



## Welcome to Conference Life!

Some of you reading this may be conference pros - able to navigate large groups of people and identify opportunities for learning with ease. For others, this may be your first time attending an event like the NGLA conference. Either way, here are some helpful tips and reminders on how to get the most out of your experience.

### **Come Prepared**

There is a lot to see and do while at NGLA, so it's important to head into this experience with a game plan. Look through the program book or the Guidebook app to see what's of interest to you, what would benefit your delegation most, and what events your group is expecting you to attend. We can't say this enough - if you want the best experience, go in with a clear idea about what you want each day of the conference to look like.

### **Budget Your Time**

This weekend might be the first time you've lived in tight quarters with so many other people. How will you manage power outlets, shower schedules, and sleep schedules? Make a plan ahead of time to avoid panicked morning rushes and painful power loss during the day. Consider splitting bathroom time between morning and evening, bring a powerstrip for extra outlets, and discuss expectations for quiet time in the space.

### **Take Care of Yourself**

While exciting and educational, the days at NGLA can be long. Do not count on Starbucks or other snack stations for your caffeine needs - the lines will be long and you might miss sessions. Stow a water bottle, snacks, tissues, and other essentials to keep yourself energized throughout the day.

### **Meet New Friends**

You are likely attending NGLA with other members of your Greek community. You will also likely see these folks a LOT over the course of the next year. Take time to get to know members from other delegations, to learn on your own, and bring those connections and lessons back to your group later. Challenge yourself to go the whole day without attending the same sessions or sitting next to others from your delegations, and then share your insights at a group debrief later on.



# Northeast Greek Leadership Association

## Are you ready to spend the weekend with nearly 1000 other fraternity/sorority leaders?!

This is a pretty big deal, and there are a few things you should do to prepare for it. But don't worry, we have you covered. Use the checklist below to get the most out of the conference.

### **The Road to NGLA**

Coordinate with the other delegates from your campus by working through a few activities. Ask your advisor for details.

### **Programs**

Download the Guidebook app, search for and load the "2019 NGLA Annual Conference" guide to create your schedule of educational sessions.

### **Checklist**

Pack and prepare what you need to make the most of the event:

- Snacks
- Water bottle
- Contact information
- Cell phone charger
- Pen and paper
- Tablet or Smartphone for taking notes
- Open mind
- Thoughtful dialogue



# Northeast Greek Leadership Association

## Top Tips on Selecting the Right Sessions

NGLA is a chance to learn, grow, and think differently about your role as a Greek community leader. There are so many ways to engage with the conference, it can feel overwhelming. Going into the weekend with a plan is important; here are some steps to help you build a better learning experience before and while you're on site.

### **Why are you going?**

Think about it, why are you attending this conference? Create some personal goals around what you hope to get out of the weekend - what you want to learn, the type of folks you want to connect with, and what questions you hope to answer. These will help guide you to sessions that will be meaningful to you and your role.

### **Find and Fill the Gaps**

It can also be helpful to chat with your team before the conference about their goals for the weekend. Find out where there are gaps or knowledge overlap and coordinate your priorities as a group. Divide and conquer all the topic areas you want to cover and make sure you go to the sessions that pertain specifically to your role in the community.

### **Make a backup plan**

Sessions fill up fast, so have 2 or 3 sessions in mind as a backup if your preferred session is full.

### **The Conference Puzzle**

Seeing the bigger picture of what you're taking away from the experience is important. Attending few sessions with similar or targeted goals isn't as impactful as being strategic with your conference puzzle. Ask yourself: "How do these sessions line up with information I want to know, skills I need for my role, and gaps in my team's knowledge base?" By doing a quick review of your entire schedule, you can better shape the depth of knowledge you will gain at NGLA.



## 5 NGLA Experiences You Can't Miss

NGLA is much more than educational programs. Here are five things you shouldn't miss while you're here.

### Place your bid

Sponsors put together packages of books, swag, bling, goodies, trips, and other things you might find interesting. Hit up the Silent Auction to bid on your favorite pair of letters, on a manual for your new position, and much more!

### Ask the Experts

There are people whose job is to support fraternity and sorority life. They run companies who provide training, printing, technology, and other services to address the issues you might be facing in your community or your chapter. Stop by the NGLA Village to talk with them about what they do. Even if you don't buy anything, it's a great opportunity to learn from the people who work to make your experience better.

### Cluck like a Chicken

Ever dream of seeing your fellow delegates make a fool of themselves in public? After the opening keynote on Thursday, get a front row seat at Sailesh The Hypnotist. During last year's show we had people playing with imaginary puppies, clucking like chickens, and sniffing their shoes! What do you think might happen this year?

### Strike up a Conversation

You know how they say you learn more "outside the classroom?" That can happen at NGLA too! There's something many people experience called a "hallway conversation," and hopefully you'll have one. It happens when you meet someone in a session, learn something interesting about them, something you share in common with them, and start sharing stories, ideas, and insights. Before you realize it, you're running late to the next session. Hallway conversations lead to new friends and important insights, so strike up conversations with your neighbors and hopefully you'll have one of your own.

### Get Your Work Done

Do you have papers, reading, or homework to get done this weekend? Need a quiet place to get away from your roommates? Visit the quiet study room located in the Marriott Conference Room 5. Every night it will be full of Greeks from other schools focusing on the thing that matters most: their academic success.



## Four Secrets to Making New Connections at NGLA

You are about to be immersed in a three-day experience with nearly 1000 fellow Greeks from around the Northeast. This is an amazing opportunity to connect and share ideas with folks outside your immediate surroundings. Here are some tips to make the most of your time while at NGLA.

### **Sit With Us**

Whether in an educational session or at lunch, sitting with new people and striking up a conversation is a great way to learn new things and be inspired. Sometimes it can feel awkward if you haven't done this before - that's normal! Try leading with some questions such as "Can I sit here?"; "What's your role?"; or "Why were you interested in coming to this session?" to break the ice and get the conversation flowing.

### **Facilitators are Your Friends**

Presenters, conference staff, and other fraternity/sorority advisors are at NGLA to help you learn and navigate the conference experience. They are just as passionate about fraternity/sorority life as you are, and they are a great source of information. Ask them questions, learn their stories, and gain their insight. They will be happy to dig deeper into the topics you're studying.

### **Adventure is Out There!**

It's natural to stick with your team, but you have the next 12 months to do that back on campus! Take this opportunity to branch out. Pick sessions based on your own goals and priorities. Do the things you need to do to get something valuable from the conference. Take the chance to venture out on your own, and then bring what you learned back to your council and community members.

### **Call Me, Beep Me, If You Want to Reach Me**

You will meet a lot of people in a short window of time - people you want to remember and perhaps follow-up with after you leave. Get their contact information and be ready to share yours so you can stay connected, share new insights, and be reminded of great work other leaders are doing. Consider creating business card-sized contact cards to share with your new-found friends.