:00am – 3:00pm on the Library Lawn</p>	<p>Social development</p>	<p>The Second Year Experience Steering Committee will be hosting a pumpkin themed social on the Library Lawn for Second Year Experience members. This program is open to the entire campus community and this program will include pumpkin decorating, carving, candy apple making and more fall themed activities. This event is in collaboration with Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. and Kappa Alpha Order.</p>
<p>Second Year Experience Day of Service – November 19, 2022</p>	<p>Intellectual and identity development</p>	<p>The Second Year Experience Steering Committee will be hosting a service day with the local Southwest Florida area, for all Second Year Experience members. Members will be able to take part in the day of service and acquire service-learning hours in an environment that will be conducive for learning and giving back.</p>
<p>Second Year Experience De-Stress Before Finals – December 8, 2022 at 2:00pm on the Library Lawn</p>	<p>Intellectual development</p>	<p>The Second Year Experience Steering Committee will be hosting a de-stress style event prior to finals for Second Year Experience members.</p>

		Members will be able to connect with faculty and staff and take part in de-stressing activities prior to finals.
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### **Spring 2023 Calendar**

<b>Event Date, Time &amp; Location</b>	<b>Development Category</b>	<b>Event Information</b>
Second Year Experience New Year's Resolution Program – January 11, 2023 at 6:00pm in Cohen 201	Professional and identity development	The Second Year Experience Steering Committee will be hosting a workshop focused on creating attainable resolutions for the new year and how to stay motivated for Second Year Experience members. Members will be able to create vision boards and learn the best ways to achieve their new year's goals.
Second Year Experience Black History Month Program – February 23, 2023 at 5:00pm in Cohen 214	Intellectual and identity development	The Second Year Experience Steering Committee will be hosting a Black History Month focused program for Second Year Experience members. Members will be able to understand the importance of the month, while taking away tangible action steps to implement within their own lives and their chapters in areas related to diversity, equity and inclusion. This program will be in collaboration with the Multicultural & Leadership Development Center and the Black Student Alliance.
Second Year Experience Pre-Spring Break Bash - March 1, 2023 from 4:00pm – 7:00pm on the North Lake Waterfront	Social development	The Second Year Experience Steering Committee will be hosting a pre-spring break event on the North Lake Waterfront for all Second Year Experience members. Members will be able to take part in social programming

		including boating, yard games, swimming, and more activities while de-stressing after midterm season.
Second Year Experience End of Semester Banquet – April 18, 2023 at 6:00pm in the Cohen Ballroom	Social, Intellectual, and professional development	The Second Year Experience Steering Committee will be hosting the end of semester banquet for all Second Year Experience members, chapter presidents, and chapter advisors. Participants will be able to relive highlights from the past academic year, hand out awards, announce the raffle winners, and celebrate the end of the year together.

**Informal Events and Mentor Hangouts**

Throughout the course of the 2022-2023 academic year, Second Year Experience members will also have an opportunity to earn points by attending informal events that mentors may be putting on, along with connecting with their mentor throughout each month. Mentors (see page for more details) will be working with a group of Second Year Experience members and will be a great connecting point whenever Second Year Experience members have any questions or need guidance on something.

Informal events and mentor hangouts will also count for points towards the Second Year Experience point system (see page for more details). Members will be able to track their points within EagleLink to go towards prizes and the End of Year Banquet. Mentors will schedule informal events ahead of time so that members are aware of event details.

**Campus Partner Programming**

At the beginning of the Fall 2022 semester, the Second Year Experience Steering Committee will send out a calendar of educational programming that campus partners will be putting on throughout the Fall and Spring semesters. These will serve as additional opportunities for members within Second Year Experience to get points for SYE, attain SFE points for their chapter, and learn valuable knowledge and skills.

**Executive Council Programming**

At the beginning of each semester, the Second Year Experience Steering Committee will send out calendars for each Executive Council’s scheduled educational programs for said semester. These will serve as additional opportunities for members within Second Year Experience to get points for SYE, attain SFE points for their chapter, and learn valuable knowledge and skills.



# Section Four: Second Year Experience Member and Chapter Incentives

## Second Year Experience Point System

In order to maximize attendance at Second Year Experience events, the Steering Committee has implemented a point system to ensure that members don't feel as though this is just another required event they have to go. The point system will be an opportunity for members to receive points for attending the Second Year Experience events as well as get points for taking part in informal events, mentor hangouts, campus partner programming, and governing council programming. The point system is broken down below:

- 5 points per SYE structured program that members attend.
- 2 points per informal hangout/meet up with SYE mentors (up to 3 informal hangouts/meet ups a month will be allowed to count for points, mentors can put on more than 3 a month if they so choose).
- 2 points per campus department event (up to 3 campus department events a month will be allowed to count for points, departments can put on more than 3 a month if they so choose).
- 2 points per governing council program (up to 3 governing council programs a month will be allowed to count for points, governing councils can put on more than 3 a month if they so choose).
- Second Year Experience members will need 25 points minimum in order to gain access to the End of the Year Banquet in April of 2023.
- Opportunities to earn points in other ways will be announced at the SYE Kickoff.
- Attendees with the most points at the end of the academic year will be entered into raffles for prizes. Prizes are based on point tiers (see page for more information on incentives and prizes).

## Second Year Experience Prizes

Upon the conclusion of the academic year, raffles will take place for the prizes listed below based on how many points participants have. Participants will be given a certain number of raffle tickets based on how many points they got and will be told which prizes they can put their raffle tickets in for. Raffle prizes are broken down below:

- Raffle prize available for achieving 80 or more points – Yeti Cooler (1 winner).

- Raffle prize available for achieving 60 – 79 points – Air Pods (2 winners).
- Raffle prize available for achieving 40 – 59 points – Air Fryer (2 winners).
- Raffle prize available for achieving 25 – 39 points – FGCU apparel, FGCU bookstore items, and FGCU beach items (multiple winners).
- More prize incentives will be announced at the SYE Kickoff.

At the End of Year Banquet, participants will be given a certain amount of raffle tickets depending on how many points they received. For example, if a participant gets 80 points, they will get enough raffle tickets to put in a drawing for every prize available. There will be a maximum of 2 raffle tickets per person for each prize so participants can decide if they want to put in one ticket for a specific prize or two tickets for a bigger prize. Once a participant has won a prize, they will not be eligible to win other prizes.

### **Second Year Experience Member Incentives**

Second Year Experience is a program designed to benefit the target audience and give them opportunities for growth even beyond the end of the experience. Incentives for taking part in the program, outside of the point system, include the impact that this program will have on the membership experience and what members can hope to take away and implement into their individual fraternal journeys. A breakdown of member incentives is listed below:

- SYE members will receive opportunities to build connections with other members in the FSL community. Building connections is important because this allows members to create relationships outside of their own chapter, and in turn will lead to the creation of a more harmonious and active fraternal community.
- SYE members will receive access to exclusive events that are being put on just for them. With focuses in social, professional, intellectual and identity development, this program will give members the tools and guidance to become the best leader for themselves, their chapter, and their community.
- SYE members will receive mentorship from older members in the FSL community along with guidance from the Steering Committee. Mentors will be from other chapters and councils and will allow SYE members to connect with someone of a similar major who can give them guidance on the fraternal level and on the university level. Steering Committee members will be available for any needs that members have and are a support system for said members.
- SYE members will receive specific apparel and swag for the program to showcase that they are members within the Fraternity & Sorority Life community. More info about apparel and swag will be announced at the SYE Kickoff.
- SYE members can use this experience as a resume builder. Taking part in a program that provides development on multiple fronts will allow members to easily explain why they should be deserving of future leadership opportunities, internships, and even applying for jobs after college. Steering Committee members will help members translate their time in this experience onto their

resumes, cover letters, and help members figure out how to talk about this experience during job interviews.

- SYE members will have an opportunity to help their chapters gain points for the Standards of Fraternal Excellence program by simply attending events and participating in the Second Year Experience program.

### **Chapter Incentives – Why Your Members Should Participate**

Outside of the Second Year Experience Kickoff, no other part of this program is required. This program is solely based on motivation from members to attend and take part in. Members have multiple incentives through points and the opportunity for individual growth, however the organizations also have something to gain from their members participating in this program. Chapter incentives are broken down below:

- Members that participate within the Second Year Experience program from each chapter, will have an opportunity to get the chapter points towards Section Four, Leadership and Membership Development, of the Standards of Fraternal Excellence program.
- Chapters that have second-year members attend and gain at least 10 SYE points each semester as part of the Second Year Experience program will be able to get their chapter 1 SFE point. This can be done for a maximum of 5 points per semester, meaning that chapters can get 10 SFE points for having their members participate in Second Year Experience.
- Chapters that have members serve as mentors for the Second Year Experience program will be able to get 1 SFE point per mentor, up to 5 SFE points for the academic year.
- Members within Second Year Experience will be attending workshops and programs that hit other areas of the Standards of Fraternal Excellence program and will have opportunities to get chapters more points. If a chapter has enough second-year members go to a program and hits an attendance requirement for a specific SFE category, the chapter could get the SFE point in that category (ex. 10% of the chapter is 5 members and all 5 of these members are second-year members that attend one of the campus partner programs that SYE announces at the beginning of the semester, this could count for section 3A and the second-year members would also get points towards SYE).

Incentives play a large role in ensuring that members are taking advantage of this program and coming out to programs. Chapters will benefit from this program in general because their members will have an increased sense of belonging within the FSL community, will make connections outside of their chapters, and will be prepared to be the best leaders for their organizations and councils. In turn this will lead to higher retention rates within the FSL community and a higher sense of satisfaction for the entirety of membership within a fraternal organization.

# Section Five: Second Year Experience Logistics

## Second Year Experience Mentor Program

Second Year Experience mentors serve as role models for second-year members and give support when needed for said members. SYE mentors are an important part to the program because they help SYE members to stay connected, to have a peer mentor rather than just professional mentors, and are prime examples of leaders in the community that SYE members can look up to. Obligations of SYE mentors are broken down below while requirements are listed on the mentor application:

- Serve as a role model for members of Second Year Experience.
- Be a contact point for a group of Second Year Experience members to help answer any questions or concerns they may have.
- Participate in structured Second Year Experience events as a familiar face for SYE members and engage the members in campus enriching opportunities.
- Help navigate Second Year Experience members through the ins and outs of Campus Life and Fraternity & Sorority Life and help them find new opportunities to grow within the campus community.
- Conduct informal touchpoints and hangouts with mentees to create genuine connections while helping to build relationships among the mentees that fall under the guidance of said mentor.
- Serve as facilitators and planners for structured events that take place within the Second Year Experience program and help bring the program to life.

Second Year Experience mentors will go through an application process (found on EagleLink under the FSL page) during the Spring semester and will have an info session at the end of the Spring semester prior to monthly summer touchpoints and a training once the Fall semester resumes. Mentors can choose to serve for a semester or both semesters. Benefits of being a mentor is broken down below:

- Opportunities to build mentorship and leadership skills and create connections within the Fraternity & Sorority Life and University community.
- Help build up members within the fraternal community and increase organizational and community retention levels.
- Free mentor merchandise, swag and apparel.
- The ability to attend all the SYE events and reap the benefits of said events.
- Up to 20-service learning hours (10 hours per semester).
- Monthly mentor workshops to help mentors build up the skills they can be the best leader and role model that they can be for SYE members.

## **Point System Submission Logistics**

In order for Second Year Experience members to have their points counted, the members will have to submit their points on EagleLink for any points they have acquired outside of the structured events. The SYE Steering Committee will be keeping track of attendance at all of the monthly structured events therefore SYE members will have to submit points for any informal hangouts/meetups or events that they attended outside of said structured events. Submission logistics for points are broken down below:

- Participants will complete the following form on EagleLink any time they need to submit points for SYE - <https://getinvolved.fgcu.edu/submitter/form/start/528032>. This form will not be live until August of 2022.
- The form above will state requirements for submissions. Most submissions will require details about when the event or meetup took place, who was the host of said event, and proof of attendance at the event. Attendance proof can either be that the attendee was checked in for the event, or a photo from the event.
- Once an SYE member has submitted their point submission, the Steering Committee will review said submission and either approve it or send it back for further documentation. The Steering Committee will keep a log of how many points each member has obtained throughout the course of the academic year and will do quarterly checks with the members to ensure members point counts are accurate.
- Point submissions have cutoff dates. Any submissions for events that took place during the Fall semester, must be submitted by **Friday December 9, 2022**. Any submissions for events that took place during the Spring semester, must be submitted by **Thursday April 6, 2023**.
- Point rankings will be announced at the end of each semester so that participants know who is in the lead and how close individuals are to gaining access to the End of Year Banquet or the raffles.

## **End of Year Banquet Criteria**

In order for Second Year Experience members to gain access to the End of Year Banquet, the members will need to have obtained 25 points throughout the course of the academic year by **Thursday April 6 at 11:59pm**. The Steering Committee will review any final submissions the following day and send out RSVP notices upon completion of the point submission review.

Chapter presidents and chapter advisors will automatically be invited to the Banquet and will be informed of which members achieved the 25-point minimum to be invited to ensure those members are aware of their invitation to the banquet.

## **Event Participation Overview – Event Pass**

The Second Year Experience Steering Committee strongly encourages that SYE members have their Event Pass in their phone wallet prior to the start of the Fall 2022

semester to ensure that SYE members can easily check in for events. Due to a high volume of expected attendees for events, the Steering Committee will only be accepting Event Pass for attendance purposes. Directions on how to obtain an Event Pass is broken down below:

- Download the Corq app and sign in using Eagle Mail username and password.
- Once signed in, head back to the main menu page and click on the option that says Event Pass which will bring up a unique QR code that can be scanned.
- Participants can download the QR code and add it to their phone's wallet for easier access for future events.

### **Second Year Experience Leadership Opportunities**

The Second Year Experience Steering Committee recognizes that some members may want to take on more responsibility within Second Year Experience and support their fellow peers. Leadership opportunities for SYE members are broken down below:

- Marketing
  - Helping to find unique ways for Second Year Experience to create their digital identity within and outside of Fraternity & Sorority Life.
  - Supporting the creation of marketing materials for the program.
  - Reviewing different social media trends for the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life to get involved with to spread the word about Second Year Experience.
  - Working with the OFSL Project Assistants on SYE outreach initiatives.
- Event Planning
  - Supporting the Steering Committee with logistics for future events.
  - Helping with set up and tear down at structured events.
  - Providing input on the different events that the Steering Committee, campus partners, and the governing councils put on.
  - Being involved in the step by step planning process for future events.
- Peer Facilitation
  - Serving as a facilitator for any breakout sessions that may take place during Second Year Experience programming.
  - Facilitating bonding activities for SYE members.
  - Working with the Steering Committee to review opportunities for peer to peer facilitation at future programming.
  - Being a face for Second Year Experience at university functions and speaking on behalf of SYE to campus partners and governing councils.

More specifics on the involvement opportunities will be provided at the SYE Kickoff along with incentives for taking on leadership roles. Incentives may include more opportunities to gain points throughout the program.

# Section Six: Second Year Experience Assessment

## Second Year Experience Assessment Overview

Throughout the 2022-2023 academic year, the Second Year Experience Steering Committee will be providing assessment opportunities for members and chapter presidents to better understand the impact of the program, and the perception of the program. A pre-assessment will be conducted prior to the Second Year Experience Kickoff to understand where members currently stand on areas relating to sense of belonging, connection within the FSL community, and their sense of satisfaction within the fraternal community, along with seeing what they hope to get out of SYE.

After each structured event, a post-assessment link will be available so that participants can give feedback on how the event was ran, what the impact of the event was, and how said event could be improved for future years. The Steering Committee will use that feedback to ensure future events throughout the academic year are continuing to meet expectations and see what modifications may be needed.

After the Fall semester, members will be sent a survey to best understand how the first semester of the program went, what overall perceptions of the program were, and what needs to be improved going into semester two. After the Spring semester, members will be sent an overall post-assessment of the program to collect data and thoughts on SYE as a whole, including what went well and what needs to be improved for the next cohort of SYE members. Assessment will also be sent to presidents to understand how they felt the program affected their members, organizations, and retention rates.

Data from all the assessment pieces will be collected into a final report upon the conclusion of the Spring 2022 semester and said assessment report will be made available to the Steering Committee, university administration, the leadership of chapters and councils, and chapter advisors.

The final assessment piece for Second Year Experience will include conducting focus groups the week after the End of Year Banquet to dive deeper into feedback on the program and understand how the program affected members. Focus groups will be done on a member availability basis with a variety of organizations represented to ensure all councils have a voice in program enhancements.

Assessment tools that will be used throughout the course of the academic year will include Checkbox until Qualtrics becomes available in the Spring of 2023. Assessment data and reports will be completed by the Coordinator of Fraternity & Sorority Life.

## **Second Year Experience Program Review and Enhancement**

Upon the conclusion of the inaugural Second Year Experience program, the Steering Committee will take the time to review the assessment report and feedback from the members and organizational leadership, and understand what changes need to be made for future renditions of Second Year Experience. Meetings with university administration will be conducted during the Summer of 2022 to review how this program has impacted the university and what changes the university would like to see take place within Second Year Experience.

The expectation will be that the Steering Committee will begin the planning process for the 2023-2024 cohort near the beginning of Spring 2023 to ensure that planning is done in an appropriate timeframe. Planning preparations for 2023-2024 that will take place during Fall 2022 will include reviewing the requested budget for Second Year Experience for the following year as budget information is required during the Fall 2022 semester as well as reviewing the structure of the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee will adjust these timelines as needed.

Curriculum for Second Year Experience will be reviewed to ensure that it is meeting the learning objectives of the program and that each structured event is meeting the developmental goals they are intending to reach. Other areas of the program that the Steering Committee will review will include pieces around the mentorship application, prizes, incentives, what campus partners the committee would like to continue to collaborate with and who the committee can begin working with, how the program affects the Standards of Fraternal Excellence, and what may need to be added or removed from the program.

The Second Year Experience Steering Committee may anticipate changes to the Steering Committee throughout the future years due to staff turnover and will work to address any holes needed when necessary. Logistics and planning information will be accessible for future committee members should the need arise and all documentation will be made available through the FGCU Shared Files and FSL Shared Files.

The 2022-2023 Second Year Experience Informational Manual is subject to change at any given time by the Second Year Experience Steering Committee to ensure that the most up to date information is available within said manual. Any updates will be marked and chapter and council leadership will be notified of said changes. Future editions of the manual will be created from the template of this manual and be made available for the future cohorts of Second Year Experience.