

VIRTUAL FELLOWSHIP

GUIDE & RESOURCES

Address:
Alpha Phi Omega
1441 East 104th Street, Ste. 105
Kansas City, MO 64131

816.373.8667

chapter_services@apo.org

www.apo.org





Tau Chapter at the University of Florida

WHAT IS **VIRTUAL FELLOWSHIP?**

Virtual fellowship is a method of maintaining a sense of community within the chapter, despite being separated virtually or in social distance. As the mental and physical well-being of members remains a top priority, chapter officers should lead the effort in maintaining shared connections within the chapter, campus and community. The spirit of brotherhood is not limited to in-person interactions and should be adapted to fit the needs of the chapter.

WHAT ARE **BENEFITS OF VIRTUAL FELLOWSHIP?**

FLEXIBLE! Virtual fellowship is flexible and able to suit individual interests or needs. Many online search engines enable brothers to broaden their understanding of what social activities look like and how to adopt them into chapter operations. And of course, virtual flexibility comes with the freedom to host events throughout the day to accommodate varying schedules.

NO LIMIT ON LOCATION! Members can participate in fellowship events from anywhere - from the couch to kitchen table, the possibilities are endless! So long as someone can connect to the internet, they can join in on the fun.

INTEREST BASED! Let members' passions and hobbies guide the way. Connecting online or from a distance allows each member to share in each other's interest that may otherwise be overlooked. Take time to explore activities that might be more difficult to organize in person than online.

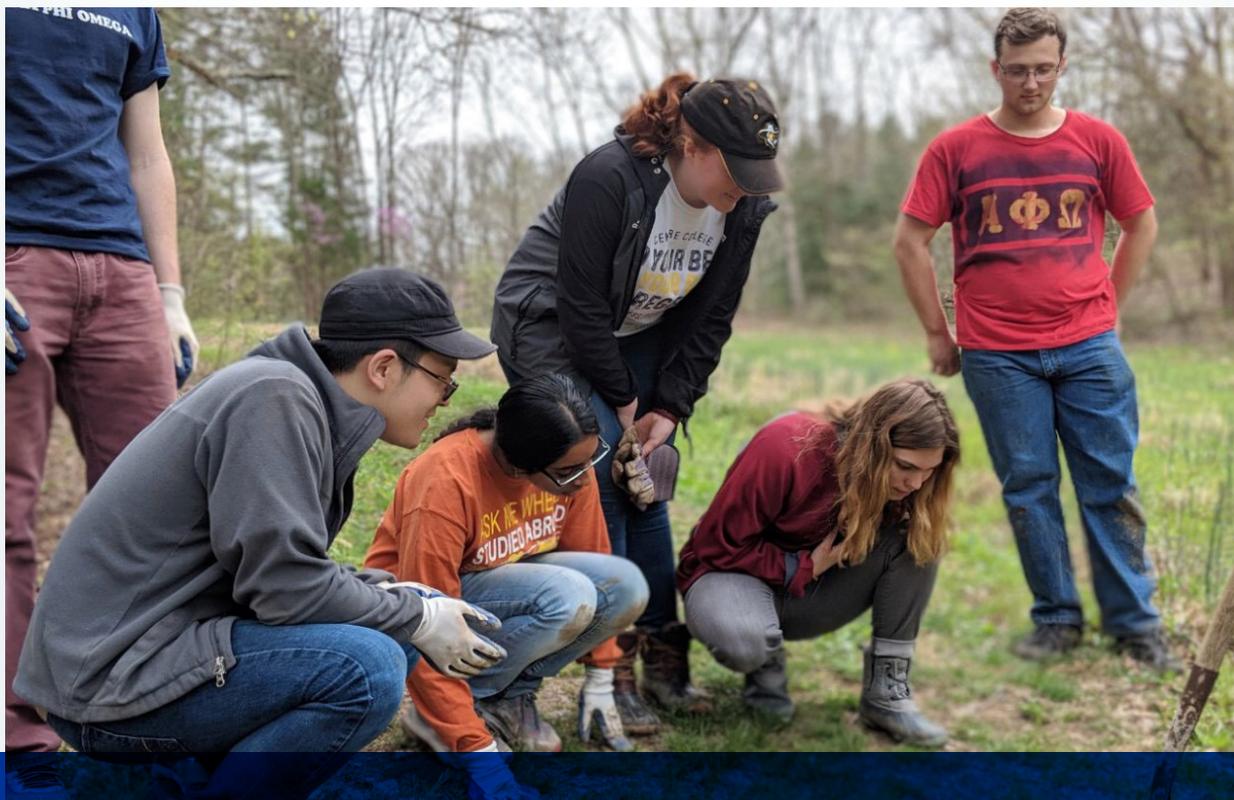
VARIETY! Virtual fellowship provides members the luxury of connecting while on-the-go or otherwise. There is flexibility in the activities in which to participate and can certainly be continued when members are reunited.

HOW CAN CHAPTERS INCORPORATE VIRTUAL FELLOWSHIP?

There are many ways members can keep in contact with one another. When in-person, members are offered small and large-scale events for members to engage in. Virtual fellowships can operate in the same way! The trick to a successful virtual fellowship program is to have a common purpose for engagement in mind. Is your chapter looking to develop new and existing connections? Maybe members are looking for simple methods to stay connected when apart. No matter the purpose, there are endless opportunities to choose from.

When considering fellowship opportunities available for the chapter, it's important to also consider any technology barriers that may exist. Chapter leaders should work together to answer and discuss the following questions to assess the resources and technology available to the members at large:

- Do all or most members have access to a dependable Internet connection?
- Which communication platforms can the chapter use at little or no cost to members?
- What kind of mobile devices are members communicating with? - cell phone, tablet, laptop, etc.
- How can the chapter use the APO mobile resource app to stay connected as a group?
- What are members' preferred method of communication while distant or virtual?
- Has the chapter determined communication expectations while members are apart?



Theta Theta Chapter at Centre College

VIRTUAL FELLOWSHIP LIST

GENERAL ENGAGEMENT

Consistent Communication: Schedule weekly or bi-weekly video calls to keep in touch with members. Provide discussion questions in advance to keep the conversation fun and engaging!

Wellness Checks: Utilize APO's mobile resource app to check-in on the well being of members by posting a poll members can reply to with the emoji that best represents how they're feeling. Touch base with members who may need support.

Snail Mail: Write letters, postcards or create a traveling notebook to send to members. Take this idea to the next level by connecting with other chapters through pen pals. A postcard template can be found [here](#).

Memory Board: Think vision board but more reminiscent. Ask each member to create a memory board that highlights what they value most about the chapter. Each member's memory board can be PowerPoint slide that compiles everyone's members into a presentation to be shared during the next meeting or video call.

Wear Your Letters: Members may be separated, but you can still show your APO pride! Designate a day to wear letters and post your favorite photo on Instagram using a fun chapter hashtag like #DontForgetYourLetters #LetterDay #FreshFriday #OnWednesdaysWeWearBlueAndGold

Assign Outreach Groups: Assign members to a group that connects weekly for an hour via video call to catch up.

Inspirational Messages: If the chapter group chat has been quiet since in-person interactions have come to a halt, begin posting inspirational messages, quotes or memes to help members start their day on a positive note - literally.

CONNECTION IS THE **ENERGY** THAT IS CREATED
BETWEEN PEOPLE WHEN THEY FEEL SEEN,
HEARD AND **VALUED.**

- BRENE BROWN

BUILDING BONDS THROUGH LEADERSHIP

Linked Learning: Find an online course to take together. Check out platforms like Udemy, Course or Skillshare.

Forums for Fun: Grab your favorite snack and discuss topics of members' choosing. These can be chapter-related or not, but should facilitate in-depth conversations. Encourage members to lead a discussion or be on a panel for subjects that resonate with them.

Practice Makes Perfect: Nail the perfect elevator pitch or practice recruitment conversations via video call, phone call or from a distance.

Teach a Skill: Rotate through members who are interested in passing along a skill to other members in the chapter. Take thus up a notch by recording the event to share with others who could not attend.



SOCIALLY DISTANT FELLOWSHIP LIST

CONNECTING FROM A DISTANCE

Vibe Check: Set a daily or weekly reminder to check in with your friends across various networks. A simple, “Have a great day!” can make a world of difference in someone’s day.

Member Meet-Ups: Find a spot on campus or in the community to have a one-on-one meet-up with a fellow brother. Chat about your hobbies, classes and other interested, but remember - stay 6 feet apart!

Group Workout: In an open lawn or vacant gym, host a group workout session. Members can have their own socially distant workout space and still be surrounded by their network of brothers to log a fun workout.

Book Club: Bring your own snacks to connect with others over a good book.

Gaming: Whether on your phone or in the same room at a distance, gather for some good laughs over fun game.

Find Your Calm: Similar to the group workout session, gather together for a meditation session. Find your center and stay connected!

OOTD: Post a call-out in your group chat for an outfit of the day highlight.

Share Recipes: Pass along your favorite recipe for a fellow brother to re-create. Start a chain reaction by sending another recipe once a dish has been re-created.

Lunch & Learn: In a space where members can be separated, grab your favorite lunch and get together to chat about chapter goals or brainstorm programs to set the chapter up for success in the future.

Challenge Accepted: Plan an activity that’s inspired by your favorite reality competition show.

Get On Your Feet: Choose a specific time each week or day for a standing coffee break where members can pass by for a 10 or 15 minute chat with brothers looking for a mental break from the day.

TRADITIONAL FELLOWSHIP IDEAS

Watch Party: Host a watch party using Netflix Party or similar platform to unwind and have a good laugh with other members.

Bingo: Create a chapter bingo board with a collection of tasks to get bingo and win a prize (ex. wear letters and post it, log 10 study hours, have a video call coffee date with another member, etc.)

Live Crafting: Let crafty members rise to the occasion by organizing an online craft session. Watch a Bob Ross painting video, learn to hand weave or complete a Pinterest project as a group.

Book Club: Gather interested members and vote on a book to read and discuss. Get the ball rolling by choosing a genre where members can present titles that fit.

Send Off: Honor graduating seniors with an video party full of chapter memories, personal stories, speeches and more.

Share a Meal: Cook the same dish as a chapter over video call, or have a virtual potluck where members can make their favorite dish and share why they chose it with a recipe card to follow.

“YOU CANNOT SEE **BROTHERHOOD; NEITHER CAN YOU HEAR IT NOR TASTE IT. **BUT YOU CAN FEEL IT A HUNDRED TIMES A DAY**. IT IS THE **PAT ON THE BACK** WHEN THINGS LOOK GLOOMY. IT IS THE **SMILE OF ENCOURAGEMENT** WHEN THE WAY SEEMS HARD. IT IS THE **HELPING HAND** WHEN THE BURDEN BECOMES UNBEARABLE. ”**

- PETER E. TERZICK
