



Public Rituals - The Association Ceremony

OVERVIEW

The Association Ceremony is the first experience a new member will go through and sets them on their fraternal journey. Many of the pieces of this ceremony will be reflected in their new member education. This is likely the first time the member will take an oath, so it is important for the current members to prepare the new member and ensure they have a thorough understanding of what is expected of them.

This event is best done publicly and outside if possible at a location of significance to the chapter or campus. As a public ritual this is an excellent opportunity to invite family members, university faculty/staff, and outside members of the greek community to witness the new members taking their first step. When done right this ceremony provides a great deal of transparency to Phi Kappa Tau that private ceremonies do not permit.

CEREMONY PREPARATION

This ceremony shall take place no more than one week after the associate member has accepted his invitation to associate membership. All members of the chapter should be present. When the date for the Association Ceremony has been determined the Membership Orientation Officer ascertains that each associate member is placed under the responsibility of some one member of the chapter. It is the duty of the member to make a definite engagement with his associate member and to have him at the chapter house or specified location on campus at the appointed time.

The room is prepared for the ceremony in this manner: At one end of the room a chair and table are placed for the station of the President and Membership Orientation Officer of the chapter. The gavel and other insignia of office are on the table. Before the table and forming a circle with it are placed chairs for the members of the chapter. In the back of the room and OUTSIDE the circle are placed in straight lines the chairs for the associate members.

When the hour for the meeting arrives the brothers, except the President, enter the chapter room with the associate members. The brothers take their places in the circle after seating the associate members in the appointed chairs. When all are present the Membership Orientation Officer addresses the assembled associate members.

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SCRIPTING

MEMBERSHIP ORIENTATION OFFICER: Men of (College or University) you are facing a critical period in your life, and the step which you are about to take will always represent a milestone. While you have already expressed a willingness to affiliate with our Fraternity, this ceremony will give you an opportunity to enter formally into that course of activity which leads to full fraternal life. We welcome you at this meeting. Your presence here as our leader calls this meeting to order will indicate to him and to us your desire to participate in the ceremony over which he will preside.

The Membership Orientation Officer is reseated and this is the signal for the President to enter and take his station where he immediately calls the meeting to order. He addresses the brothers.

PRESIDENT: Brothers of Phi Kappa Tau, this meeting has been called at the request of a number of members for the purpose of transacting certain business pertinent to the progress of the chapter. The chair now awaits your pleasure.

MEMBERSHIP ORIENTATION OFFICER: Brother President, as we followed the course of fraternity and college activities on the campus and in the halls of (College or University) we have come to know a group of men who have expressed a desire to seek the bond of brotherhood as exemplified in the Phi Kappa Tau Fraternity. We have invited these men here tonight to receive further information and advice to guide them in their search.

PRESIDENT: Brother Membership Orientation Officer, your action was correct and quite in keeping with the spirit of true brotherhood and mutual helpfulness. But before we can impart this information we must first be certain that these men are worthy to receive it. Such truths are only for those who are willing to live them as well as to know them.

MEMBERSHIP ORIENTATION OFFICER: Brother President, these men, all students in good standing at (College or University) have expressed a desire to enter into associate membership in Phi Kappa Tau. It is our desire to have them so received.

PRESIDENT: Brothers of _____ chapter you have asked that certain men be accepted in to formal associate membership in Phi Kappa Tau. You will remember that the qualities required for associate membership are:

1. Conduct becoming of a responsible citizen and gentleman
2. Maintenance of a high standard of scholarship
3. A spirit of sincerity and respect towards the Fraternity and its members
4. Support of the interests of the brotherhood
5. The reception of every member of this Fraternity as a brother without evasion or reservation.

These things are basic to the spirit of fraternal existence and are necessary for the continued progress of our chapter as an important unit in life on this campus. Consider them well.

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He pauses

PRESIDENT: If, in the opinion of any one of you, there is present any man of (College or University) possessing the necessary qualities, you may now present that man to our circle to receive further instruction and the Oath of Associate Membership.

At this point one of the brothers bring forward the associate member for whom he is responsible and presents him to the President.

BROTHER: Brother President, I believe that (name of associate) possesses the required qualities and I now present him to our circle and petition that he be given the Oath of Associate Membership in Phi Kappa Tau.

PRESIDENT: (Name of associate) you have heard the request made in your favor. Is it your own desire that you be now admitted to the Oath of Associate Membership in The Phi Kappa Tau Fraternity?

CANDIDATE: Answers voluntarily.

PRESIDENT: Brothers of (Chapter Name) is it your desire that (name of associate) be permitted to subscribe to the Oath of Associate Membership?

CHAPTER: (in unison) Such is our desire.

PRESIDENT: So let it be.

All the associate members are presented in the same manner each one being presented individually. When all candidates have been received, the President says:

PRESIDENT: Brother Membership Orientation Officer, instruct these candidates as to the proper posture for reception of the Oath of Associate Membership.

The Membership Orientation Officer instructs all the candidates to kneel with the left hand over the heart and the right hand uplifted. The President raps three times for the chapter to rise.

He then administers the Oath which has been broken down into smaller segments for improved recitation.

PRESIDENT: Say I, pronounce your name in full and repeat after me the following obligation:

Oath begins on next page.

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PRESIDENT: Say I, pronounce your name in full and repeat after me the following obligation:

I, repeat your name,

upon my most sacred honor as a man,

do solemnly swear (or promise)

in the presence of this Fraternity,

that, during my associate membership,

I will conscientiously and willingly perform

the duties of an associate member

as directed

by the members of this Fraternity,

if such duties be consistent

with honor and reason;

that I will never complain of my duties

to any person except that person

be the proper officer in charge of my work;

that, except by mutual agreement

between myself and this Fraternity,

I will never,

under any circumstances,

relinquish my candidate badge.

So help me God.

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At this point the members come forward, place candidate badges on the associate member and assist them to rise.

PRESIDENT: You have just taken the solemn Oath of Associate Membership and have been invested with the candidate badge of The Phi Kappa Tau Fraternity. I assure you that as an associate member nothing will be asked of you that will conflict with your religious beliefs, nor with your honor as a gentleman. The candidate badge which you now wear is a mark of distinction as a representative of this Fraternity. It is a traditional emblem that has been worn with honor and pride by many men. To us it stands as the first link in a chain of brotherhood. The act of wearing it is symbolic of your desire to dedicate yourself to those bonds of fellowship which are eternal within the Fraternity. May your enthusiasm and spirit carry you through this, your period of associate membership, to the complete brotherhood that lies beyond.

PRESIDENT: By virtue of the authority vested in me as President of _____ Chapter of The Phi Kappa Tau Fraternity I now declare you officially an associate member of The Phi Kappa Tau Fraternity. You will receive further instructions from the Membership Orientation Officer. This meeting is now adjourned.

The chapter now offers their congratulations to the new associate members.