



Ceremonies for Groundbreaking or House Dedication

Publicity

Publicity is important for an event such as a ground breaking or house dedication ceremony. Pictures should be taken for the local newspaper and the ANCHORA. A professional photographer is worth the expense.

Story should be given to local newspaper and the ANCHORA with perhaps a sketch and description of the proposed house. This story should accompany a picture taken at the ground breaking ceremony with the names of the persons included in the picture.

Invocation

*I'm sending you a Beacon
A light in the dark of night
That seeks you out and guides you home
Whenever you're out of sight.*

*I'm sending you an Anchor
One of strength and stability
That pulls you through any troubles
With the steadiness of The Delta Gee.
~Jessica Dunham, Phi Alpha-Franklin*

Groundbreaking Ceremony

This short and simple ceremony should coincide with groundbreaking for construction of a new chapter house or lodge.

TIME

Mid-afternoon is appropriate, with a reception following the ceremony. Allow time for a photographer to take pictures between events.

Also, consider pairing the event with a large campus event, such as a football game. A reception or tailgate party could be held between events with all in attendance invited to stay and participate. If there is an existing house, an open house could be held after the campus event. If there is no existing house, invite participants to a local restaurant for dinner. No activity need be held after the campus event. These are merely options – made easier if the chapter has an existing chapter house.

PERSONS TO BE INVITED

- chapter members
- advisory team members
- local alumnae chapter, association or hope group members
- chapter's house corporation board
- contractor or builder
- architect
- college/university administrator(s)

- college/university chaplain or clergyman, especially if close to chapter
- any Parents' Club members
- Fraternity officers

CEREMONY

The college/university chaplain, chapter director of rituals or other designated person offers an invocation at the beginning of the ceremony.

The actual ceremony begins with someone digging the first bit of earth from the ground. Be creative with this part. Consider gilding the shovel or decorating the handle with bronze, pink and blue bows or ribbons.

The person who first uses the ceremonial shovel should be the one who has had the most responsibility in bringing about the planning of the house. An example is a house corporation member who has had a great responsibility in the planning of the new house. This person may wish to say a few words at this time.

One idea is to have collegians of the chapter outline the exact location and size of the House with small stakes approximately 10 to 12 feet apart and about five feet high. These can be connected by bronze, pink and blue ribbons with a paper anchor on each stake. The groundbreaking ceremony could take place at the proposed entrance of the house.

Close ceremony by singing a song such as "Out of My Window" or another appropriate song. There are two dedication program agendas on the following pages, either can be used as a model for chapter's own house dedication.

HOUSE DEDICATION CEREMONY I

This outline may be followed exactly or each house corporation board can tailor to meet their needs and guests.

House corporation president acts as hostess/mistress of ceremonies during this event.

I. Welcome and History

House corporation president welcomes all present and introduces the dignitaries in the following order: Fraternity officials, alumnae who worked on the project, house corporation officers and the collegiate chapter president. She then introduces any college/university officials, the architect, exterior and interior designers, banker and any other person present that had a part in the house development. Following introductions, she gives a short history of the project. (If the project has been extensive, she should be as brief as possible.)

II. Recognition

Fundraising chairman recognizes those who contributed to the project's funds and gives special recognition to major donors. She also recognizes special gifts of furniture, paintings, etc.

III. Fraternity greeting

Highest ranking Fraternity official present: Gives greetings from the Fraternity and warm wishes that the house will remain a home with fond memories for generations of Delta Gammas to come. There may be others who say a few words at this time. (Plans should be made in advance if special guests wish to speak.)

IV. House Dedication Ceremony

Here the House Dedication Ceremony may be used (located at end of this dedication agenda).

V. Ceremonial Ribbon-cutting

House corporation president and collegiate chapter president share in cutting a ceremonial ribbon.

VI. Thanks and Acceptance

Chapter president gives the official chapter thank-you to the house corporation board and all others who helped to make the house a reality. She also officially accepts the house as the chapter's home.

VII. Song

"Out of My Window" or other appropriate Delta Gamma song(s) may be sung.

VIII. Reception and Tours

House corporation president thanks chapter and all in attendance, and invites all attendees to a reception. Chapter members may give house tours, pointing out any special architecturally significant areas, pieces of furniture, paintings, etc.

HOUSE DEDICATION CEREMONY II

This outline may be followed exactly or each house corporation board can tailor to meet their needs and guests.

House corporation president acts as hostess/mistress of ceremonies during this event.

I. Welcome and History

chapter president: Today (insert date) we welcome you to the dedication of (insert chapter name) chapter house on the campus of (insert college/university) in (insert city, state).

II. Invocation

Chaplain or university Clergyman, chapter director of rituals or designated person gives the invocation.

III. Greetings and Speakers

Important and/or honored guests may greet attendees or say a few words. Speakers may include but are not limited to:

- College/university administrators
- Delta Gamma Council member (or someone acting on Council's behalf)
- House corporation president (or representative)
- Alumnae chapter president (or representative)
- Delta Gamma Regional Officer (or representative)
- Someone who has been instrumental in the house project

IV. Dedication

Council member or representative performs the dedication and may use the House Dedication Ceremony.

V. Song

"Out of My Window" or other appropriate song may be sung.

VI. Chapter Presentation

House corporation president or treasurer may wish to present plans and/or other documents.

VII. Thanks and Acceptance

Chapter president gives the official chapter thank-you to the house corporation board and all others who helped to make the house a reality. She also officially accepts the house as the chapter's home.

VIII. Song

"Hail Delta Gamma" or other appropriate song may be sung.

IX. Benediction

Chaplain/clergyman, college/university representatives, or chapter director of rituals offers the benediction.

CEREMONY for DELTA GAMMA HOUSE DEDICATION

This can be copied into a separate document and edited for your specific occasion.

Today we dedicate this Delta Gamma house that is the outward tangible symbol of Delta Gamma on this campus. Most importantly we recognize the feeling of Delta Gamma sisterhood and love that make this house a Delta Gamma home at (insert college/university).

This house has several faces. The exterior of the house is the first impression of Delta Gamma that the public sees. Therefore, it must be maintained so that a very positive impression is continually presented. But the interior is where the house becomes a home. The members represent their institution at its best inside the walls; the tangible furnishings and the intangible love – the wonderful sisterhood that is Delta Gamma. Alumnae feel a personal pride and affection for all Delta Gamma houses. The collegiate chapter enjoys a sense of well-being to know that its house compares favorably with the best on campus. New members feel fortunate to be identified with a Greek group that is well housed. Potential members are impressed with a lovely house, where sisterhood abounds. Their families too, are interested in all of these aspects plus the fact that the house provides a safe, substance free environment.

For all assembled here, this is a proud day, the day of dedication of this Delta Gamma house. It is the climax of many efforts and the realization of many accomplishments. I bring to this occasion the congratulations of Council [Council member speaks or, if a Council member is not present, person presenting reads congratulations from Council]. Delta Gamma's friends from (insert collegiate/alumnae chapters who have reached out) have come to extend their good wishes. (Visitors may speak or simply stand for recognition. Congratulatory notes may also be read at this time.)

The construction and completion of this Delta Gamma home has required the work, sacrifice, devotion and skills of many people. We want to thank with deep and sincere gratitude all who have contributed to this effort: (insert name and titles of all those involved— architect, builders, house corporation, alumnae, University administration, etc.). We cannot forget the heroes behind the scenes – the families of the women who have dedicated themselves to seeing this project completed. Thank you for your support.

This Delta Gamma house is a fine monument to all who made it possible. It is also an example of what a private organization, operating in a society of free enterprise, can do to provide facilities needed for its own use. The building of this chapter house has contributed, and will continue to contribute, to the economy of the campus and the community.

Since our Fraternity was founded in 1873, Delta Gamma house corporations have acquired many houses and furnished numerous Panhellenic suites and rooms. This has enabled thousands of collegians to annually live and meet in Delta Gamma housing. Delta Gamma real estate and furnishings owned and maintained by local house corporations continue to grow in the millions of dollars. The value of Delta Gamma real estate that is owned, operated and maintained by local house corporations continues to grow in the millions of dollars. Our chapter is now part of this remarkable legacy.

The benefits of gracious living, the bonds of sisterhood and the promotion of academic and philanthropic accomplishments are immeasurable. Panhellenic groups continue to make an impact that is favorable, positive, and pronounced on the campuses of their colleges and universities. They remain identified with their many good works and achievements. These are

valid reasons for the continued existence and further growth of Greek groups. Fraternities have a tangible meaning for the institutions where they are located. A chapter house, lodge or suite evokes memories and ties of sisterhood among the alumnae. These memories and ties continually draw alumnae back to their campuses and renew their loyalty, not only to Delta Gamma, but also to the institution where Delta Gamma resides. Our college life and our Fraternity life are so closely allied that our loyalties are inseparable.

For the Delta Gamma alumnae who are charged with the responsibility of maintaining and operating this chapter house, our wishes for you are the best. You must be diligent and practical, yet understanding and generous. As long as there is a chapter and a chapter house, there will be the responsibility of maintenance. As house corporation board members and advisory team members, the gifts of the hard work of your hands, the visions and ideals of your minds, and the desire to perpetuate the Fraternity will motivate efforts to support this chapter for years to come.

To the present members of this chapter comes the joy and thrill of home ownership. You are charged with your responsibility, too. This house is yours to enjoy, to make your Delta Gamma house a home—for yourselves and your sisters now and in the future. See to it that the present is worthy of the past and the present will be shaped so that the future will have reason to be grateful to you.