

So – Is This an Organization Activity or Not?

Review the following questions for help determining if your activity should be considered an “organization activity.”

1. What is the purpose of this activity?

Example: Is it for bonding with other organization members? Could it be associated in any way with your group? How?

2. Who is attending the activity? Why are they attending? Is it mandatory that members or specific individuals from the organization attend?

Example: Are the people attending the trip primarily affiliated with the organization?

3. What resources are being used to fund the event?

Example: Are group funds being used in any way? Are ONLY members of your organization contributing to the activity fund? OR are members being asked to supply the event with food, drink, or other items necessary for the event?

NOTE: Use of University resources to support an event for an organization would indicate it is an organization event.

4. How is the event being publicized or communicated?

Example: Is this activity advertised on the group listserv? Was everyone in the organization invited?

5. Would a reasonable person think that this activity is associated with your organization?

Example: If someone asked your roommate or your parents, would they say you were with your organization?

6. Has your advisor assisted with the coordination of the event or are they participating in the event as your advisor?

7. As a leader in your organization, do you feel that you are in any way connected to this particular activity? If not, who would be held responsible in the event of an accident or mishap?

The response to just one or two of these questions may not be a conclusive answer to the question “Is this an organization activity?” Each activity is likely to have a unique set of circumstances – as leaders you should evaluate each activity separately.

Also, the intent of these asking these questions is certainly not so that you and members of the organization can find loopholes or ways NOT to categorize your activity as an organizational event. This strategy will likely never work. The reality is that any “ultimate decision maker” (group leadership/university officials/parents/courts) will always use a test that takes into account the **TOTALITY OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES**.

Please use these questions as aids as you plan safe and effective events. If you have any questions or want to talk about these issues, please feel free to contact SORC or Student Risk Management.