

# College Project Award - Application

Chapter, Upsilon Pi Chapter1

**Briefly describe your College Project and who from the chapter and the college administration was involved in determining it?**

**Word Count Limit:** The essay responses for the entire application cannot exceed 1200 words. No limit is given for each essay question, but to the application as a whole.

Upsilon Pi Chapter decided to raise awareness about recycling. We chose the sixteen southern counties of Illinois and began researching ways people could recycle in their communities. After gathering ample information, our public relations officer worked closely with the graphic designer on campus; they were able to produce a brochure with helpful tips and the location of local recycling centers. Living more sustainable is something our advisor, Jenn Rose, pledges to daily. At a meeting, Jenn introduced the idea to our chapter. It interested me and I immediately decided I wanted to chair the College Project committee. Being the Vice President and now chair of the committee, I recruited people to help me make this project a success. I worked very closely with Jenn, my Public Relations officer, and many other active members. We had several meetings with the graphic designer, Robin, the sustainability coordinator on campus, Tim, along with our college president, Dr. Mees.

**Summarize your objectives for the College Project and the process by which the chapter and college administration set these objectives.**

After brainstorming multiple ideas on sustainable living, we narrowed our project down to simply making people aware. This may appear to be a simple step however it is the first step in achieving a goal which makes it an integral part in reaching a more sustainable community. We discussed many different project ideas but people cannot move forward until they know where to begin; raising awareness will complete this objective and allow us to move forward in the future with our more elaborate plans. The college administration has done an excellent job by providing recycling bins; it's much easier to recycle a plastic bottle when the recycling bin is placed next to the trash can. We were concerned that there weren't very many options on campus, only the main entrances had the recycling bins. After discussing this with our President and Sustainability Coordinator, we discovered that they agree with our concerns but haven't had the finances to provide the bins at every location on campus. After competing with the other student organizations on campus, administration has been able to provide more recycling bins. An increase in recycling was noticed after the bins were distributed throughout campus. If students took advantage of the opportunity to recycle when it was provided to them then what would the community do if they became more aware of ways they could recycle at home? We're hoping to see another huge increase in recycling in all of the counties we've been working with.

**Describe the planning process and strategies developed to complete the College Project.**

Jenn, Melissa, the public relations officer, and I decided that community awareness on recycling was crucial. We wanted to reach out to more than just our own county so we decided to research and provide information for all of the southern counties in Illinois. Melissa and I divided the counties in half and began contacting the county clerks and local recycling centers. We wanted to get as much information as possible so that we could provide it to the locals and see improvements in sustainable living. After gathering all of the information necessary, we decided to combine it all into an easy to read, appealing brochure. Some people think recycling is such a hassle therefore they don't partake in it and continue to live carelessly. We did all the footwork and put it together in a simple step by step process with a map showing where they could take their recyclables. We're hoping to see positive outcomes from this strategy.

**What were the quantitative and qualitative outcomes of your project, including the lessons learned by your chapter members and others?**

A great lesson learned from completing our College Project is how well teamwork can make difficult tasks become easy. In the beginning, I was a little overwhelmed with all this information that was being emailed to me from different administrators and county clerks, then came the phone conferences, and a list of requirements; challenges continued to show up and I was trying to resolve everything alone. I reminded myself that I had a great committee and advisor to lean on if needed. After that, we divided up the main tasks with a different person in charge and then formed smaller committees with our active members to complete the large tasks. Everything came together perfectly in the end, great success and learning experience for all of us.

**What is left undone or what opportunities remain for the future?**

Our project, raising awareness about sustainable living, is just the beginning for our chapter and our surrounding counties. We have many different suggestions for projects in the future but had to start by setting the foundation. The Sustainability Coordinator and our advisor feel strong about allowing for a food composting center on our campus. I believe this is a wonderful idea and it is a reachable goal for next year's College Project.

**Chapter Advisor Certification**

Certifying the application should be the final step after all parts of the application are complete. The person responsible for certifying the application must log in to certify. Choose your name below and press "Save without submitting." A check box to affirm the statement below will appear. Check this box and click "Save without submitting." Once the application has been certified, edits can no longer be made unless the certification is un-checked. Once the application has been completed and certified, a "Submit All and Finish" button will appear to submit the final application.

**I certify that the award application is the work of our chapter's members and that only supervision and/or assistance was provided by chapter advisors, faculty members or alumni in the preparation of this award entry. The activities represented in this entry are, to the best of my knowledge, an accurate portrayal of the work the chapter has completed.**

Jennifer Rose: Certified