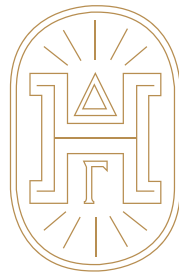




Rituals Handbook



Revised June 2021



By exploring the values and meanings of Delta Gamma, we may become better people and encourage others to do the same. The purpose of the rituals program is to create members' awareness of the Fraternity rituals and the philosophy of the rituals. The aim is to make rituals a part of everyday life.



**Edited under the direction of the Fraternity
Director: Member Education**

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Section 1: Philosophy, Facts and History

Philosophy of Delta Gamma

Delta Gamma offers to women of all ages a rich heritage based on principles of personal integrity, personal responsibility and intellectual honesty.

The objects of this Fraternity shall be to foster high ideals of friendship among women of all ages, to promote their educational and cultural interests, to create in them a true sense of social responsibility and to develop in them the best qualities of character.

Delta Gamma's primary purpose is to create an environment for its members in which lasting friendships are established and in which members find the processes, the experiences, and the disciplines which will stimulate clear thought. Its aim is to foster an atmosphere in which women will develop a deeper love and consideration for humanity, a more profound understanding of the purpose of life, and a basic wisdom upon which to build their lives.

Delta Gamma's purpose is accomplished through planned collegiate and alumnae programs which provide the training and background for graciousness in daily living, intellectual motivation and community awareness which will enrich the lives of members and instill in them a respect for the enduring values to be gained from Delta Gamma.

The Philosophy of Rituals

"Rituals give our existence comforting anchors: they provide a strengthening sense of order and meaning in times of trouble."- Julius Segal

We must constantly remind ourselves of the oaths we have taken and the ideals we promise to uphold. This is accomplished through consistent rituals programming.

Living Our Ritual—What It Means

There is no greater accomplishment within the Fraternity than living our ritual. By exploring the values and meanings of Delta Gamma, we may become better people and encourage others to do the same. The purpose of the rituals program is to create members' awareness of the Fraternity rituals and the philosophy of the rituals. The aim is to make rituals a part of everyday life.

By living the ritual of Delta Gamma, members can strive to uphold the values and beliefs of the Fraternity in all they do. Rituals are the ties that bind us together and what set us apart from other organizations.

The Delta Gamma rituals program:

- Creates awareness in chapter members of the Fraternity rituals and the philosophy of the rituals, making rituals a part of everyday living.
- Is a special part of the Delta Gamma experience.
- Links the present with the past and the future.

- Makes Delta Gamma unique in the Fraternity world.
- Gives members a common bond, which, despite geography and time, is shared with Delta Gammas everywhere.
- Encompasses the ideals first stated by the Founders, which challenge us to strive for excellence.
- Becomes a guideline, a measure and a means of evaluation.
- Is the embodiment of the objectives of Delta Gamma as outlined in the Delta Gamma Articles of Incorporation: "to foster high ideals of friendship among women of all ages, to promote their educational and cultural interests, to create in them a true sense of social responsibility and to develop in them the best qualities of character."
- Is as relevant in its message today as it was more than 100 years ago.

Interesting Rituals Facts

Much of the following material appeared in "Panorama of a Century" in the Winter 1971 *ANCHORA*. Change has been a part of our rituals history as illustrated in the evolution of rituals and symbols that follow.

Anchor Badges

Think of the anchor symbol about which Founder Mary Comfort Leonard wrote, "We went to the local jeweler and had our pin made—the dear little letter "H" which stood for Hope." Since 1877 the "dear little letter H" has become the golden anchor badge bearing the letters Tau Delta Eta and Delta Gamma, along with the symbolic white shield and cable. But the anchor still stands for Hope; the best lasts!

The anchor badges, designed by Corrine Miller of the Mother Chapter soon after the founding, were large pins and were as varied as members chose to have them, with jewels such as turquoise, garnets, opals or emeralds in some cases. The badges were worn in various places, usually on or near the collar. This comes as a surprise to some of our latter-day Delta Gammas who were so concerned over Council's decision in 1969 to reverse the policy to read, "The badge may be worn in any appropriate place."

At the 1905 Convention, a committee's recommendation that a uniform badge design be adopted was voted upon with favorable results. Since that time, some variations and limitations as to size, jewels and jeweler have been made. The pledge pin, now called the Pi Alpha pin, was also adopted at the 1905 Convention. Since then, other forms of symbols have been agreed upon—a recognition pin and a mother's pin are examples—but the golden anchor remains constant.

Pi Alpha Pin (formerly the Pledge Pin)

Pledges, now called new members, wore tri-color ribbons in the early years, but as early as the 1880s, some chapters began to use pledge (new member) pins. An 1889 *ANCHORA*-letter from Sigma chapter at Northwestern says, "Our pledged girls now wear the Chapter head as well as the colors." (The head refers to a chapter Greek letter pin, usually a stickpin to anchor the tri-color ribbons.) The 1901 Convention concerned itself with a Fraternity-wide pledge pin, and in 1905 the one we know today was adopted with a motto submitted by Lone Dille,

Upsilon-Stanford. Reference the Pi Alpha ceremony for information about the connection of the Pi Alpha pin to the Delta Gamma badge.

The Delta Gamma Seal

The Delta Gamma seal was first used following the 1901 Convention. Council at that time approved and saw to the "construction" of the seal design submitted by a committee from Xi chapter at Michigan, which had been appointed for this purpose at the 1899 Convention.

Colors

Originally, the Fraternity colors were pink and blue. Bronze — a very dark green known as "bronze green" that was very popular at the time — was added in 1883 to prevent confusion with Beta Theta Pi's pink and blue. At that time, fraternities and sororities were very close socially, as well as organizationally, since men were aiding women in gaining recognition as students and as Greeks.

Motto

Our three Founders were very young and, although they aspired to be Greek scholars, they were preparatory school girls. They knew, however, the men's groups at "Ole Miss" were Greek oriented and wanted to emulate them. So, they chose the motto "do good" and put the Greek letters on their first pin. Some surmise that certain similarities between Delta Psi Fraternity symbols (the shape of the shields) and those of the first Delta Gamma chapter are more than coincidental. They reinforce this by pointing to the Delta Psi brothers and sweethearts among the Lewis School group. Others claim this only strengthens a girl's desire for secrecy, and certainly she would not ask for brotherly advice on such an important subject. Over one hundred years later, one may only surmise. However, Mary Comfort Leonard, Eva Webb Dodd and Anna Boyd Ellington, when questioned, were emphatic they had "no help."

Chapter Letters and Their Meanings

Each chapter has a unique, secret meaning for its Greek letter chapter name. The meaning is revealed to new initiates at Initiation during the Fourth Degree. The meanings are based upon an ancient form of the Greek language. Before a new chapter is installed, a chapter's words and meaning are carefully selected by a Delta Gamma who is fluent and familiar with this rare form of the language. Meanings are not to be written down outside of the Initiation Ceremony book or shared with non-members, although members of other chapters are allowed to know other chapters' meanings. The meanings and pronunciations are kept on file at Executive Offices.

Early Delta Gamma Symbols

One of the early symbols is an eagle within a Delta. In the 1874 Rule Book under "Club Signs," it says:

"Written sign, Delta Hieroglyphic of an eagle enclosed in the mystic letter of the club. The flight of the eagle represents our motto, "Onward and Upward and true to the line."

The sign was abandoned at the 1885 Convention as superfluous ritual. The motto also is in disuse.

Fraternity Flower

It is interesting at that same 1885 Convention; the cream colored rose was adopted as the Fraternity flower. The *ANCHORA* description of the 1885 Convention banquet in Madison, Wisconsin, states: "At one end of the table was a great mound of Marechal Niel roses, Delta Gamma's chosen flower ..." Marechal Niel? Where have they gone? Agitation for a change in the flower or its color has come as late as the 1970 Convention, but the cream rose persists.

(You may have seen the Delta Gamma rose bred by a grower in Texas. Though a cream color, it is not the official flower.)

Recognition Signs

Also, in 1885, a recognition sign was adopted to gain recognition; one would put a handkerchief to the right cheek, putting the first finger of the right hand to the lips indicated acknowledgment. This custom has gone.

The Delta Gamma call, which is embodied in our Constitution, has fallen into disuse, along with whistling, but it was popular at the turn of the century as a means of getting another Delta Gamma's attention. A few decades later, "Hello Hannah" accomplished the same thing.

DG Salute/Popping the Gamma

According to the 2009 *ANCHORA*, the Delta Gamma salute, or simply "the salute" dates back to the 1969. Delegates and sisters of all ages from the 26 member groups were attending the National Panhellenic Conference (NPC) meeting. Louise Callahan Call, Epsilon-Ohio State, was Delta Gamma's NPC Delegate. NPC leaders had thought it would be more panhellenic if nametags excluded each attendee's sorority. Call didn't like it and neither did the collegians. They wanted to show their DG pride! She gathered her collegiate sisters and gave an impassioned, impromptu talk. In a spark of genius she showed the collegians a way to do a backward salute that formed the greek letters Δ and gamma. They'd always have a way to identify themselves as Delta Gammas. The young women were moved to tears.

Chapter and New Member (Pledge) Roll Book, Membership Certificates and Crest

At the 1901 Convention in Lincoln, Nebraska, Kappa chapter displayed its Chapter Roll Book. This idea was well received and became part of each chapter. The new member (pledge) Roll Book is an extension of this need to keep permanent records. A year or two earlier, the Fraternity had adopted the use of a large and ornate membership certificate which was also of Kappa chapter design. Other Greek groups were simultaneously using membership documents of similarly elegant design, but in a few years, these were discarded in favor of a small, simple parchment certificate. Because this was an awkward size for framing, the membership certificates took on their present size and shape during the 1930s.

Most fraternities have crests that are heraldic symbols that come from the era when men wore so much armor they had to identify themselves on their shields with their colors, coat of arms and mottos. The need for identification and recognition seems to continue. The Delta Gamma crest was designed by Leota Woy, Phi-Colorado, a well-recognized professional artist, and was presented to the 1909 Convention. It has not changed since that time, though many of the early restrictions on its use have been lifted. It is seen on stationery, gifts, favors and jewelry. Only initiated members may wear the Fraternity crest, use stationery bearing the crest, or own novelties bearing the crest.

Evolution of the Initiation Ceremony

The evolution of the Initiation ceremony is interesting, even though a bit hazy. Because of its secret nature, little has been recorded concerning Initiation, but women tend to save things, and from old, handwritten letters and records and from more recently prepared papers, we have been able to put together enough to tell a story.

In the early 1900s, many of the original papers from the Mother Chapter were recovered, including the original, hand-written Constitution, which embodied the first Initiation ceremony. These things are now treasured in the Frances Lewis Stevenson Archives at Executive Offices. Anna Boyd Ellington's first presidential address—a simple and beautiful thing — began, “Dear Sister, you are now a member of the Delta Gamma Club.” All Delta Gammas should hear it on occasion to be reminded of the gentle power and wisdom of our heritage. The first Initiation ended with the Oath of Friendship, word for word as we say it today - our most precious heritage.

George Banta Aids Delta Gamma

Early history tells of the expansion of Delta Gamma to the colleges in the North — the initiation of George Banta accomplished this —and of the desire on the part of the new members to make some additions to the ritual. George Banta was again helpful, this time by assisting with the writing of a more complete ritual based on the original oaths and symbols and ideals. Although we do not have a written copy of this service we know it was rather short and lacking in ceremony.

The Frenzy of Mock Initiations

Apparently, there was a need for more drama, and so began a period in the 1880s of mock Initiations that usually followed the formal Initiation and were called the 10th degree or the 32nd degree. An early *ANCHORA* relates, “The conferring of the 10th degree upon initiates furnished this bond of fair Greeks an almost barbaric delight. The Initiatory Ceremony is with Eta (Akron) a subject of diverse opinion among the girls, some desiring the 10th degree left out altogether as beneath the dignity of the society, others thinking it should be combined with the first and genuine part...”

All the descriptions of mock Initiations spoke of "riding the goat," either imaginary, wood or real.

Initiation Hazing Voted Out

Things eventually got out of hand. At the 1893 Convention it was "moved by Miss Dodds, Chi-Cornell, that Delta Gamma in national convention assembled disapprove of cruelty in any form during Initiation."

Initiation Ceremony Experimentation, Research and Development

During this period, the need or desire for a more complete ceremony caused some chapters to begin writing their own experimental services of a more formal and grand nature. At the 1889 Convention, Delta chapter at Southern California suggested ritual revisions. These were not accepted, but this ceremony was taken to Upsilon chapter at Stanford by a Delta transfer and developed there into the service introduced at the 1901 Convention and accepted for general use. This ceremony had four degrees, members wore robes and read from scrolls, used an altar and sang songs, some in Latin, but the ceremony retained the original oaths and symbolic meanings. It was used and loved for many years by all chapters.

Rituals Committee Formed - 1907

During the 1890s, official ritual activities were not recorded so we do not know when and how changes come about. Then at the 1907 Convention, a permanent rituals committee was appointed, and although some of the changes they made were recorded, most were still handled outside official records. Thus, we see the results only in actual copies of ceremonies, some of which have survived.

Transition Period

In the archives, we have a typed ceremony from a 1915 Upsilon Rituals Committee that is lovely and ends with "Faithful and True." It seems to be a transition service from the 1901 ceremony and indicates new things were happening again. This was the period when a fiery cauldron (fueled with alcohol) was part of the second degree. When this caused a flash fire with nearly tragic results at the 1922 Convention Initiation demonstration, it was once more time for a revision.

Complete Ceremony in Three Degrees Adopted - 1924-1925

Several devoted and dedicated women at Kappa chapter at Nebraska wrote a complete Initiation ceremony in three degrees, including instructions, music and lyrics, all prepared for duplication and once more based on original oaths and symbols. A special rituals committee of collegiate delegates was appointed to consider it at the 1924 Convention. The ceremony was accepted by the committee with a few suggested changes and was adopted by the Convention. The Council officer serving as Rituals Chairman personally typed each chapter's copy and distributed the ceremony. It was not until 1942 that the Initiation ceremony was printed for distribution among the chapters. All Delta Gammas used this ceremony until 1955 when was it revised only slightly.

Fourth Degree Added - 1971

Words and music do outlive their place in time, even though the need and reason behind them remain the same. And so, a rituals committee of collegians and alumnae was formed again in 1969 as a result of a Leadership School questionnaire, which indicated a real need for an "updated" ceremony.

After two years of work and much experimenting by some chapters, a revised Initiation ceremony was accepted by Council in January 1971 and presented to

the Leadership School in June. This revised version included the Fourth Degree, which offers the opportunity for creativity. This is the degree of each individual chapter and emphasizes the unique qualities and accomplishments of the chapter.

Pi Alpha Ceremony (formerly Pledge Ceremony)

There is little information in our archives about the Pi Alpha ceremony. We know there was none at first. We have an old, outdated service that is short and informal, along with a ceremony used in 1939 that is transitional and used popular music with Delta Gamma words. Oaths were similar to ours today. At the 1940 Convention, a revised Pledge ceremony was adopted. After further revision in the 1950s, this ceremony was in use until the 1971 revision.

Centennial Ceremonies

The year 1979 brought with it a need for a new ritual ceremony. With Eta chapter at Akron the first, collegiate chapters started to celebrate their own centennial anniversaries. The Fraternity Chairman of Rituals submitted several "Centennial Ceremonies" to Council for its approval. It was thought that Founders Day would be the occasion when the centennial would be recognized and therefore Council gave its final approval to the "Centennial Preamble to the Candlelighting Ceremony" in 1980, which may now be used by chapters celebrating anniversaries. As more and more chapters are celebrating large anniversaries, including the 125th, the ceremony is now referred to as the *Preamble to the Candlelighting Ceremony for Chapters Celebrating Anniversaries* (see Section 3, page 28).

Celebrate Our Love of Rituals

"Your badge is an outward symbol of an inner commitment."

- Maureen Sweeney Syring, Nu-Idaho; Fraternity president, 1986-1990

Did You Know?

- We distinguish our rituals by being formal or informal. Formal rituals include our ceremonies such as Initiation. Informal rituals can include things as simple as wearing your badge, singing a song or reading a poem.
- Founders Day used to be called Reunion Day. If you could not be in attendance for Reunion Day you needed to write a letter to the collegiate chapter president explaining why you were not able to attend and where you planned to be.
- We used to have another recognition sign. The Delta Gamma Call, which is embodied in our Constitution, has fallen into disuse, along with whistling, but it was very popular at the turn of the century as a means of getting another Delta Gamma's attention. A few decades later, "Hello Hannah" accomplished the same thing.
- Additionally, mock Initiations were held following the formal Initiation in the 1880s. These were often called the 10th degree or the 32nd degree. It

was a long and involved list of activities that would be considered hazing by today's standards.

- One of the early symbols of Delta Gamma was an eagle within a Delta. In the 1874 Rule Book under "Club Signs," it says, "... the flight of the eagle represents our motto, 'onward and upward and true to the line.'" The sign was abandoned at the 1885 Convention as superfluous ritual. The motto also is in disuse.
- Our three Founders chose the motto do good and put the Greek letters on the first badge. D=Delta=Do; G=Gamma=Good
- The Fourth Degree of Initiation was not added until 1971. This is the degree of each individual chapter and emphasizes the unique qualities and accomplishments of the chapter.
- The three degrees are: First degree: Degree of Our Origin (gold); Second degree: Degree of Greek Letters (purple); Third degree: Degree of the Anchor (white).
- Eva Webb and Anna Boyd were cousins.
- The Oath of Friendship is the same oath that was said in 1873.
- You can light a fourth candle at Founders Day. This fourth candle may recognize all 50-year members and/or those Delta Gamma sisters who are not able to be in attendance.
- You may invite non-Delta Gamma members to Founders Day and perform the Candlelighting ceremony. You may not perform a Friendship Circle, the Oath of Friendship, or sing "Faithful and True" with non-members or non-initiated members present.
- We don't have a pin. It's called a badge!
- You may wear your badge not only near or on your collar, but in any appropriate place!
- We don't have a secret handshake. It's called "the grip"!
- Delta Gamma rituals reinforce our bonds of friendship, loyalty and respect every time they are polished and used.

History of the Anchor

Long ago, before the existence of our Founders, lived the early Christians. Persecuted by their peers, these people were forced to hide their religion and their ideals. Thus, they embodied their cross in an even older symbol: one of steadfastness, hope and salvation, represented by an anchor as the symbol of the hope that someday they could wear their cross outwardly.

Often the anchor was combined with the Egyptian ankh, the symbol of life, to form an anchor with an open circle on top. Scholars have translated a phrase commonly found with this figure as “where there is Life, there is Hope.”

Not until the reign of the Roman emperor Constantine in 318 B.C. was Christianity declared the official religion. Only then, after over 300 years of persecution, did the early Christians drop the crossbar and base from their hidden cross. Still, the anchor remained as a universal symbol of hope.

Several references to the anchor can be found in Biblical texts. The earliest is Saint Peter’s “anchor of the soul” in Hebrews 6:19, an allusion to hope: “We might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the Hope set before us: which Hope we have as an Anchor of the Soul, both sure and steadfast ...”

One early Christian writer expanded this idea in a probing allegory: “As an anchor cast into the sand will keep the ship in safety, so Hope, even amid poverty and tribulation, remains firm, and is sufficient to sustain the soul, though in the eyes of the world it may seem but a weak and faint support.”

While the ancient Greek Epictetus said, “We should not moor a ship from one anchor, or life from one hope,” today’s Tennyson proclaims to the world in his novel *Enoch Arden* to “cast all your cares to God, that anchor holds.”

Though each of us finds our own special meaning in the anchor we so proudly wear, it is refreshing to know that others, too, have shared this bond. And even when we face the roughest waters, even when our troubles seem more than the strongest of anchors can bear, our hope will hold us, as it has held so many before.

Section 2: Programming

Assessment, Programming and Resources

As a values-based organization, we are bound by our mission to create an atmosphere in which friendship and respect for one another are at the forefront of our daily lives.

Rituals are the embodiment of the objects of Delta Gamma, as outlined in the Delta Gamma Fraternity Articles of Incorporation.

Collegiate rituals programs should include:

- Formal ritual ceremonies, including those focused on new members such as Pi Alpha ceremony and Inspiration and Initiation.
- Informal ritual ceremonies, events and activities.
- A rituals committee.

Alumnae rituals programs should include:

- Formal ritual ceremonies.
- Informal ritual ceremonies, events, inspirational readings and activities.
- One program a year devoted to Delta Gamma rituals.
- Informal rituals in every meeting.
- A rituals chair or rituals committee.

Assessing Chapter Culture and Goal Areas

- Reflect upon how you may use Article II and the Philosophy in all areas of chapter life, from recruitment to Founders Day, chapter retreats to formal chapter.
- Set goals that reflect the needs, wishes and capabilities of the chapter. By determining priorities, the rituals program can be directed toward specific goals.
- Take into consideration the following when evaluating a ceremony or program:
- Participation by the chapter.
- Successful aspects of each part of the ceremony or event.
- Changes that would improve the quality of the ceremony or event.

Article II Reflection Assessment Activity

This positive chapter activity:

- Is led and organized by the vp: programming.
- May be utilized to assist the director of rituals in determining and developing appropriate informal rituals that address points that arise during the discussion portion of the activity.
- May be used at a chapter retreat or as an activity at chapter meeting,
- Is used to explore the concept of intentional change through first assessing the current chapter culture based on the espoused values articulated in Article II of the Fraternity Constitution.

- Is designed to assess chapter culture and determine goal areas based on Article II.

Article II of the Delta Gamma Constitution states: “The objects of this Fraternity shall be to foster high ideals of friendship among women of all ages, to promote their educational and cultural interests, to create in them a true sense of social responsibility and to develop in them the best qualities of character.

Delta Gamma’s primary purpose is to create an environment for its members in which lasting friendships are established and in which members find the processes, the experiences and the disciplines that will stimulate clear thought. Its aim is to foster an atmosphere in which women will develop a deeper love and consideration for mankind, a more profound understanding of the purpose of life and a basic wisdom upon which to build their lives.

Delta Gamma’s purpose is accomplished through planned collegiate and alumnae programs that provide intellectual motivation, the opportunity for graciousness in daily living, and community awareness which will enrich the lives of members and instill in them a respect for the enduring values to be gained from the Fraternity.”

To access this resource, visit deltagamma.org and search “Article II Chapter Goal Setting”.

Developing Ritual Programming

Collegiate Rituals Committee

The rituals committee should exist to work with the director of rituals to:

- Facilitate the development and implementation of an ongoing rituals program that demonstrates dignity, respect and honor.
- Develop a sense of sisterhood and promote enthusiasm and good feelings within the chapter.
- Should be composed of several members, including the song leader.

Responsibilities of the rituals committee is to work together to:

- Plan logistics of Initiation and Inspiration, including practices.
- Plan one informal or formal ritual per meeting.
- Plan general activities that promote sisterhood.
- Recognize members demonstrating high levels of commitment to Delta Gamma ideals and those who contribute to a stronger sense of sisterhood.

Rituals Resources/Materials

Ritual equipment must be stored in a locked, secure, private closet. At least once per semester, all equipment should be inspected and organized on a regular basis. If new equipment is needed, it must be budgeted in advance, as replacement is costly. The chapter is responsible for the budgeting for Pi Alpha

pins and any necessary cleaning of ritual equipment. Chapters should work with house corporation/FMC to budget for replacement of all other ritual equipment. All items are purchased through the designated Fraternity vendor list on the Ritual Order Form in the DG website library. There must be enough member robes for all members in the chapter, including new members. There should also be robes for advisers and/or visiting alumnae.

Curtains, officer robes, stoles, officer cords:

Collegiate chapters will use official Delta Gamma ritual equipment and vendors.

Must be ordered through the official Fraternity ritual regalia vendor, using the [rituals order form](#) in the DG website library.

Curtains and officer robes must be dry cleaned every few years; use any reputable dry cleaner. Curtains should be stored on either industrial-strength hangers or folded neatly in a lidded, plastic tub. Officer robes, stoles and cords must be stored neatly on hangers.

When damaged curtains are replaced, they should be disposed of by sending to the archivist on staff at Delta Gamma Executive Offices.

When damaged robes are replaced, they should be destroyed and disposed of in a secure manner.

Member robes:

- May be ordered through the official ritual regalia vendor listed on deltagamma.org, or
- May be sewn (by alumnae and/or members) using the following Fraternity-approved sewing patterns (available online or at local craft or fabric stores):
 - McCall's 2060 – use short sleeves
 - McCall's 2340 – use straight sleeves
 - Simplicity 4795 – use short sleeves
- Should be washed and dried (and ironed if needed) at least once per year.
- Should be stored either on hangers or folded neatly in a plastic tub.

Member cords:

- Must not be washed or dried.
- Should be stored neatly (untangled, unknotted) in a lidded, plastic tub.

Standards:

- May be ordered through an approved vendor (contact Executive Offices) using this [rituals standards order form](#), or
- May be constructed using [suggested templates](#).

Socks/footwear:

- Must be washed, dried and paired after each Initiation.
- Should be uniform. Low, white ankle socks tend to work best.

Online:

[Delta Gamma website](#)

[Alumnae Officers Manual](#)

[Collegiate Chapter Resource Guide for 2020-2021 Year](#)

[Collegiate Chapter Officers Manual](#)

[Think Anchor Deep](#)

[The Shield \(History of Delta Gamma\)](#)

[Fraternity Constitution](#) (Article II, Article XVI, section 2.D; Article XXI, section 1- 7; Article XXIII)

[Fraternity Policy Database](#)

Hard Copies:

Initiation Ceremony: Must be kept in a secure, locked location when not being used.

The chapter should have six (6) copies; replacement copies are available at no charge from Executive Offices when used/damaged/outdated copies are returned.

Pi Alpha Ceremony: Must be kept in a secure, locked location when not being used.

The chapter should have six (6) copies; replacement copies are available at no charge from Executive Offices when used/damaged/outdated copies are returned.

Fraternity Songbook and CD:

Private ceremony songs are not included online or in the songbook/CD (private songs are located in the Initiation and Pi Alpha ceremony books).

Songs:

Songs are a central part of our rituals, ongoing chapter life and Fraternity tradition.

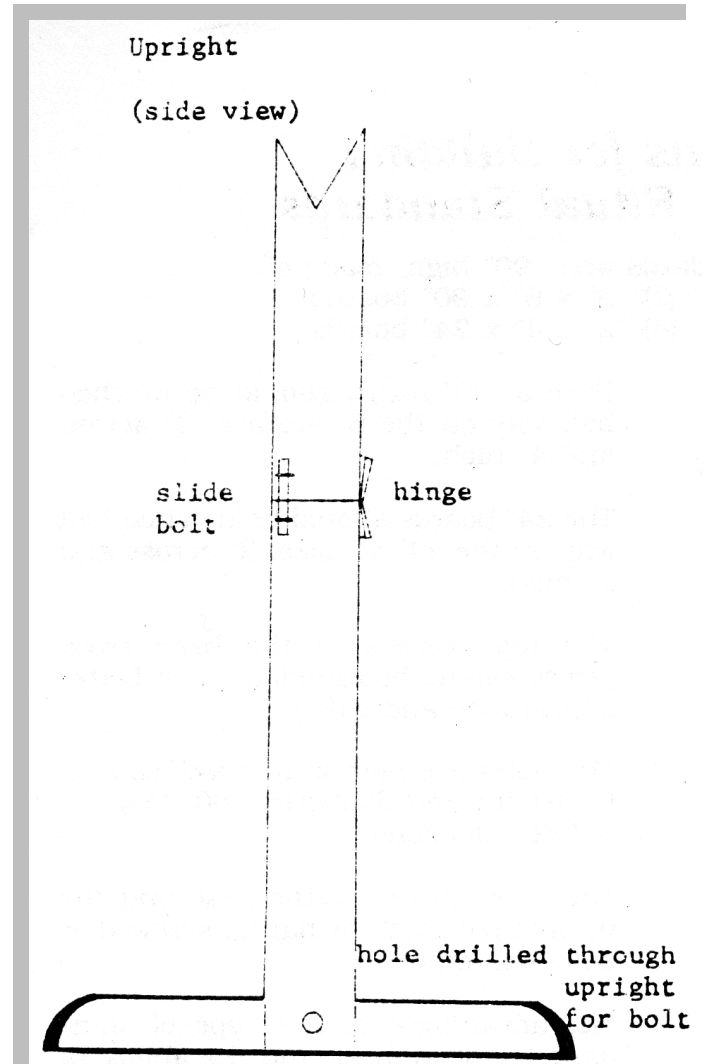
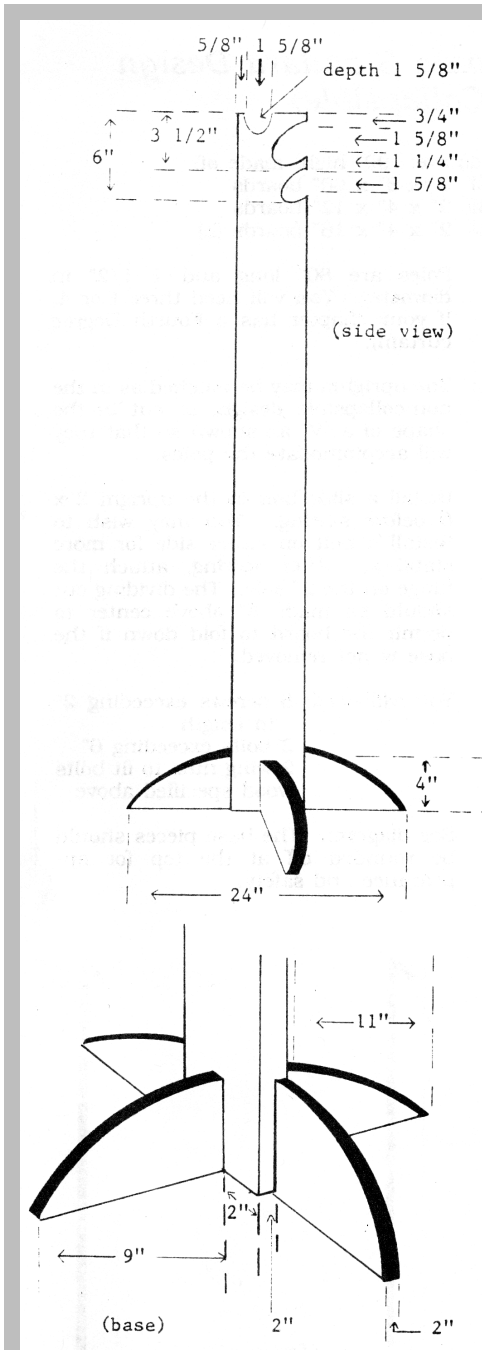
Delta Gamma songs and lyrics may be found online at deltagamma.org.

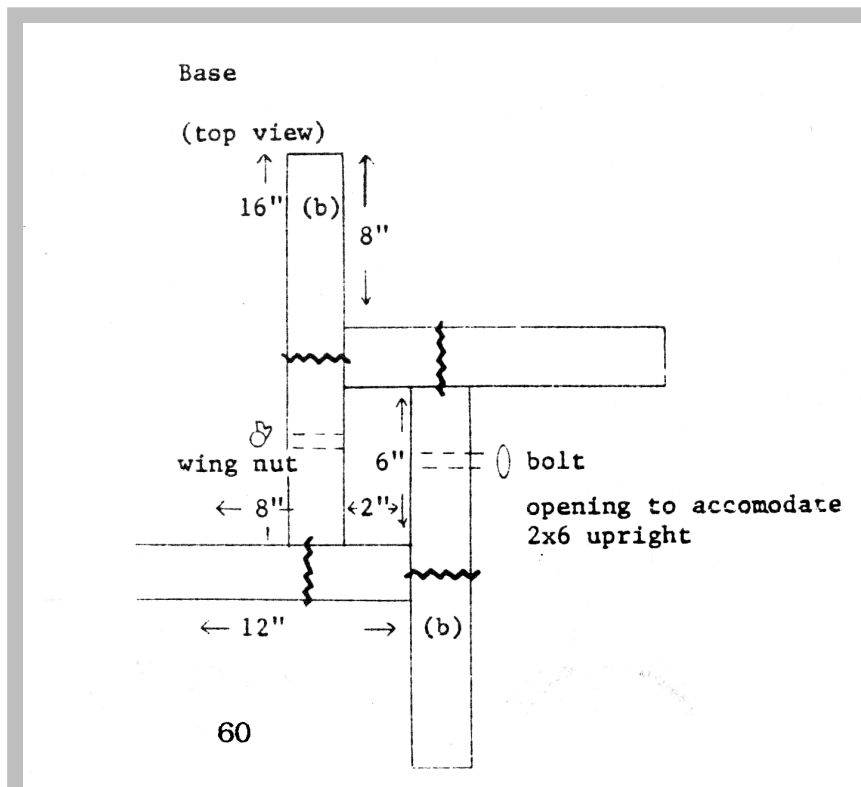
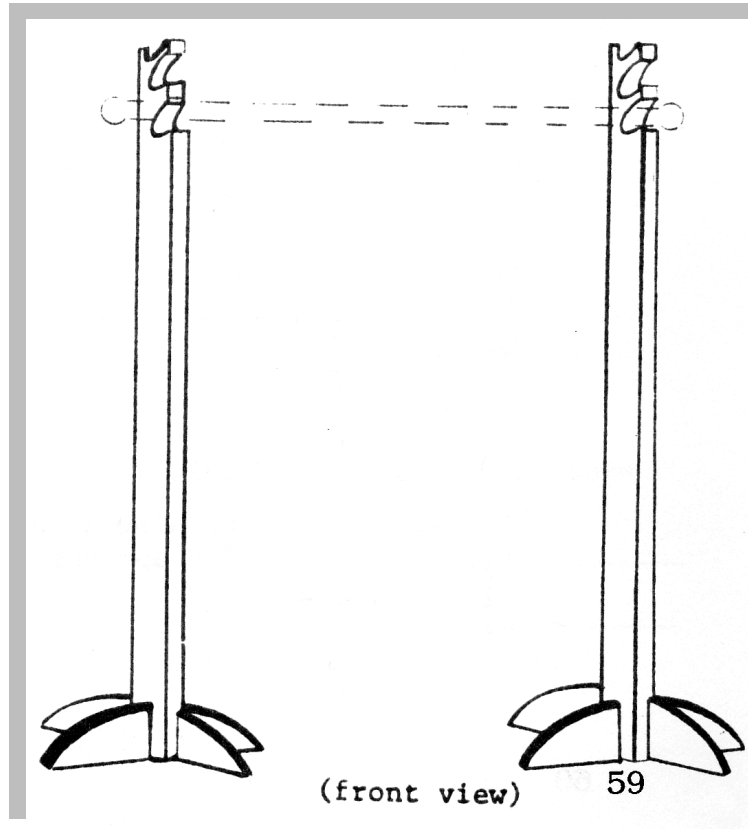
Secret, private ritual songs used in ceremonies are included in the Pi Alpha and Initiation ceremony books.

New members should be given song sheets and assistance in learning the music of Delta Gamma during the New Member Program.

Practice, practice, practice! This helps to ensure the mood of the ceremony or other activity is appropriate and meaningful. Practices should also occur prior to every Initiation and Pi Alpha ceremony, just as it does prior to recruitment. Practice should include any officer and member with speaking parts as well as the big sisters or sponsors.

Template for Curtain Standards





Section 3: Formal Rituals and Ceremonies

Note: Any ceremony or ritual designated as Formal are “private” may not be shared with or performed in the presence of non-members.

The Pi Alpha and Initiation ceremonies, the most formal of all our rituals, are known only to initiated Delta Gammas, and are printed in separate booklets. These booklets are kept in a safe place, the locked drawer of the chapter files or locked rituals closet, except when in use. All other ceremonies may be found in this handbook.

Formal Ritual Ceremonies

Our formal ritual ceremonies:

- Encompass a framework of fundamental ideals and standards, which were originally conceived and passed down by our Founders.
- Are made more beautiful with preparation and rehearsal to help ensure each ceremony reflects the creativity, understanding, dignity, beauty and love that surround it.
- Should lend an atmosphere conducive to the ceremony.
- Should be performed with equipment that is inspected on a regular basis and set up and stored correctly following each ceremony.

There is no official dress code required by Fraternity policy. The badge may be worn with a variety of clothing as long as it is in accordance with maintaining the dignity of the ceremony. Your chapter's Bylaws and Standing Rules may outline dress expectations for Formal Chapter meetings.

Official Ceremonies:

Collegiate chapters are required to use official ceremonies for pledging new members, Initiation, and affiliation of transfer students, officer installation and presentation of membership certificates. Any desired changes in instruction, actual ceremony, equipment or dress must be referred to and approved by Director: Member Education.

Below are the formal ritual ceremonies. Each ceremony describes the materials required, who participates and other instructions. Prior to conducting each ceremony, carefully review the ceremony and ensure each speaker and others involved understand their roles.

Adviser Appreciation Ceremony

Used by the collegiate chapter to show honor and appreciation to an adviser or advisers who has/have been devoted to the chapter and given much of her/their time, energy and expertise to helping with and overseeing the activities within the chapter.

Equipment:

- low table with cloth
- floral arrangement

- candle in candle holder

Ceremony:

director of rituals:

Delta Gamma's primary purpose is to create an environment for its members in which lasting friendships are established and in which members find the processes, the experiences and the disciplines which will stimulate clear thought. Its aim is to foster an atmosphere in which women will develop a deeper love and consideration for mankind, a more profound understanding of the purpose of life, and a basic wisdom upon which to build their lives. With these thoughts in mind, _____ chapter would like to honor a (two or three) very special person (people). As our (give title) adviser(s) she (they) has (have) helped us achieve the ideals on which Delta Gamma Fraternity was founded. She (they) has (have) been there celebrating with us when times were great and holding our hands when celebrations were not in order. She has (they have) _____ (add exactly what the adviser(s) has done for the chapter).

president:

We would like to present to you a small token of our appreciation for the love you have shown _____chapter and Delta Gamma, the devotion to the ideals of our Fraternity enabling us to know the true meaning of sisterhood and the friendship you have shared.

Most of all we want to thank you for the endless hours and unselfish commitment you have given our chapter. By doing this, you have enabled us to (*change to fit chapter's situation.*):

- become an award-winning chapter
- be removed from report, and
- begin a new tradition of excellence.

director of rituals: (*lights candle and speaks*)

Mother Teresa once said, "We ourselves feel what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean. But the ocean would be less because of that missing drop."

president: (*presents small gift*)

I now light this candle for you, as you are the shining light of _____ chapter. We present to you, with our love and appreciation, this (certificate, cream rose, small gift, honorarium to the Delta Gamma Foundation, etc.)

Entire Chapter: stands and sings "Dream Girl" or another appropriate song to honor adviser(s).

Advisory Team Installation Ritual

To be performed when a new adviser/group of advisers is appointed.

president:

We remember our three Founders, - Anna Boyd Ellington, Eva Webb Dodd and Mary Comfort Leonard, for their friendship. Each in her special way set standards for our Delta Gamma. Their pin gave us hope for the future and a loyalty between

sisters with lifelong membership. They left us high ideals to our Fraternity and our way of living.

Advisory team chairman:

Like these women, you represent the Delta Gamma ideals of friendship, loyalty and honor. By giving unselfishly of your time, you:

- extend friendship and sisterhood to members of _____ chapter and to the other members of the advisory team;
- show loyalty to the Fraternity, experiencing and demonstrating its promise of lifelong membership; and
- honor the high ideals upon which Delta Gamma was founded.

In the words of Kahlil Gilbran, "Work is love made visible." Thank you for the love and sisterhood you have extended to your fellow Delta Gamma sisters. (*Light candle.*)

president:

Thank you for the time and energy you will share with _____ chapter. As Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "It is one of the most beautiful compensations of this life that no man can sincerely try to help another without helping himself." (*Light candle.*)

Advisory team chairman:

In thanks for your contributions to the advisory team, in the past and in the future, I remember the words of Henry Ford, "Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is success." (*Light candle.*)

president:

We would like to present to you a small token of our appreciation for your devotion to the ideals of our Fraternity that enable us to understand the true meaning of sisterhood and the friendship you have shared.

Please come forward one at a time to receive the symbol of Delta Gamma devotion: a cream-colored rose.

president gives each adviser a cream-colored rose. ATC gives each adviser her letter of appointment.

Advisory team chairman:

I have given you your letter of appointment for the _____ year. Will you repeat after me the Oath of Office that is taken by all Delta Gamma Fraternity officers? The words are the same as those written in 1873.

I do solemnly promise/
to discharge to the best of my ability,/
with fidelity and promptness;/
and in conformity with the Constitution, policies and procedures/
of Delta Gamma Fraternity/
and the bylaws of the chapter,/
the duties of the position/
to which I have been appointed./

Thank you for your commitment to _____chapter and Delta Gamma. In closing, please join us in saying the Oath of Friendship. *(Only initiated members may be present when saying Oath of Friendship.)*

Ceremony written by Angela Howard, Alpha Epsilon-Washington University, 2004.

Candle/Open Flame

Open flames/candles may not be used in chapter facilities without the written consent of their advisory team chairman or their house corporation president.

Affiliation of Transfer Students Ceremony

Should be used at the beginning of the term if new transfer students have come into the chapter from another Delta Gamma chapter. It is a formal and official way to welcome new affiliates.

As portions of the ceremony include secret meanings, non-initiated members may not be present.

Instructions:

- Hold ceremony just before a regular chapter meeting in the chapter room.
- An anchor mate should be selected for the transfer member.
- Ensure ATC or another adviser is present.
- Ensure transfer is notified of the ceremony and arrange for someone to escort her to the ceremony.
- Equipment
- Chapter member notebook or chapter resource information packet for each transfer member
- Cream colored rose or other appropriate memento may be given to each transfer.

Ceremony:

president:

At this time, we would like to welcome _____ who comes to us from _____ chapter at _____ (school) and (name other transfer students, as necessary.)

The meaning of Delta Gamma is universal. Adding a member from another chapter to ours will surely add to the depth of our experience at _____ chapter. We want you to feel at home with us. *(president may then make a few brief comments about the chapter.)*

Vice president: communications or director of chapter archives: *(Briefly and informally tells the history of the chapter.)*

Adviser: *(Briefly welcomes the transfers to the chapter, makes any necessary comments, and offers her assistance.)*

Vice president: programming: We would like you to repeat the Delta Gamma Oath of Responsibility and consider its meaning as you become members of our chapter. As you do so, we will all renew our own loyalty to the Fraternity, and to the chapter. I promise ... *(Refer to the Initiation ceremony booklet for this oath.)*

director of rituals:

We would like you to have an anchor mate in the chapter to help in any way she can. _____ (name), your anchor mate is _____
(Repeat for each transfer.)

president:

And now let us all say the Oath of Friendship together. *(Only initiated members may be present.)*

Song leader: *(Leads the chapter in song, if appropriate.)*

(The president gives each transfer member a copy of the chapter notebook. The director of rituals presents a flower or other memento.)

Anchor Dedication Ceremony

Used for the dedication and installation of a new chapter anchor on the chapter property.

Equipment:

Flower or enough flower petals (silk, real, paper) for each attendee to have a handful.

Instructions:

Give each attendee a flower or a small handful of petals to be used at the end of the ceremony.

Ceremony:

director of rituals: A ship is much like a house. The structure must withstand the elements and stay afloat, keeping its sailors and residents safe from adversity. A ship's walls are impervious to weather, wind and the passage of time as a house's walls must be resistant to external forces like gossip and negativity. A ship's walls are insulated to protect its cargo and keep safe the secrets of the sea, just as a house's walls are insulated to contain the warmth, love and family traditions that endure through the years. Although captains, crews and families may change and move over time, both the ship and the house serve as havens for generations.

(Scatters petals or places her flower at base of anchor.)

Chapter alumna *(involved in the chapter or honored as a notable alumna of the chapter):*

The ship is captained by leaders that steer it through diverse conditions, guided by the stars and a compass to maintain its bearings. Who captains the house? Over time, numerous leaders emerge, caring for the health and well-being of

family members inside and the integrity of the structure. (*Scatters petals or places her flower at base of anchor.*)

Collegiate chapter president:

The ship, however, cannot moor without an anchor. The anchor keeps the ship safe in its harbor, from being pulled from its mooring and destination. It anchors hopes of reaching a safe port during a storm, dreams of buried treasure and the wishes of returning safely home. The anchor symbolizes all that is hope for a sailor, and thus has become the age-old symbol of hope. This anchor will anchor our chapter house. It will hold all of our dreams, wishes and hopes safe and dear to us. It symbolizes to Delta Gammas everywhere hope. Today our dreams are anchored here, as we dedicate an anchor for _____ chapter and provide a safe mooring for our house. (*Scatters petals or places her flower at base of anchor.*)

director of rituals:

May this anchor serve as a symbol for all to see of our devotion and commitment to Delta Gamma Fraternity, _____ chapter and one another. May it provide each of us with a renewed sense of hope as we pass it each day, knowing it is our sisterhood that binds us as we each strive to maintain our commitment to do good and live our lives by the philosophy of Delta Gamma.

May we protect our anchor from adversity, just as we protect our house and one another. Thank you for being with us today and sharing in this unique dedication! At this time, please bring your flower (or petals) forward and lay it by the anchor as you make a wish for _____ chapter.

Ceremony written by Staige Davis Hodges, Beta Theta-Duke, 2011

Candlelighting Ceremony for Delta Gamma

The Candlelighting ceremony is the official ceremony of Founders Day and should be rehearsed by those chosen to perform the ceremony.

Candlelighting Ceremony

Each collegiate and alumnae chapter and association shall observe Founders Day in an appropriate fashion and use the official candlelighting ritual.

- Four or five members participate - a narrator and three or four candlelighters.
- When collegians are present it is customary for them to conduct this service.
- Some groups are fortunate enough to have three generations of Delta Gammas, mother/daughter groups or distinguished charter members who might like the honor of participating.
- You might ask the oldest and youngest members in the area to represent the sisterhood by sharing the candlelighting honors. Be creative!

Equipment:

- Five candles; one for lighting and four to be lit

- Five speakers, including the narrator
- Candelabra and separate fourth candle stick/holder

Instructions:

- The narrator and the candlelighters take their place behind the table and face the audience for the service.
- The first candlelighter holds the small, lighted candle and uses it to light the first candle. After saying her part she passes the small candle to the second candlelighter, and the process continues.
- With all candles are lit, the candlelighters remain standing as the narrator concludes the ceremony.
- The candles may be left burning, if safe and appropriate; otherwise, they should be extinguished at the end of the ceremony.

Ceremony:

Narrator: To all who wear the golden anchor of Delta Gamma, the flames of the three candles are emblematic of our three Founders. We are proud of these fine young women who set for us the highest ideals and left us a precious heritage, which has been cherished through the years.

First candlelighter: (*lights one candle, then passes lighting candle to second reader*)

In memory of Anna Boyd Ellington, we light the first candle - for friendship, the bond of love and understanding that keeps us close.

Second candlelighter: (*lights one candle, then passes lighting candle to third reader*)

For Eva Webb Dodd we light the second candle - for loyalty, the loyalty we show to one another and to the Fraternity and its high ideals.

Third candlelighter: (*lights one candle, then passes lighting candle to fourth reader*)

For Mary Comfort Leonard we light the third candle – for honor, the honor and integrity each of us preserves individually, to reflect in all, honor to Delta Gamma.

Fourth candlelighter: (*lights remaining candle*)

If 50+ year members are present: The glow of these three candles symbolizes our three founders – Anna Boyd Ellington, Eva Webb Dodd and Mary Comfort Leonard. I now light a fourth candle to honor all of our fifty or more-year members. These women have worn the golden anchor of Delta Gamma, setting the high standards upon which our local groups are built. We honor and thank these sisters for their integrity, their loyalty and their lifetime membership in Delta Gamma Fraternity.

If no 50+-year members are present:

The glow of these three candles symbolizes our three Founders---Anna Boyd Ellington, Eva Webb Dodd and Mary Comfort Leonard. I now light a fourth candle in memory and honor of all members of our beloved Fraternity. The women who have worn and now wear the golden anchor of Delta Gamma have established

the high standards upon which our collegiate and alumnae chapters are built. We now honor and thank all sisters for their integrity, their loyalty and their lifetime membership in Delta Gamma Fraternity.

Narrator:

The soft glow of these small flames kindled in 1873 lighted the way to a great Fraternity. We are ever grateful to the women they symbolize. Their candles have burned clearly, the flames growing stronger year after year, their glow reaching farther and farther, to shine on the Fraternity of women that is Delta Gamma today.

Conclusion:

An appropriate song such as “And Now I Am Anchored in Thee” may be sung.

POLICY: Candle/Open Flame

Open flames/candles may not be used in chapter facilities

Preamble to the Candlelighting Ceremony for Chapters Celebrating Anniversaries

(Created in 1979 for the centennial of Eta-Akron; formerly known as the Centennial Preamble to the Candlelighting Ceremony)

(The following may be read immediately before the Candlelighting ceremony.)

_____chapter’s (insert number) celebration is a time for much rejoicing, reminiscing and enjoyment. We have much as a chapter for which to be grateful. Let us remember the special moments - a touch, a kind word, an encouraging glance from a Delta Gamma sister - that live on as a part of us today.

While we celebrate our sisterhood in _____chapter, it is appropriate to remember the larger sisterhood and the first three sisters who made our gathering today a reality.

(Then, begin with the words of the Candlelighting ceremony above.)

Delta Gamma Grace

Words by
H. E. CHERRINGTON, B. Θ. Π. Hymn: ELLERS

Lord, now the board of Del - ta G. is spread With meat and
drink, as by Thy grace we're led. We hum - bly thank Thee for this gift of
food And all the pleas - ures of our sis - ter - hood.


The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Delta Gamma Grace". It consists of three staves of music in a treble clef with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff contains the first line of the hymn, the second staff contains the second line, and the third staff contains the third line. The music is simple and hymn-like, with a steady rhythm.

Delta Gamma Grace and Blessing

Used at formal chapter dinners, Founders Day or other meals being shared by Delta Gamma members.

Gracious Lord

Nu



The image shows three staves of musical notation in a treble clef with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with the word 'Nu' above the first note. The lyrics are: 'Gra - cious Lord, we ask Thy bless - ing On Thy boun - ty which we share, May Del - ta Gam - ma live for - ev - er 'Neath Thy guid - ance and Thy care.'

Gra - cious Lord, we ask Thy bless - ing On Thy
boun - ty which we share, May Del - ta Gam - ma live for -
ev - er 'Neath Thy guid - ance and Thy care.

Delta Gamma Grace

Lord, now the board of Delta G is spread / With meat and drink, as by Thy grace we're led / We humbly thank thee for this gift of food / And all the pleasures of our sisterhood.

Delta Gamma Blessing

Gracious Lord, we ask Thy blessing / On Thy bounty which we share, / May Delta Gamma live forever / 'Neath Thy guidance and Thy care.

Faithful and True

This traditional, secret song is never to be written down. It is private, and may not be sung in the presence of non-initiated members or non-members. It is taught during Initiation. Words may be found in the Initiation ceremony booklet, which is to be kept in a safe, locked place. After the Oath of Friendship, while still in the Friendship Circle, the group may sing "Faithful and True."

Formal Chapter: Alumnae (private)

Equipment:

- Table
- Gavel
- Founders candles on table (three votive-type candles)
- Flowers or a single rose, if available, on table

Instructions:

- Most lights in room should be out except for Founders candles.
- president and rituals chairman stand at door and take grip and password from each member and ask each to remain standing at her chair.

- president enters the room last.
- All remain standing. president raps the gavel on table and asks everyone to be seated.
- Secret ritual meanings may be obtained from the Fraternity Director: Scholarship and Rituals, the Assistant Director of Education and Development at Executive Offices or from the rituals director of your local collegiate chapter.

Ceremony:

president:

The _____ alumnae chapter/association is now in formal chapter.

Rituals chairman:

We meet formally as a reminder that rituals are a special part of the Delta Gamma experience. They link the present with the past and make Delta Gamma unique in the fraternity world. Rituals give members a common bond, which, despite geography and time, is shared by Delta Gammas everywhere.

president:

Our Fraternity colors are bronze, pink and blue. Bronze stands for_____. Pink means _____. Blue means _____. Our flower is the cream-colored rose. Our badge is the golden anchor. The Greek letters Tau Delta Eta on the crossbar stand for the Greek words _____, _____, _____, which mean _____. The shield that is part of the anchor stands for protection, one for another. On the shield are the Greek letters Delta Gamma. They stand for the words_____, _____which mean_____, _____, _____ and symbolize our friendship as well as our loyalty to Delta Gamma.

president then conducts a regular business meeting.

Rituals chairman: *Asks the members to rise and say the Oath of Friendship (this may be done with the Friendship Circle). "Faithful and True" may also be sung.*

Formal Chapter: Collegiate (private)

Policy: Formal Chapter Meeting

The Formal Chapter Meeting Ritual shall be held a minimum of six times per academic year (three per semester or two per quarter). If possible, schedule one formal chapter sometime after Initiation prior to the end of the term to allow the newly initiated members to participate.

A Formal Chapter:

- Reminds members of the ideals and purposes of the Fraternity.
- Allows members to gain a deeper understanding of the philosophy of our rituals.
- Helps members understand the purpose of rituals and promotes sisterhood.

- Is performed with members in formal dress: nice dresses, skirts, or slacks; no jeans.
- Is to be opened with members by giving the grip and password to the director of rituals.
- Is open to new members after the formal ritual is completed. New members must exit prior to the Oath of Friendship.
- Should be closed with the Oath of Friendship. (Only initiated members may be present.)
- Should utilize and incorporate the chapter's Watchword.
- Should be conducted with sincerity, respect and decorum.
- Is to be held in a place where no persons except Delta Gammas are present.

Preparation: place curtain (your choice which one) in the front of the room. *If new members are present for the business portion of the meeting, use only the Pi Alpha curtain.*

Have soft lighting if not using Candlelighting ceremony. (*Flame Policy: Open flames/candles may not be used in chapter facilities*)

Ceremony:

Chairman of rituals committee: (*Reads an appropriate selection such as one below.*)

Friendship is the inexpressible comfort of feeling safe with a person, having neither to weigh thoughts nor to measure words. - George Eliot

president:

_____ chapter is now in formal meeting. We meet formally to remind us that Delta Gamma is a constant way of living. Our chapter letter(s) _____ stand for the Greek word(s) _____ which mean(s) _____. This is a life-goal that belongs to our chapter alone. It is a base for building our chapter character and individualism. Our Fraternity colors are bronze, pink and blue. Bronze stands for _____; to the _____, the _____ and the _____. Pink means _____ to the _____. Blue means _____. The green field symbolizes _____ service to Delta Gamma. The cable encompasses all and stands for _____.

Our flower is the cream-colored rose.

Our badge is the golden anchor. The Greek letters Tau Delta Eta on the cross bar stand for the Greek words _____, _____, and _____ which mean _____, _____, and _____. The shield that is part of the anchor stands for _____, and _____. On the shield are the Greek letters Delta Gamma. They stand for the Greek words _____, which mean _____ and symbolize our friendship as well as our loyalty to Delta Gamma.

director of rituals:

Today we will use the Candlelighting ceremony as our ceremony for the Formal Chapter. See pages 24-25.

Or you may:

- Choose something to talk about from Pi Alpha ceremony, Initiation ceremony or other formal ceremony.
- Select topics that are pertinent to current interest or needs of the chapter.
- Comment on a selection that is not taken directly from rituals ceremonies but speaks to current needs of the chapter.

Consider the following:

- Read a closing speech made by president at the end of Third Degree of Initiation ceremony.
- Review the oaths in Initiation ceremony and the significance of each oath to each degree of the ceremony.
- Review Alumnae Charge (Initiation ceremony); point out increased meaning for members, especially seniors.
- Review an Initiation degree at separate formal chapters. Explain the purpose and significance of the degree presented.
- Honor graduating seniors with a special poem or reading selected especially for them.
- Share both the new member and chapter Watchwords for the year; explain why they were chosen - that they are important parts of the Fourth Degree.
- Use a different ritual curtain as the focus of formal chapter. Explain significance of each curtain.
- Conduct Candlelighting Ceremony. It is always done at Founders Day, but on occasion may be used for a formal chapter.
- Other formal ceremonies in the Rituals handbook may be used.

director of rituals: *(Ends with closing below.)*

May we all reflect upon what has been said here this evening and thus enrich our lives.

Vice president: communications: *Stands and calls the roll. Members respond by saying, "present." New members may now enter the room to be included in roll call.*

(Lights are then turned on and candles are extinguished.)

The meeting continues as vice-president: communications reads minutes of the past meeting.

president: *Conducts a regular business chapter.*

To adjourn:

director of rituals: Asks chapter to stand and repeat Oath of Friendship followed by singing of "Faithful and True." This may be done in the Friendship Circle.

Foundation Ceremony - By the Light of Delta Gamma

To be connected to a Foundation presentation, fundraiser or Founders Day (*in addition to the Candlelighting Ceremony, the official Founders Day ceremony*).

Materials:

- five speakers
- six candles, one for lighting the other candles

Instructions:

- Arrange the group in a semi-circle facing the table in the front of the room.
- Pre-set candles on the table, lighting as noted in ceremony.
- Sing to close the ceremony.

Ceremony:

First speaker: A single candle shines as bright as any star. Its tiny light illuminates an area surprisingly large for such a small flame. Delta Gammas strive to be that flame, to light the path and to show the way for those who cannot see.

Delta Gammas give freely of themselves by volunteering their time and their talents to assist those who are visually impaired. We give of ourselves by donating funds to agencies with vision-related purposes. Our philanthropy since 1936 continues to be Service for Sight.

By the light of Delta Gamma, (*light first candle*) others can see.

Second speaker: Sunrise begins with a single pinpoint of light on the horizon and grows into a new day full of potential. Our Lectureships in Values and Ethics touches the mind and offers promise to our development as individuals.

By finding that potential within ourselves, we can reach out to the community. By touching lives one by one, we can unlock the potential of others as well as our own.

By the light of Delta Gamma, (*light second candle*) others gain insight.

Third speaker: A candle left shining in the window beckons home the traveler, lighting the way to a place of warmth and fellowship. It is the spirit of fellowship that drives Delta Gamma's efforts. It brings collegians and alumnae together to raise funds for the Delta Gamma Foundation, which in turn are given to charities dedicated to helping persons with visual impairment or to preserving sight.

Fundraising events are wonderful times to have fun, spend time with old friends and make new friends.

By the light of Delta Gamma, (*light third candle*) others reach out.

Fourth speaker: A lighthouse against the night sky is a precious beacon, providing a guide by lighting the way and giving direction.

Delta Gamma provides that beacon for many students. Scholarships, fellowships and loans help light the way for many women to achieve their goals through education. Education is one of the keys to success as we strive for balance and values in our society.

By the light of Delta Gamma, (*light fourth candle*) others may grow.

Fifth speaker: Alone, each candle provides light, yet as each new flame is added, the circle of light grows ever larger. It is the light that our three Founders may have had in mind when they began their club of “mutual helpfulness.” The motto, “Do Good,” that Anna, Eva and Mary chose in 1873 is still our motto today.

Each Delta Gamma, with her desire to “Do Good,” adds her own special light. As we reach out to others, we make our world a brighter place.

How bright will the light be when we all kindle a small flame? It only takes a spark to get a flame glowing - we, the women of Delta Gamma, are that spark.

By the Light of Delta Gamma, (*light fifth candle*) others can see, gain insight, reach out and grow.

Ceremony adapted from the original by Beta Lambda-Gettysburg, 2004.

POLICY: Candle/Open Flame

Open flames/candles may not be used in chapter facilities

Post-ceremony activity:

Divide the group into five teams and ask them to discuss the relevance of each speaker's part:

- Sight
- Special Events
- Scholarships, Fellowships and Loans
- Inspiration

Ask the teams to discuss what philanthropic work members can do individually.

Ask the teams to brainstorm: What do they see Delta Gamma doing locally and internationally for Service for Sight?

Invite students who are visually impaired to attend or present the ceremony with the new members. Follow up with a social event to thank them for attending.

Parent's/Guardian's Pinning Ceremony

president:

Good afternoon. Welcome to our Guardian's Pinning Ceremony. I am _____, president of _____ chapter of Delta Gamma. We would like to share with you a brief history of our Fraternity. We were founded in 1873 in Oxford, Mississippi, by Anna Boyd Ellington, Eva Webb Dodd and Mary Comfort Leonard. These young women were unable to go home for Christmas, and so they spent their Christmas holiday organizing our beloved Delta Gamma. Our first pin was an "H" standing for hope, and it was later replaced with an anchor, the age-old symbol of hope. These ladies founded the Fraternity with the motto do good and later looked for the Greek words to correspond to DG. Thus, was the origin of Delta Gamma.

director of rituals:

We are here today to give special meaning to the guardian's pin. We created this ceremony to give you an idea of what the Delta Gamma Fraternity is all about. We hope this ceremony will give not only each of you a special bond within your family, but also with Delta Gammas and their loved ones everywhere.

Delta Gammas pin their guardians at this time.

vp: programming: Read the Diamond Ceremony

director of rituals: Give out a copy for guardians to keep wrapped in a ribbon and folded like a scroll

The Diamond:

"When one attempts to describe something very close to the heart, when one ponders over deep roads and realizes the powers of expression have failed, then sometimes it is better to compare this thing that cannot be grasped to something we can see and touch. So, it is with our Delta Gamma. You see, we fought for words to describe our bond, the pride in that tiny little anchor, our struggles to better each other and ourselves. Oh, we thought of love, friendship, loyalty, but these words heard so often come to mean very little. And so, we wish to compare our Delta Gamma to a diamond, one just lifted from the quarry, rough and untouched by gentle skill.

Below the rough surface of the diamond, lies a secret and unique beauty to be saved. With deliberate care, the stone may be shaped into a jewel with countless facets reflecting light in all directions. And so, it is with Delta Gamma, below our surface lies a secret beauty for only you to discover. You will find diverse and far flung natures, each wanting to give a part of herself to something bigger and greater than the selfish individual. We give to each other and in doing so we are like the facets of the diamond, each with a common base, but shining in all directions. It is in this course of giving, our nebulous bond is formed.

But you, you whom we want to take this diamond to your hearts, are you expected to see the beauty of an uncut jewel? As you hold it in your hand it is glittering and alluring, but only through toil and tears does the diamond become an object of value and pride. With Delta Gamma, her warmth radiates only from the love and care you give to her.

Now you who are questioning the worth of the diamond, it would be so easy to fling the stone back into the earth before you have really tried to know its true beauty. But you would be tossing your riches away. We wish we could tell you, but we cannot. We can only say that, if you take this diamond into your heart and carve it with gentle determination, you can make it as beautiful as your wish commands and as your interests can inspire. You are the only one who can pursue it - only you can take the diamond out of the world of objects and sensation and place it inside your being. May each of you find your diamond within our Delta Gamma."

president:

The gold on the pin represents the common bond between a Delta Gamma and her loved ones. The white represents the pure ideal of friendship between a Delta Gamma and her loved ones. The anchor on the pin stands for hope.

Delta Gamma's pin their guardians at this time.

Song leader: *lead chapter in "Out of My Window," at the same time pass around a decorated candle.*

director of rituals: Read a fitting poem.

vp: programming - Conclude with:

The word guardian is defined as a protector, a defender and a keeper. A mother is our hero and inspiration. She encourages us to do everything our heart desires and stands up for all of our dreams. She has the strength to let us grow and allows us to learn from our mistakes. A mother stands beside us when we need her and even when we do not. A mother is our protector.

A father is our rock and our safeguard. His arms are always wide open, and his faith in us is endless. He pushes us to be our best and helps us when we have

fallen. He will hold our hearts in his hands and protect it with his life. A father is our light and our guide. A father is our defender.

A sister is our heart and our confidante. She gives us laughter, and she fills our heart with joy. She believes in us, when we cannot. She holds our hand when we have lost our way. A sister knows us better than we even know ourselves. A sister is our keeper.

president:

We would like to extend you an invitation to join us for some light refreshments. Thank you so much for being here today and we are honored that all of you were able to spend this special day with us.

Ceremony written by Zeta Xi-UAB chapter. Updated by Zeta Omicron-Wilfrid Laurier chapter, November 2013

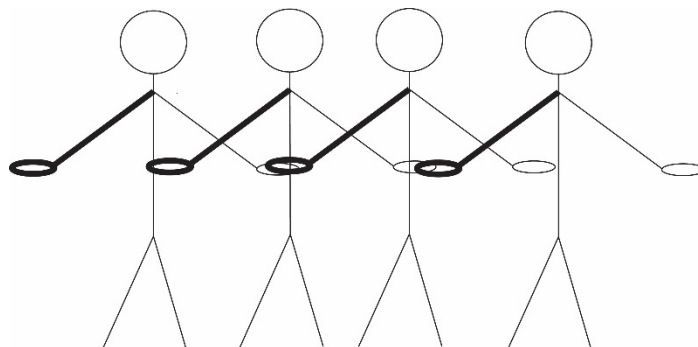
Pins can be ordered from the official Fraternity Jeweler and may be called "Mother's Pins."

The Oath of Friendship

The Oath of Friendship is a secret, private ritual. The Oath is never to be written down and is to be spoken in a soft tone. It is not to be repeated in front of non-members.

One of our most treasured rituals is repeating the Oath of Friendship at all Delta Gamma gatherings. The Oath of Friendship, first heard by Delta Gammas when they are initiated, is said by all Delta Gammas just as it was first repeated by our Founders for their first Initiation in 1874. You may open or close your meetings by joining in the Friendship Circle (see diagram below) and repeating together the Oath of Friendship.

Instructions for holding hands for Oath of Friendship:



Remember: Friendship reaches out - right over left.

No one member crosses her arms, but rather extends them out to grasp the hands of the member once removed from each side of her. Remember friendship reaches out - right over left. The linking of hands and crossing of arms may

symbolize the cable of our anchor that binds us together. Once the Friendship Circle is established the Oath of Friendship is repeated.

Omega Toast

The Omega Toast, written by Omega chapter at the University of Wisconsin, is used by all Delta Gamma chapters. The words for the Omega Toast may be printed on the program. Delta Gammas traditionally stand and toast with their water glasses, as Delta Gamma's policy regarding alcohol is observed.

*Oh Delta Gamma, now we pledge
our lasting faith to thee.
Within our bonds of friendship
is our love, our loyalty.*

The Omega Toast

Words and Melody by
CLARA BLODGETT, Omega

Well sustained, *with feeling* O Del - ta Gam - ma, now we pledge Our loy - al faith in thee. O fair - est maid - en of the Greeks, Each one a - mong us seeks To

*We seek the goal of Delta
Gamma
shining from afar.
Oh, may you stay by night by day
our own, our guiding star.*

reach the goal of Del - ta Gam - ma, Shin - ing from a - far. May she e'er stay by night by day, Our own, our guid - ing star.

Officer Installation Ceremony

To be used at the first meeting at which the newly elected president presides. Alumnae officers must be installed no later than the following June meeting.

The Oath of Office:

- remains the same as it was written in 1873.
- was formerly called the Oath of Inauguration.
- is taken by all Delta Gamma Fraternity officers, collegiate officers, and alumnae officers as provided in the Constitution, Article XVIII, Section 2.
- may be administered by a visiting Fraternity officer.
- is located also in the Collegiate Chapter and Alumnae Officer Manuals.

Instructions:

When installing the new officers, the outgoing president holds the gavel and asks the newly elected officers to stand. As they stand, the new president comes forward to stand beside the outgoing president. The outgoing president then administers the Oath of Office.

The Oath of Office:

I do solemnly promise to discharge to the best of my ability, with fidelity and promptness, and in conformity with the Constitution, policies and procedures of Delta Gamma Fraternity and bylaws of _____chapter (association), the duties of the office to which I have been elected.

Presentation of Mu Chapter Lamps of Knowledge

To be used when presenting Mu Chapter Lamps of Knowledge charms sent from the Delta Gamma Foundation for members achieving their first 4.0. This program is endowed by Mu chapter at the University of Missouri. Charms are sent each term based on statistics uploaded to Anchorbase and tracked by staff at Executive Offices. A chapter can consider purchasing chapter guards for recipients of the Mu Chapter Lamps of Knowledge, so they can easily wear the charms with their badges. Guards may be ordered from the official Fraternity jeweler via the Delta Gamma website.

Present at a special meeting or event that is tied in with scholarship, especially with parents or faculty members present.

Ceremony:

director of scholarship: Today we celebrate the scholastic success of ____ (*number*) member/members as she has/they have achieved a perfect 4.0 (or campus equivalent) for the past term.

One of the objects of Delta Gamma is to promote the educational and cultural interests of its members, as stated in Article II of our Constitution.

As Delta Gammas, we encourage each another to achieve our academic potential through hard work, and we celebrate when a member succeeds.

In recognition of the scholastic accomplishment and dedication of this member/these members, we have a Mu Chapter Lamp of Knowledge gold charm that may be worn with pride.

Will the following member/s please come forward? (*read names*)

It is with great pleasure that, on behalf of the Delta Gamma Foundation, I present you with the Mu Chapter Lamp of Knowledge. Congratulations!

Presentation of Membership Certificates

To be used at the first formal chapter after the certificates have been received. It serves to remind members of the tangible symbols and intangible values of the Fraternity.

Instructions:

At the end of the business meeting and before the Oath of Friendship is said by the chapter. The president asks the new initiates to come to the front of the room and stand in a semicircle before her. The director of rituals should assist the new initiates to their places.

president: Your Initiation may seem like a thing of the past, and yet, as you participate in Initiation in the future, you will renew its feeling and its meaning again and again. The ideals and symbols of Delta Gamma are now a part of you. You are a part of Delta Gamma. The golden anchor is the symbol of hope, of loyalty and love. We now present you with your Certificate of Membership, signed by the Fraternity president and Vice-president: Finance, as a special remembrance you are a Delta Gamma. It is a precious document to be kept secure and treasured always. Congratulations!

Adjourn the meeting with the Oath of Friendship and the singing of "Faithful and True."

Rededication Service

Primarily used by alumnae to begin the year. May be used by collegians to help chapter heal after a difficult time.

The alumnae group president and other members of the executive board may conduct a brief service to welcome new members and to review with the membership the vows taken at the time of Initiation and the purposes and ideals of the Fraternity.

president: I would like to welcome each of you to the chapter meeting. Our chapter is strengthened by the membership of each member. We are confident your friendships will continue to grow, and you will find much personal gain and satisfaction by participating in the events and activities within our chapter.

director of rituals: For all of us who wear the golden anchor, this is an appropriate time to pause and reflect on our role in Delta Gamma and look back on the reasons we chose to pledge Delta Gamma Fraternity. One of the goals of

this chapter is to further the ideals of Delta Gamma in fostering friendships, promoting educational and cultural interests, developing social responsibility, and fine character.

president: Tonight, let each of us remember the vows of our Initiation. Let us remember Delta Gamma charges us to develop the ideals of the Fraternity, to contribute through service to our Fraternity and chapter, to develop lifetime friendships with each other, and be responsible members of the community.

director of rituals:

Delta Gamma is a golden chain forged together by the bonds of friendship and mutual understanding. Each of us must participate as a link in the chain, giving assistance, enthusiasm, and cooperation as we contribute to the progress of _____ chapter and to Delta Gamma Fraternity. Let us always remember, our golden chain is only as strong as the weakest link.

An appropriate song such as "Faithful and True" (only if initiated members are present), "Dream Girl" or any other song the chapter loves and feels strongly about may be sung now.

Close with Oath of Friendship as long as there are not uninitiated members present.

Less Formal Rededication Service

(If a less formal service seems called for, the following may be used.)

When you pledged Delta Gamma, you probably never realized you were joining an organization that welcomed you as a collegian with a promise of lifetime membership. We hope that your association with your collegiate chapter was meaningful – making lifelong friends, introducing you to higher scholastic achievement and teaching you about the obligation to Delta Gamma which you accepted as a new member. We hope your closeness with other Delta Gammas has encouraged you to come to this alumnae chapter (association). We welcome you into many years of friendship that not so long ago, seemed short and limited to college.

Senior Recommitment Ceremony

First speaker: _____ (insert # of years from 1873) years ago, Delta Gamma was founded in Oxford, Mississippi, by three young women who were only 17 and 18 years old.

Their purpose became their motto: do good and the thousands of women who followed have become a source for that good throughout the world.

_____ years later, our very own _____ (Greek letter/s) chapter was founded by women who knew they could also do good at _____ (university) or wherever their paths might take them.

Today, we honor the legacy of our three Founders, as well as the legacy of the women who founded our beloved _____ (Greek letter/s) chapter. But we also

honor you, our senior women, who have contributed to the legacy of doing good as we welcome you into the world of Delta Gamma alumnae.

This is a time of special significance for all Delta Gammas, for it reminds us of our past and reaffirms our lifetime commitment to the words and spirit of the oath each of us took on the day of our Initiation.

Second speaker: Delta Gamma has given us many gifts.

The first gift we received from Delta Gamma was the gift of hope.

The very first badge our three Founders created was the little letter “H” which symbolized the hope they knew our Fraternity held for them and for those of us who followed.

Today, we encourage you to wear your Delta Gamma badge always as a symbol of the hope we have for you, and your commitment to a lifetime of membership.

The second gift we received from Delta Gamma was the gift of strength.

The power of Delta Gamma is embodied in the strength we give each other as we remember the words of the vow we took at our Initiation. Please stand and recite those words together.

(Recite Oath of Friendship together, only if in a private venue. The Oath may only be repeated in the presence of initiated members of Delta Gamma.)

Today, we give you a cream colored rose. A rose can only bloom if it gathers strength from outside itself. This rose is a symbol of the strength we receive from other Delta Gammas. With this rose, we are reminded of the words of our three Founders, “Together we are more than we are as one.”

The third gift we received from Delta Gamma was the gift of membership for life.

Delta Gamma begins when your college days begin, but it does not end when those days end. Delta Gamma is a gift we have been given for the rest of our lives, no matter where we may be.

Today we light a candle, which will always light your way to Delta Gamma no matter where you may be.

Third speaker: Our Delta Gamma alumnae are the cornerstones of our Fraternity. They provide continuing hope, strength and life to Delta Gammas everywhere.

Seniors and alumnae, please stand and repeat the alumnae pledge after me as you reaffirm your commitment to Delta Gamma through your alumnae membership. Please state your own chapter name.

As a member of _____ chapter (each person says her own chapter) of
Delta Gamma/
I reaffirm my pledge to Delta Gamma,
And, in joining the Delta Gamma alumnae,
I once again promise to the best of my ability/
To faithfully and loyally support the objects of our Fraternity.

May you continue to find hope and strength as a Delta Gamma alumna. May you
come to understand the gift of membership throughout your alumnae life.
Wherever life's journey may take you, remember that the hand of true Delta
Gamma friendship will always be there to reach out to you.

Congratulations and welcome!

*Ceremony written by Maureen Sweeney Syring, Nu-Idaho, 2011
Fraternity president 1986-90*

Section 4: Informal Rituals, Ceremonies, Readings and Events

Note: Any ceremony or ritual designated as “private” may not be shared with or performed in the presence of non-members or women who have not been initiated.

The rituals program should:

- be ongoing, not merely periodic "formal ceremonies" that take place
- be educational and enriching
- planned ahead, researched and appropriate for the month or season
- bring the philosophy of rituals into the daily lives of chapter members.
- balance inspirational, serious readings with carefully selected humorous anecdotes that center on the Fraternity ideals and values

Informal rituals repeated daily can be as simple as:

- members wearing their anchor badges
- greeting sisters on and off campus and in classes
- smiles and hugs
- recognition for an achievement or a job well done
- support during a difficult time

Informal/Ongoing Ritual Program Ideas

Many of these ideas may be used for both collegiate and alumnae groups.

- Honor a member as sister of the week or month.
- Recognize members each term or each year who display the values associated with Tau, Delta, and Eta with the TDH Award.
- Award a Bronze Award, Pink Award, and Blue Award each month to a member who displayed each of these values. When recognizing this member, describe the behaviors and actions she took to deserve this award.
- Pass a Hannah doll each week to a member/new member who needs some extra attention. Several members may receive the Hannah doll during the meeting. One member may be chosen to keep the Hannah doll for a week and pass it to another special member at the next meeting.
- Incorporate informal rituals into chapter retreats.
- Pass a Hannah doll or flower instead of a candle at firesides.
- Each week, recognize a “supportive sister” with the “Support Bra” that is passed along. Since each week the member gives up her recognition symbol, create a paper bra from a bikini scrapbooking template and decorate it with her name, etc. The paper bras may be strung from a “clothesline” on a dedicated rituals bulletin board in the chapter house/suite/space. At the end of each term, the sisters receive their paper bras to keep and put on doors or bulletin boards as lasting pieces of recognition.

- Send letters to members by snail mail.
- Use picturesque campus or community settings for rituals events or chapter gatherings.
- Have a member/new member fill the "Mug of Friendship" with candy, etc. and give it to another member/new member she would like to get to know better. Do this on a weekly basis.
- Purchase fabric from which to cut out Delta Gamma letters. Sew or iron the letters on a T-shirt or sweatshirt. All members, including new members, may wear the Delta Gamma letters.
- Conduct firesides for members/new members so they can share their feelings in a positive manner.
- Give members a handful of Hershey's Kisses. Take turns giving a "kiss" to another member as a thank-you, job well done, cheer up, etc.
- Recite the Oath of Friendship at all meetings. (This is a positive way to end an especially difficult Chapter Management Team or Honor Board meeting.)
- Celebrate members' birthdays each month with a birthday cake.
- Decorate members' and new members' doors.
- Start a "Sisterhood Tree" in the chapter room. Each week a member adds a leaf on which she has written her feelings about sisterhood. Watch the tree grow.
- Read *The Giving Tree*. After it is read, each member is given a paper leaf on which she writes a note to a sister. The leaves are attached to a "tree" which is on display in the house, chapter room, etc.
- Write a short inspirational poem or thought on a laminated paper anchor. Give one to each member at the beginning of a new term to carry in her purse or pocket.
- Post baby pictures of seniors during Senior Recognition Week and have the members guess who is who.
- Make a memory book for seniors. Have each member write a message to each senior. These are compiled into a book and presented at a senior recognition event.
- Pass out Happy Faces at chapter meetings. Members write notes on the back of the cards to members they would like to get to know better.
- Have a Founders fest during Homecoming to celebrate the founding of your chapter with returning alumnae.
- Plan a sisterhood awareness week centered on activities for getting to know each other better.
- Give a cream rose to a special sister each week.
- Pass a gift box around and have each member drop in a piece of paper (her gift) on which she has written what she has given or will give to Delta Gamma.
- Have an activity meeting devoted to rituals.

- Start a "Plate Pals" program. A member's name is placed under each plate at weekly chapter dinner. The name under your plate is your secret pal for the week.
- Attend a religious service together.
- Go to a park for a "Seize the Day" party where members read favorite poems.
- Play "Musical Anchors." Members sit in a circle; each writes their own name on a paper anchor. As music is played the anchors are passed around the circle. When the music stops the member writes something nice on the anchor about the girl whose anchor she is holding.
- Sing a song at every meeting.
- Have members play instrumental music.
- Use a daily/weekly word or thought, e.g. honest, sincere, confidential; explain how it applies to Delta Gamma members.
- Give inspirational readings such as poems, quotes or thought of the day. Place on chapter bulletin board, table placards at special meals, chapter newsletters, include in New Member Pursuit handouts, post on doors to members rooms or on bathroom mirrors where members can see daily.
- Present chapter Watchword (ideally) throughout year at meetings, events, activities.
- Wear badges daily. Give a small treat to all wearing badges to a meeting, event or activity.
- Presentation of a ritual topic by the director of rituals at formal chapter meetings.
- Give special recognition to a chapter member for accomplishments, grades, hard work, participation, acts of kindness, etc., by giving a "Something for My Sister" award such as the reading of a poem or singing or playing a song chosen especially for her.
- Promote sisterhood day, week or month.
- Send notes or cards to members, new members and alumnae to recognize special occasions or accomplishments.
- Use informal ceremonies.
- Plan collumnae activities.

Informal Ritual Ceremonies

The ceremonies described below can be used as informal rituals. You may conduct these ceremonies at an anchored event, chapter retreat, or during a formal chapter. Prior to conducting each ceremony, review carefully and ensure each member with a speaking part is aware of her responsibility and familiar with the language.

Looking for just the right ritual?

There may be times that your chapter has a special moment to celebrate or is facing a particular challenge...turning to a ritual is perfect in those times. There are many beautiful Delta Gamma informal ritual ceremonies

When you're concerned about chapter apathy, consider turning to:

- Cream Rose Petal Ceremony
- The Giving Tree

After a chapter incident, consider turning to:

- Friendship Ball Activity
- Rededication Ceremony
- Unity

When you want to make connections for JCMT/CMT to the bigger picture:

- Heartbeat
- Honor Code
- Velveteen Rabbit

When you want to emphasize respecting our ritual:

- Secret Box Ritual
- The Value of Secrecy

Anchor Ceremony

You will need a picture of an anchor or you can make a large anchor, a shield and a crossbar out of heavy poster board. *(Purchase white rope to act as a cable; pre-tape the shield and the crossbar so they will stick on the anchor and bring an easel on which to stand the anchor.)*

Ceremony:

director of rituals: Through the friendship of our Founders and the many sisters who have joined our Delta Gamma Club, the Fraternity has grown into the outstanding organization it is today.

First speaker: Friendship is the foundation of our Fraternity, just as the anchor is the foundation of our symbols. The physical aspects of our organization - the members, officers, policies, programs and philanthropies - support the heart and soul of Delta Gamma, which is friendship.

(If you are using an anchor that can be assembled, add the part at the appropriate times. If you are using the picture of the anchor, point to the picture at the appropriate times.)

Second speaker: When you add the shield and the crossbar, our anchor is no longer ordinary. The two parts add a special beauty, an added sparkle. Our sisterhood, a special caring for one another, is what raises our friendship above the ordinary.

(If you are using an anchor that can be assembled, place the white rope around the anchor to act as the cable. If you are using the picture of the anchor, point to the cable at the appropriate time.)

Third speaker:

The cable comes last, to make our anchor whole. Winding about, touching every part, the cable of love ties every Delta Gamma to her sisters. This cable can be loose, weak and easily broken, or it can be strong and taut. We are putting our faith in you to be a strong link in the cable that symbolizes our everlasting friendship and sisterhood.

director of rituals: Our Founders' friendship brought them close together, but they also reached out to include others in their circle. Today that circle includes _____ collegiate chapters and _____ alumnae chapters or associations in the United States and Canada.

(Chapter members may join hands and share a special thought or poem, or they may proceed to the next part)

director of rituals: Our Founders' friendship is the foundation of our Fraternity. Their lives made a circle of friendship that was completely unselfish.

Fourth speaker:

For collegiate chapters: You are experiencing the friendship of your collegiate chapters with your sisters around you, sisters who will be friends for a lifetime.

For alumnae groups: You have experienced the friendship of your collegiate chapters. Now we want you to experience the friendship of our alumnae chapter (association) and of the entire Fraternity.

(Song leader leads the chapter in an appropriate song. "Dream Girl" is suggested. You also may close with a thought or a poem and the Friendship Circle. When only initiated Delta Gammas are gathered, repeat the Oath of Friendship and sing "Faithful and True.")

Shiny Anchor Meeting

Ask all members to wear their badges to the meetings. If a Council member or former Council member is present, ask her to pass her badge around the group and explain the significance of the jewels. Older members may have unique badges or a badge from a relative to show. Women who were "pinned" to their sweethearts can bring their spouses' Fraternity pins to expand our knowledge of the Greek system.

Display a cardboard letter "H" and review the history (see "Interesting Rituals Facts"). A cardboard anchor onto which parts can be added is an educational remembrance. See the "Anchor Ceremony," printed in this handbook, for an excellent script presentation.

Appropriate songs such as "Do I See an Anchor in Your Eye," "It's My Anchor Gold" or "And Now I Am Anchored in Thee" also add a special touch.

Anchor Pass

An addendum to this meeting could also include an Anchor Pass. As a wooden anchor is passed around the Friendship Circle have each member share an anecdote of her Delta Gamma experiences special remembrance of what Delta Gamma means to her. This can also be used as part of the Rededication Service.

Cream Rose Petal Ceremony

The room should be large enough to accommodate a large empty space in the center. Members sit in a semi-circle. The director of rituals stands in front of the members, holding a rose throughout the president's speech, pulling petals off and dropping them into a bowl.

*(*** designates the time when petals are dropped)*

president stands in front of members and reads:

Not so long ago, a young girl came to college. She was enthusiastic and eager to go through recruitment. She did, and pledged the sorority she wanted very badly, Delta Gamma. One day, one of her new member sisters asked her to help work on a skit for Dad's Day with the rest of her new member class. The girl said, 'Gee, I'd love to, but I've got a date and I have to get ready. *** But do ask me again; I'd love to help some other time.' She went through her new member program and fulfilled all of her requirements to be initiated into Delta Gamma. Soon she was a sophomore and Homecoming was approaching. The Delta Gammas were working on their house decorations with Homecoming only two days away. The Homecoming chairman asked for her help, but she could only answer with, "I really would like to help you all, I know how important it is, but *** I have a term paper I have to finish by next week. Please ask me again, I really would like to help some other time."

The next few years went by very rapidly. Before she realized, it was her senior year. This was her last year in college and her last year as a Delta Gamma collegian. One day a new member came to her room and asked her to help her with a report, since she was majoring in English. "I'm sorry, I wish I could help you but *** I'm studying for finals now and I just have to graduate."

She graduated, got married, and moved away with her new partner. Delta Gamma alumnae in her new city called one day and asked if she would like to join the alumnae group. "Well," she said, "I've been awfully busy getting settled into our new home. *** I really don't have time. But please call me again; I'd be happy to contribute when I've settled down."

Soon she had children of her own and once again a Delta Gamma alumna called her and asked her for help. But, again she said, "I would really like to help you out, but I have two small children and they need me. Call again, though."

Years went by, and her children grew up and married and then her partner passed away suddenly. She was lonely and sad. Then she remembered her Delta Gamma friends and the vows she had taken the day of her Initiation. She remembered all of her experiences and the wonderful time she had as a collegiate Delta Gamma. She had gained so much from what her sisters had given her. She immediately called the Delta Gamma alumnae and asked if she

could help them. They said certainly, they would be glad to have her. But this, *(Hold up flower stem with no petals)* was all she had to offer. *(Toss in bowl.)*

Delta Gamma Meditation: Anchored in Thee

As you sit with your eyes closed, start to pay attention to your breath. Inhaling through the nose, exhaling through the mouth. Notice the stillness of the room, the calmness of your body. From the top of your head to the tip of your toes, start to relax each muscle with each exhalation. Feel the wave of relaxation travel into your fingertips, down your legs and into the heels of your feet, as you inhale and exhale.

Here you are, in this room, among your sisters; each of you is one individual, part of a greater whole. A whole that would not exist or be the same if you weren't a part of it. Your thoughts, actions and beliefs influence those around you. As you continue to breathe deeply, think to yourself, what kind of influence do you want to have on this whole?

Each of us brings something unique and important to the chapter which brings us together; I see beauty, kindness, and compassion, a sense of humor, loyalty, and leadership. But most importantly, I see the bond that ties us together, the bond of sisterhood. Each of us is a link in this chain, a chain that anchors our ship, one that keeps us grounded as members of Delta Gamma. Think about what quality it is that you bring to this chapter. As I give you a few moments to think, come back to your breath. Inhaling, exhaling.

We are Delta Gamma sisters because of what we give to each other and to the sisterhood. Notice how it feels to be part of something so special, something so much greater than yourself. Realize that not only do you contribute to this sisterhood, but that it can also offer you so much in return. We may have our differences and see things in our own ways, but what brings us together are the ideals we share and strive for as a greater whole. The ideals of friendship, responsibility and character. The values of loyalty, respect, and scholarship. When you hear these words, when you feel respected and loved, how does your body feel?

Place one hand on your stomach, one on your heart. Try to imagine bubbles rising up from your stomach to your heart, bursting to release warmth and comfort. Allow this sensation to take over your body. Take a full, deep breath, and pay attention to how you feel right now in this moment.

Realize that in any given moment in time, you can come back to this place of love and warmth. Let it take over your mind, body and soul. Let this be a place for us to feel nothing but the bonds of sisterhood, appreciating the beauty of being part of a greater whole, one that we call Delta Gamma. Just as life should not rest on a single hope, neither should a ship rely on one small anchor. Together, we have many hopes and dreams, coming together and forming one huge and strong anchor that keeps us grounded.

May we spend the rest of our days being the best that we can be and nothing less. We are only as strong as our weakest link. Together, our ship is anchored

now and always. As you come back to your breath, take as much time as you need to come back to the present moment and open your eyes when you feel ready.

Written by Tallia Deljou, Beta Epsilon-American

Friendship Ball Activity

Purpose: To promote teamwork, enhance unity, support a sister, or foster the sharing and/or reaffirmation of Delta Gamma principles.

Time: This project can take an hour, day or week.

Materials: Friendship Ball (some sort of ball that is hollow that may be taken apart and filled)

How to: A meaningful poem or thought, special chocolates, soap or moisturizer, or some other small “gift” is placed inside a Friendship Ball. The ball is given from one sister to another. It may be passed in a circle, given on a special occasion, given in secret, or passed among sisters during a time period such as a week. The poem and history listed below are always given with the Friendship Ball.

Ceremony:

A ball is a circle
No beginning, no end
It keeps us enclosed
Like our circle of friends.

The treasure inside
Just for you to see
Is the treasure of friendship
You've granted to me.

And so, it is with loving thoughts,
I now send...
A gift to the best of us,
The one I call “FRIEND.”

It is an old English tradition that friends and sisters pass back and forth a favor, the Friendship Ball, to shower the recipient with the “gifts” of friendship and sisterhood, as the occasion or need arises.

The ball may be returned with special chocolates, a piece of jewelry, luxuriant soap or moisturizer, a meaningful poem...it is up to the giver’s imagination.

After all, the real treasure inside is priceless ... the gifts of love, grace, joy, peace, and the blessings of friendship and sisterhood.

Variations: The Friendship ball can be utilized to create unity within an alumnae or a collegiate chapter – for a specific class (e.g. seniors, new members), or for a special occasion (e.g. prior to or during Inspiration or pledging, during

recruitment) or between big and little sister, or even when it would help a member to know her sisters love and support her.

Other Activity Ideas:

- During senior week, the seniors pass the ball to one another, with memories of shared DG activities or friendship poems in the ball.
- Secret Sister or Big Sister
- Formal chapter
- Training (Leadership, Officer, etc.)

Ceremony written by Dana Max Frederickson, Alpha Rho-Ohio Wesleyan.

Friendship Ceremony

Outline:

- I. Review of first presentation
- II. Anchor Ceremony
- III. Inspirational readings
- IV. Songs

Equipment:

- Pi Alpha curtain with standards
- Low table and a white cloth to cover to the floor
- Picture of an anchor

Instructions:

This night may be planned and presented by a group of initiated members under the leadership of the director of rituals.

- Presenting members are responsible for set-up, speakers, food (if any) and clean-up.
- Four speakers may be used. They should practice their material several times before the actual ceremony.
- Big sisters are instructed to bring a quote or a poem to the ceremony, which will then be read or given to their little sisters. The director of rituals or a member of the rituals committee should approve the poem or quote. This procedure is necessary to avoid duplication.
- Display the anchor on a low table.
- Officers and speakers should stand behind the table and in front of the curtain.
- New members are seated on the floor in front of the table.
- Big sisters and initiated members form a large semicircle around the new members.
- Alumnae, if present, stand behind the initiated members.

A picture of an anchor may be used; however, some chapters prefer to assemble an anchor during the ceremony.

Instructions for assembling an anchor are:

- Make a large anchor, a shield and a crossbar out of poster board.
- Purchase white rope to act as a cable.
- Pre-tape the shield and the crossbar so they will stick on the anchor.

- Make an easel for the anchor so it will stand.

Ceremony:

director of rituals: Through, friendship, our Fraternity has grown into the outstanding organization it is today.

First speaker:

Friendship is the foundation of our Fraternity, just as the anchor is the foundation of our symbols. The physical aspects of our organization — the members, officers, policies, programs and philanthropies — support the heart and soul of Delta Gamma which is friendship.

(If you are using an anchor that can be assembled, add the part at the appropriate times. If you are using the picture of the anchor, you will point to the picture at the appropriate times)

Second speaker: Our anchor is not an ordinary anchor. The shield and the crossbar add special beauty and sparkle. Our sisterhood, a special caring and respect for one another, is what raises our friendship above the ordinary.

(If you are using an anchor that can be assembled, place the white rope around the anchor to act as the cable. If you are using the picture of the anchor, point to the cable at the appropriate time.)

Third speaker: The cable makes our anchor whole. Winding about, touching every part, the cable of love ties every Delta Gamma to her sisters. This cable can be loose, weak and easily broken, or it can be strong and taut. We are putting our faith in you to be a strong link in the cable, which symbolizes our everlasting friendship and sisterhood.

director of rituals: Our Founders' friendship brought them close together, but they also reached out to include others in their circle. Chapter members, let us all join hands.

After the initiated members join hands, each big sister, one at a time, reads her choice of a quote or poem about friendship, sisterhood or love. When she finishes, she gives the reading to her little sister.

director of rituals: Our Founders' friendship is the foundation of our Fraternity. Their lives made a circle of friendship that was completely unselfish.

Speaker: You have experienced the friendship of your new member class. Now we want you to experience the friendship of our chapter and of the entire Fraternity.

Song leader: *(Leads the chapter in an appropriate song. "Dream Girl" is suggested.)*

One or more of the following sayings or poems may be read by a designated member.

“Friendship is the inexpressible comfort of feeling safe with a person, having neither to weigh thoughts nor to measure words.” - George Eliot

"Friendship is surely one of life's special miracles. When two people are united in friendship's spirit, the relationship assumes special light and life-giving qualities unlike any other. Friendships give richness to life and promises to the future." - Andrew Tawney

“All things created by love spread and grow and seem to last forever. Delta Gamma began as a soft glow in the hearts of three very dear friends and has now spread to every corner of the nation, growing to add new dimensions to the word FRIEND, and lasting to enrich the lives of thousands of women for over one hundred years. To choose the best of whatever you have to offer, fashion it with care, and give it with love, is the greatest treasure you can achieve for yourself. Even if your only reward is the way kind of accomplishment makes you feel, it will be reward enough. In Delta Gamma, we take the remnants of our time spent preparing for a career at college, stitch it with our talents, and give to each other the best sister we can possibly be.” - Juliet Ankerman, Beta Tau-Miami, September 30, 1981

Heartbeat

You may either give out something to the members representing a heart, or have everyone find their heartbeat, and close their eyes while they listen.

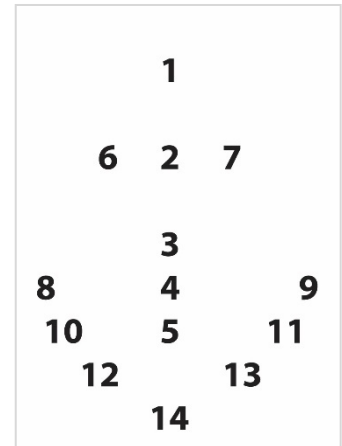
Speaker: Among many other things, we equate the heart with life, love and happiness. Within a human, the ideal heart would be strong, healthy and able to pump plenty of blood through the body. Our heart is essential to our life. If it failed, we would die and if it skipped a beat, we would be weakened and lose some of our momentum.

Each one of you is like a heart to Delta Gamma, since you, as members, bring life to our/your chapter. Your energy and enthusiasm is critical because it is the “blood” that keeps the chapter going. If one of you “skips a beat” by not participating, our/your group is weakened, and loses a bit of its momentum. And, of course, if we did not have any of you, Delta Gamma would completely cease to exist here at _____, just as a human would if they did not have a heart.

If you or I were a doctor checking a patient, we would want to hear a strong heartbeat. The way a person ensures this strong beat is to nourish the heart and keep it in good shape through diet and exercise. Just as you maintain your human hearts, so too, you must keep your DG hearts in shape by putting all of your talents, enthusiasm and wonderful personalities to use.

Delta Gamma is only as strong as the “hearts” that support it. All of the ingredients are here to ensure the healthy heartbeat of _____chapter — each and every one of YOU! If you, as individuals are healthy hearts full of life, love and happiness, then so too, will be Delta Gamma.

Usually end with reminding new members/members/alumnae/officer boards to think of their importance to the chapter, and whenever they feel their heartbeats, to think how they are essential to the life of the chapter. You can also use a cut-out heart and have them write one thing they are going to do to make the "heartbeat" of the chapter stronger. Then, have them sign the poster to remind them of their goals.



The Pearls of the Anchor

Formation of the anchor:

1. We bring to you the pearls of the golden anchor of Delta Gamma to symbolize the true meaning of the Fraternity.
2. I represent honor. Each Delta Gamma should strive to bring honor to her sisters and to be worthy of their esteem.
3. I represent loyalty. The responsibility of maintaining a good name for Delta Gamma is shared jointly by its new members and members. The chain of friendship and loyalty, which binds us together, brings much happiness to each member.
4. I represent faith. Make Delta Gamma strong by placing faith in the Fraternity as well as in the individual members.
5. I represent inspiration. With the world in great turmoil, we seek inspiration and find courage to face the future in the close companionship of the members of Fraternity.
6. I represent sisterhood. Delta Gamma gives us the opportunity to cultivate the qualities of friendship. It is our endeavor to make these ties everlasting.
7. I represent scholarship. Every Delta Gamma has scholastic responsibility to the Fraternity as well as to herself. Knowledge is the cornerstone of all success.
8. I represent leadership. The more you give to your Fraternity in service, the greater will be its return to you.
9. I represent the importance of activities to Delta Gamma. Each member should support Delta Gamma by participating in chapter, campus, and community activities. Each member should strive to bring recognition to the Fraternity.
10. I represent high ideals. Live your private life in keeping with the ideals of womanhood.
11. I represent social pleasure. Through Delta Gamma we learn to play together as well as work together.
12. I represent group harmony. Internal harmony resulting from the cooperation of all members is vital to chapter success and to the

happiness of all the individuals comprising the chapter. Remember always never to place your selfish desires above the wishes of the chapter.

13. I represent democratic spirit. Friendship with the non-fraternity woman should be cultivated, but it should be motivated by a common interest, not by an insincere condescension. The non-fraternity woman as well as members of other sororities can add greatly to your college experience.
14. These pearls comprise the perfect Delta Gamma anchor. May their luster be a guiding light for future generations and may the spirit of Delta Gamma be eternal.

Everyone: We do not love Delta Gamma because it is great. Delta Gamma is great because we love it!

Quilt Ceremony

This ceremony is designed to promote teamwork, enhance unity, celebrate individuality/diversity within a group, encourage creativity, foster the sharing of cultural interests, and/or reaffirm Delta Gamma principles.

Time: This project can take a day, a month, a semester, etc. based on how elaborate the group would like the resulting quilt to be.

Materials: The group can utilize any medium - fabric, paint, crayons, paper, glue, scissors, thread, or buttons - any craft items. If quilting fat quarters are utilized, you can find a great deal of variety within a color scheme - stripes, florals, tie-dyes, solids. Preparation for the final ceremony includes a wall where the final product can be pinned, taped, or tied together.

How to: First, the group chooses a theme(s) for a quilt - either one listed in the purpose area, or one they determine on their own. Each member then creates a square for the quilt, in keeping with the theme. For example; the group can choose "loyalty" and celebrating individuality/diversity within a group. Each sister does a square in a variation of a bronze color. Each variation can represent the individual who made the square (e.g., tie-dye vs. floral vs. solid vs. one with buttons). If there are 24 sisters - all the different squares come together in the similarity of our sisterhood (the quilt). The group needs all the pieces to be whole.

Ceremony: Once all the squares are finished, the ceremony can be performed. It is a basic ceremony, consisting of each member placing her square on the wall until it becomes a whole quilt. As she places the square on the wall, each sister says something inspirational about how she and/or her square relates to the theme of the quilt. Candles, flowers, etc. can enhance the atmosphere for the ceremony.

Variations: This can also be done as a Foundation project. The quilt can be made and given to charities, a local blind school (each square would have a certain texture), etc. This activity, if done with paper, can also be done as part of a workshop. If fabric is utilized, each pledge class can create their own quilt or wall

hanging for the chapter house. Stencils can be utilized on paper or on fabric. The quilt is only a medium for the bringing together of the individual talents of the sisterhood, represented by the separate squares of the quilt. Don't let your creativity be limited by the standard idea of a "quilt."

Ceremony written by Dana Max Frederickson, Alpha Rho-Ohio Wesleyan.

Secret Box Ritual

On the table in front of the director of rituals is a pretty box decorated with a simple wrapping (e.g. pink or blue tissue wrapping). Inside the box, so that the chapter members cannot see, is a cream colored rose and an anchor badge or a symbol of our badge.

Speaker: Tonight, I would like to talk to you about a very special gift each one of us received the moment we entered the bonds of sisterhood in Delta Gamma. That package we received was filled to the top with:

TRADITION	<i>(hold up candle and put in box)</i>
PRIDE	<i>(hold up letters and put in box)</i>
LOVE	<i>(hold up heart box and put in box)</i>
DEDICATION	<i>(hold up pledge pin and put in box)</i>
SUPPORT	<i>(hold up ribbons and put in box)</i>

The contents of that package are so special and so precious that they make the women of Delta Gamma unique throughout the world. They are what binds one Delta Gamma sister to every other. *(Close package.)*

On the day we were initiated into our Fraternity each of us received this gift. If you were anything like me, you were probably so thrilled you grabbed the package and tore it open as quickly as you could to see what was inside, just like a little girl on her birthday who just cannot wait to enjoy her new toys. But if you did that, you may not have noticed the care and love that went to preparing that special gift. Luckily, our formal chapters give us the perfect time to remember all the preparation that goes into our Delta Gamma package.

First speaker: The first thing I remember about my Delta Gamma gift was the stamp on it that said, "DO NOT OPEN UNTIL INITIATION." Just like a birthday gift cannot be opened until your birthday, rituals are a gift that cannot be received until Initiation day.

Second speaker: The second stamp I remember read, "POSTAGE REQUIRED." We have all paid our "postage" in many ways. We've paid our bills and dedicated our time and given all we have to give. We should all be proud of that, because nothing worthwhile comes without some cost and each of you has been proven worthy to receive your gift.

Third speaker: I also remember a stamp that demanded immediate attention: "TOP SECRET." Delta Gamma is unique from any other group of women in the entire world. And, just like any secret, once the mystery is common knowledge, once the mystery is no longer there, neither is the magic.

Fourth speaker: The stamp that read, “FRAGILE HANDLE WITH CARE” always reminded me Delta Gamma is just like a fragile, beautiful piece of crystal. It is something precious and if it is not treated with respect and care, it can become damaged and worse yet, it can shatter into millions or tiny pieces, never to be complete and beautiful again.

Fifth speaker: Then, of course, there was “FIRST CLASS.” Just like each of you, our Fraternity is first class, and that should make each of you proud.

director of rituals: Our package came with a lifetime guarantee and satisfaction guaranteed. There aren't too many things like that in the world. DG is designed to satisfy the scholar, the collegian, the alumna, the friend and the sister in all of us. And all of this is wrapped up in a beautiful package and stamped with the most important stamp of all: the “DELTA GAMMA SEAL OF APPROVAL.”

president: Delta Gamma is all these things and more. When you have put all of this into preparing the gift, only then can you open it up. Inside you will still find SUPPORT, DEDICATION, LOVE, PRIDE, and TRADITION. But...now you also find so much more. You find the true meaning of Delta Gamma.

As the president says the previous paragraph she places things in the box that symbolize the words she is speaking. For example, the words LOVE, DEDICATION and SUPPORT were Fourth Degree Watchwords for the last three new member classes. As chapter gifts to them, needlepoint pictures with these words on them were placed in the box so every member in the room would get a special feeling of what the “package” contained. After the above paragraph is spoken, a lid is placed on top of the box.

director of rituals: In that package is something so special that it makes the women of Delta Gamma unique and special. This package contains something so precious that it is one of the things that bonds one Delta Gamma with every other Delta Gamma in the entire world.

As the director of rituals speaks about “bonding one Delta Gamma to every other,” she takes a golden rope and ties it around the package. It should be tied in such a way it can be easily undone later in the ceremony.

director of rituals: This package contains your very own, very personal and precious rituals. Maybe on the day you were initiated, you were so thrilled you grabbed that package up and tore it open to get to what was inside. You may have been just like a child at her birthday that just can't wait to see what's inside. But if you did that, you may have failed to notice the care and love that went into preparing that package. In case you did, let's remember together about the outside of that package of rituals.

At this point the director of rituals should have the following “stamps” or “stick-ons” ready to place on the package:

- Do Not Open Until Your Birthday!
- No Postage Required
- Top Secret!
- Fragile, Handle With Care

- First Class
- Lifetime Guarantee
- Satisfaction Guaranteed
- Delta Gamma Seal of Approval

The stamps should be appropriately sized pieces of poster board that have those messages written on them in big, bold, and colorful ink. Tape should already be placed on the back to make the presentation run smoothly. As the director of rituals speaks about each of the “stamps” she places it somewhere on the package.

And all of this is wrapped up in a beautiful package and stamped with the most important stamp of all, THE DELTA GAMMA SEAL OF APPROVAL! Your rituals were created over one hundred years ago and were given the approval of the three women who founded our great Fraternity.

Please, remember and respect your rituals.

Adapted from ceremony written by Patti Millison, Epsilon Tau-Central Florida.

Senior Goodbye Ceremony

Instructions:

This ritual honoring graduating seniors may be performed at the final chapter meeting prior to end of the semester/quarter. The director of rituals should select one member from each member class, newest initiates, sophomore member and junior member to prepare a short paragraph about the graduating seniors as a whole. When selecting these women make sure they don't single out individuals but instead talk about the entire senior class focusing on the topic identified in her section.

director of rituals: Tonight, we celebrate and honor our graduating seniors.

director of senior programming: Our seniors leave behind something extremely important for each of us. Our seniors give us the example of what Delta Gamma is supposed to be.

Speaker 1: [new initiate member speaks about senior influence – she may choose to focus on looking up to them / the positive example they have set]

president: We thank the seniors for the example they have given members in their first year. Thank you for being the sisters who taught us how to become the women we want to be and for empowering us to know, that we can accomplish anything with each other.

Speaker 2: [sophomore about senior influence – she may choose to focus on affection and paying it forward]

president: We thank the seniors for teaching us to be the heart of Delta Gamma. You were always an example of how to be enjoy membership but also an example of how to be someone who always thinks of her influence on others, and the affect that influence can have.

Speaker 3: [junior about senior influence – she may choose to focus on devotion to friends and mentorship]

president: We thank the seniors for being our strongest influence in DG. You were the first faces we saw on Bid Day, the people we trusted to show us how to be members of Delta Gamma. You were our big sisters as we went through the new member period and held our hands on our Initiation Day. We thank you for being there for us.

director of rituals: Seniors, we thank you for being an example of what Delta Gamma should be: a woman filled with intellect, affection for others, and a strong devotion for her sisters. We will miss you next year and the years to follow. But what you have given us we will never lose. As you say goodbye to your college days, we know that you will continue to live out the values and the ritual of Delta Gamma in your alumnae life.

director of senior programming (optional): We hope you see what you have done for us, now we ask you to share with us your hopes for us.

OPTIONAL: fireside where seniors are given the opportunity to speak and give advice based on her experience in Delta Gamma

Adapted from ceremony written by Hope Whitsell, Gamma Zeta-Louisiana State.

Welcome for New Alumnae Members

president: I would like to welcome every member here (tonight/today) and especially those Delta Gammas who have indicated their wish to become members of our chapter (association). We are encouraged by your attendance and strengthened by your membership. We are confident you will find many friends and much personal satisfaction in your fellowship with this group.

For those just out of college and new to the alumnae organization, for those alumnae new to our community and for those of our regular membership, this is an appropriate time to pause and reflect on our role in Delta Gamma Fraternity. The goal of the alumnae program is to further the ideals of Delta Gamma in fostering friendships, in promoting educational and cultural interests, and in developing social responsibility and fine character.

Tonight, let each Delta Gamma remember the vows of her Initiation. Let us remember Delta Gamma charges us to develop the ideals of the Fraternity, to contribute service to our collegians and to be responsible members of the community.

Delta Gamma is a golden chain forged together by the bonds of friendship and mutual understanding. Each of us must participate as a link in the chain, giving

assistance, enthusiasm and cooperation as we contribute to the progress of Delta Gamma.

Readings

These passages are suitable to be added to Inspiration, a formal chapter, or any other chapter event to help inspire or set a tone for the chapter.

A Delta Gamma Sister

There are lots of sisters in the world, but there aren't many quite as special as a DG sister! She's someone you can look up to and admire ... because she's a lot of things you'd like to be yourself. You know you can trust her with anything you have, including your opinions, your ideas, and your most special secrets.

You can tell her your problems (the kind only a sister would understand), and you can count on her to give you all the time you need to talk, for she's one of the best listeners there ever was! And then she can be really honest with her advice in her own special way because her concern for you is genuine.

When it comes to "being there" just when you need her, there's no one like a DG sister. She's right there to help, always ready with an encouraging word or just the solution you sometimes can't seem to find for yourself.

A DG sister is someone you respect - and who respects you back. Her kindness and consideration for you make her the first to notice when you've done something well and one of the few who know you've made a mistake and doesn't seem to notice at all!

She is usually someone with whom you've had your ups and downs because, after all, you are two different people.

But in learning to accept each other you find that, though there have been times when you've decided to "go it alone," there have been just as many times when having that DG sister around has meant more to you than you could ever express.

The beauty of it all is your relationship just keeps getting stronger and better all the time ... because you've become more than "family," you've become friends as well.

And that's why there's no one you enjoy quite like a DG sister, because she knows you through and through. It's so comfortable and refreshing to know that, around her, you can be totally at ease, free to be yourself. That's also why the memories you share of your special times together are some of your most precious possessions!

The Diamond

When one attempts to describe something very close to the heart, when one ponders over deep roads and realizes the powers of expression have failed, then sometimes it is better to compare this thing that cannot be grasped to something we can see and touch. So it is with our Delta Gamma. You see, we fought for words to describe our bond, the pride in that tiny little anchor, our

struggles to better each other and ourselves. Oh, we thought of love, friendship, loyalty, but these words heard so often come to mean very little. And so, we wish to compare our Delta Gamma to a diamond, one just lifted from the quarry, rough and untouched by gentle skill.

Below the rough surface of the diamond, lies a secret and unique beauty to be saved. With deliberate care, the stone may be shaped into a jewel with countless facets reflecting light in all directions. And so, it is with Delta Gamma, below our surface lies a secret beauty for only you to discover. You will find diverse and far flung natures, each wanting to give a part of herself to something bigger and greater than the selfish individual. We give to each other and in doing so we are like the facets of the diamond, each with a common base, but shining in all directions. It is in this course of giving our nebulous bond is formed.

But you, you whom we want to take this diamond to your hearts, are you expected to see the beauty of an uncut jewel? As you hold it in your hand it is glittering and alluring, but only through toil and tears does the diamond become an object of value and pride. With Delta Gamma, her warmth radiates only from the love and care you give to her.

Now you who are questioning the worth of the diamond, it would be so easy to fling the stone back into the earth before you have really tried to know its true beauty. But you would be tossing your riches away. We wish we could tell you, but we cannot. We can only say that, if you take this diamond into your heart and carve it with gentle determination, you can make it as beautiful as your wish commands and as your interests can inspire. You are the only one who can pursue it - only you can take the diamond out of the world of objects and sensation and place it inside your being. May each of you find your diamond within our Delta Gamma.

First Initiation Address, by Anna Boyd Ellington

Read at an anchored event or an informal ritual, or email to the group at a special time.

"Dear Sister, you are now a member of the Delta Gamma Club. Ours is an associate sisterhood, based upon sincere desire for mutual improvement. Its cementing element is love; its stimulating principle, truth; its watchword, duty and we welcome you cordially to the advantages of our club.

May the cherished name of Delta Gamma, which you have just so solemnly assumed, ever serve to remind you much is expected of you. Let this symbol of the badge of our organization (*hold up anchor*) be to you a faithful monitor. In the hours of study, in the joyous moments when life's bright visions flit before you, and hope smiles tenderly above, in the dark hour when time's unceasing oracles speak naught but lamentations and woe to the bruised spirit may this bright monitor recall to your memory the noble truths which are inculcated here, and which are so beautifully illustrated by this design.

You may imagine our duties too laborious, our discipline too exacting, but while we extend to you the encouragement and sympathy of sisters, we would warn

you with equal fidelity that nothing good or great has ever been achieved without toil and attention, and it is because we would have you prepare for an honorable womanhood that here in the morning of life we would stimulate you to constant earnest effort.

Be faithful to yourself, act well to your part and then when life's young dream is past the battles of life fought and won, and the mellow light of evening gathers around your pathway, the scenes enacted here will rise upon your memory like constellations on the evening sky to cheer and comfort you."

Friendship Tree

Delta Gamma to us
is like a friendship tree.
The sisters, like branches
held tight yet away free.
To the trunk of our tree
we are securely united
In a family of love,
our lives truly enlightened.
In the trunk, understanding is
the gift that we store
And a smile that one
always looks for.
From the tip of our tree
to the highest peak
In our hearts that
we unendingly seek.

Written by Beta Tau-Miami (Florida).

Getting Involved

The other day at work I was doing a particularly tedious task and was feeling rather down. Nothing seemed to be happening according to my expectations. I was behind schedule at work, the fences were falling down around the barn, the house needed cleaning, etc. Then I happened to hear the merry chiming of the little metal birds fastened to the light fixture over my head. I sat back and looked up at the small birds suspended on nylon wires. Four of them, with their wings outstretched, touched each other with every little breath of air. Two others, although their wings were close to their bodies, were touched by the four and also contributed to the musical sound. The seventh (and last) small bird hung off to the side by himself and rarely ever joined in the chorus. His wings were not open enough to touch the other owls and only a very strong gust of air conditioning would push him into the other owls and force him to contribute to the sound.

I couldn't help but reflect on how like people those small birds were. Some go around in life with their arms out, touching and influencing almost everyone with whom they come in contact with. Others are less open, but they contribute their

share if they are encouraged or slightly prodded. And of course, we all probably know at least one person like the seventh owl who must have a tremendous blast of air to get him to do his part. (Now you know why I'm behind schedule at work—I philosophize on the job!)

Job politics and limitations tether us and limit us in what we can do, just like the birds attached to their nylon wires. We can only swing and influence so far. However, if we do go with an open and positive attitude, our ideas and achievements can't help but touch coworkers, family, and friends, and contribute to the general satisfaction of all parties. We influence those people who are like the birds with closed wings, and encourage them to participate and become more open. Generally, we become more discontent and bewildered without communication and the sharing of ideas; we lose our sense of direction and go in our own little circles like the seventh bird, never growing or reaching out to others. Associating with colleagues and friends, making just a little more effort to be positive instead of negative, pitching in to help when needed, or just giving a cheery hello to someone ... all these things can put a little extra sing in our lives and those around us.

Written by Marjorie Loxley.

Honor Code

Excerpts from the Honor Board Handbook-Code of Honor written by Gamma Zeta, published in the first Honor Board Handbook. The Code of Honor, with minor modifications, is printed below.

“Friendship is more than a gift. It is a sweet responsibility. Sisterhood involves thought... thought on our part for the consideration of others. It takes a constant effort to establish and maintain those ties of friendship that we seek in Delta Gamma. We need to respect the individuality of other people and be aware of how our behavior affects them. Fraternity life can be a rewarding and enriching experience. Because we do not all live together, we must learn to work together to become a little more kind, a little more thoughtful and a little more giving than when we first came to Delta Gamma. As a group we encourage intellectual growth and achievement, so a woman's reason for attending the university is fulfilled, group participation so that concepts and individual beliefs can be strengthened by challenge and discussion; associations, so individual ties can be built within an overall framework; and Fraternity understanding, so traditions and past experiences can be used to give greater appreciation for the present. Our attitudes and conduct are a reflection upon our chapter, as well as upon the Fraternity and the university. Although we consider ourselves as individuals, the university views us as a whole. Careful consideration of our actions will promote positive feelings toward the organization. All efforts should be made to establish honest and friendly relationships among students, the Greek population, faculty and the local community. All efforts will also be made to establish honest and friendly relationships with our alumnae. As members of Delta Gamma, we strive

to uphold the high standards of our Fraternity. We also endeavor to preserve the proud reputation that has been established by our alumnae. Every effort will be made to maintain positive communications with our alumnae and to instill a sense of alumnae involvement in our collegiate members. We will do our best to promote a happy and comfortable atmosphere. Concerns will be made in a straightforward and private manner with the woman involved, with the appropriate officer, or with Honor Board. Undercurrents can be destructive and contagious; they rarely achieve positive results and almost always have a negative impact on the morale of our chapter. Honesty is an expected virtue of every member of Delta Gamma. Actions should be handled with discretion. In speech, forethought and discretion will be applied at all times. One should think before speaking. Above all, it is important to remember being a Delta Gamma means we represent a larger sisterhood. Our individual actions are an indication of our style of life and those who influence us. At all times, we are to conduct ourselves in a manner that will bring credit to ourselves, to our chapter and to Delta Gamma Fraternity."

The Giving Tree

Once there was a tree ... and she loved a little boy. And every day the boy would come, and he would gather her leaves and make them into crowns and play king of the forest. He would climb up her trunk and swing from her branches and eat apples. And they would play hide-and-go-seek. And when he was tired, he would sleep in her shade. And the boy loved the tree ... very much. And the tree was happy. But time went by. And the boy grew older. And the tree was often alone.

Then one day the boy came to the tree, and the tree said, "Come, Boy, come and climb up my trunk and swing from my branches and eat apples and play in my shade and be happy."

"I am too big to climb and play," said the boy. "I want to buy things and have fun. I want some money. Can you give me some money?"

"I'm sorry," said the tree, "but I have no money. I have only leaves and apples. Take my apples, Boy, and sell them in the city. Then you will have money, and you will be happy."

And so the boy climbed up the tree and gathered her apples and carried them away. And the tree was happy. But the boy stayed away for a long time ... and the tree was sad.

And then one day the boy came back, and the tree shook with joy, and she said, "Come, Boy, climb up my trunk and swing from my branches and be happy."

"I am too busy to climb trees," said the boy. "I want a house to keep warm," he said. "I want a wife, and I want children, and so I need a house. Can you give me a house?"

"I have no house," said the tree. "The forest is my house, but you may cut off my branches and build a house. Then you will be happy."

And so the boy cut off her branches and carried them away to build his house. And the tree was happy.

But the boy stayed away for a long time. And when he came back, the tree was so happy she could hardly speak. "Come, Boy," she whispered, "come and play."

"I am too old and sad to play," said the boy "I want a boat that will take me far away from here. Can you give me a boat?"

"Cut down my trunk and make a boat," said the tree. "Then you can sail away ... and be happy."

And so the boy cut down her trunk and made a boat and sailed away. And the tree was happy ... but not really. And after a long time the boy came back again.

"I am sorry, Boy," said the tree, "but I have nothing left to give you - my apples are gone."

"My teeth are too weak for apples," said the boy.

"My branches are gone," said the tree, "You cannot swing on them---"

"I am too old to swing on branches," said the boy.

"My trunk is gone," said the tree. "You cannot climb."

"I am too tired to climb," said the boy.

"I am sorry," sighed the tree. "I wish that I could give you something ... but I have nothing left. I am just an old stump. I am sorry ..."

"I don't need very much now," said the boy, "just a quiet place to sit and rest. I am very tired."

"Well," said the tree, straightening herself up as much as she could, "well an old stump is good for sitting and resting. Come, Boy, sit down. Sit down and rest."

And the boy did. And the tree was happy.

Written by Shel Silverstein. (New York: Harper & Row, Publishers), 1964.

The Legend of Hannah

"Well, well, well, Hannah, My Delta Gamma ..." There isn't a Delta Gamma around who doesn't know and love our mascot Hannah. Born out of the love for an old rag doll, Hannah has become a symbol of the ideal DG, and of the ideal friend.

Hannah is, indeed, the ideal image for Delta Gamma. She's loyal and true, and engraved over her heart for anyone to read is "I LOVE YOU." She's more than that, however. Unlike our anchor and our cream rose, which are symbols of golden

ideals, our Hannah is based on fun. She's the ungainly freshman who pledges DG and becomes an instant femme fatale! "Heartless Hannah, she's a Delta Gamma, she's the hottest baby in town..." and even if she isn't, she is loved by all her sisters.

Hannah's the girl you can throw all the punches at and she still comes back smiling. She's the one you snuggle up to and tell all of your secrets to. Hannah's devoted to her work, to her sisters, to the anchor. She wears both the Pi Alpha and the anchor badge. She's anybody willing to give of herself. No other organization has a symbol like Hannah—a member we can poke fun at, have fun with and just plain love. That's quite a lot for an old rag doll, but then ... SHE'S QUITE A SISTER!

Living our Ritual – What It Means

May be read during an examination of Article II, the Delta Gamma Philosophy or as an introduction to an informal ritual.

"There is no greater accomplishment within the Fraternity than living our ritual. By exploring the values and meanings of Delta Gamma, we may become better people and encourage others to do the same. The purpose of the rituals program is to create members' awareness of the Fraternity rituals and the philosophy of the rituals. The aim is to make rituals a part of everyday life.

By living the ritual of Delta Gamma, members can strive to uphold the values and beliefs of the Fraternity in all they do. Rituals are the ties that bind us together and what set us apart from other organizations."

A Look at the Anchor of Delta Gamma

For most of us, our commitment to Delta Gamma began early in our college careers, about the same time as we cast our first vote, moved away from our childhood homes for the first time and pulled all-nighters for exams, hopefully for the last time. Each of us, in her own time and place, pledged Delta Gamma. We couldn't wait to learn about the heritage of Delta Gamma. We couldn't wait to be initiated or to become part of this joyous sisterhood or to wear the anchor badge!

The anchor badges - such big decisions! Rose engraved? Or plain? Four pearls or all pearls? White gold? Diamonds? And then they arrived! And the date of Initiation was on the back, and you were irrefutably identified as another link in the chain that has joined strong and wonderful women together in sisterhood for more than a century.

One of the beauties of Delta Gamma is that no matter how long it's been since a big sis first pinned a gold anchor over your heart, the anchor of Delta Gamma remains virtually unchanged. Of course, sometimes, we forget to wear our anchor. But we never forget what it means to be a Delta Gamma and to pledge ourselves to "Do Good."

Written by Rachel McDougal Bishop, Gamma Epsilon-Kent State.

New Member Sail

Today, your Big Sister will set sail a ship, a special one: the Delta Gamma ship. It is very special because she crafted it. Each is unique and special, just as each one of you is. As your ships cross the water, think about its course, just as you discovered the course you took to get here today. It traveled through good days and sunshine and bad days and storms, but in the end, it reached its final destination: Delta Gamma. So, set your sails high for the course ahead as an initiated member in Delta Gamma.

Raggedy Ann

Note: Consider having big sisters make paper Hannah dolls for their little sisters to present to them after this reading.

It almost broke my heart when my little daughter looked into the toy shop window, seeing that big beautiful doll in the Parisian silk dress and said, "Oh Mommy, wouldn't it be wonderful to have that doll for my birthday?" I agreed heartily, knowing full well in these depression years I could never afford it.

When we got home, I immediately began gathering materials together to make my daughter a doll. I found enough neutral-colored material for the arms, head, and body, but just not enough for the legs, so I cut them from an old red and white striped tablecloth, which made the doll look as if she wore bright stockings. I made the feet look like basic black shoes.

For the hair, the only acceptable yarn scraps we had in the house were from a little orange-red sweater her grandmother had knitted her last year. They weren't the fine golden strands that were on that store window doll, but they would have to do.

I could not claim any great artistic ability, but I did my best as I embroidered the little curved line mouth, triangle nose, and the tiny little eyelashes on the face. The eyes were from a box of stray buttons, and the two I picked were extras from the little school dress she had worn for the first time last year. She had looked so cute in it and so frightened when I sent her off to class on her first day. I picked the material scraps of her favorite blue gingham dress to make the dress for her doll, and I added a little apron, a lace collar, and a bow in the hair.

When I looked at the finished product I realized it was just a simple rag doll that could never pretend to compare with a fancy store-bought doll. Never the less, it was wrapped and waiting for my daughter when her birthday arrived. And I must say I was pleasantly surprised by the warm reception she gave to this little cloth figure, stuffed and stitched with love.

"She is the most beautiful doll I have ever seen, Mommy. I will call her Ann, and she will be my best friend."

"I'm afraid she is not as elegant as the one in the toy shop," I reminded her, so she would not get her hopes up for a better present in the next box.

"But Ann is much better; she smiles at me and makes me feel happy."

I took my little girl into my arms and tried to hide my tears in her hugs. “Thank you so much, Mommy,” she whispered, “Ann is the most special friend I’ll ever have.”

The Raggedy Ann doll not only became internationally known and loved, but it is also still one of the most popular toys sold today. So, it is with all things created by love. They spread and grow and seem to last forever.

Delta Gamma began as a soft glow in the hearts of three very dear friends and has now spread to every corner of North America, growing to add new dimension to the word “friend” and lasting to enrich the lives of thousands of women for over one hundred and twenty-five years.

To choose the best of whatever you have to offer, fashion it with care, and give it with love, is the greatest treasure you can achieve for yourself. Even if your only reward is the way that kind of accomplishment makes you feel, it will be reward enough.

Raggedy Ann was made with remnants of cloth and given to a beloved daughter. In Delta Gamma, we take the remnants of our time spent preparing for a career at college, stitch it with our talents, give it to each other, and be the best sister we can possibly be.

The Ship

We were adrift on the sea. For a long time, we have been wandering. Shifting winds had cast us about, storms had pervaded the nights and yet, sunny days broke through now and then and seemed to give us hope and purpose for our venture. Nevertheless, doubt crept in and brought us sleepless hours. Our goal we knew - and still it was so uncertain. When would we reach our haven? When if ever, could we find rest and the satisfaction of achieving our journey’s end?

Yet we were determined. Not the chill of the wind, not the fog that permeated the air could turn us from our path. At one time, when hope was running low, through a cloudy sky a kite appeared. It waved to and fro in the sky. It laughed at the winds and scorned the land over which it flew. Flirting merrily, it seemed to beckon us near. Nearer we approached, feeling a signal had come. But many were not anxious to follow the kite and seemed to hope for a more definite sign. Too, the winds that directed our course blew us out farther to sea.

On we went and soon night descended upon us. Darker and darker it grew until a crescent moon appeared and lighted our way. How bright it shone in the sky and how bright the stars it enshrined. But as the night grew on, the stars faded, leaving only a memory of dazzling brightness—and the crescent moon vanished as quickly as it had appeared.

Once more day broke, finding us seeking and hoping. Now we looked eagerly for a sign—sometimes we fancied things we didn’t see—so intent we were on launching our boat to some near shore. At noon a terrible calm fell upon us. We were vanquished.

And when hope ran lowest, a cry rang out from our group—for not far in the distance a glittering arrow seemed to point the way to a verdant shore. For a while our troubles vanished, and we felt the goal at hand. Yet, when the winds came and carried us closer, our eyes searched onward into the horizon. We could not stop here. Soon twilight settled about; gray, and lonely, and still; but we were not yet ready to turn our craft into a harbor. Something within us repeated, “Go farther, do not lose sight of your goal, you will find it only by searching.”

Another island came into view, a green haven in a blue sea. It looked safe to us, safe and inviting, for there was a beautiful golden key lying on the shore. It coaxed us, seeming to hope we might enter the doors it unlocked. But search as we did, no portals revealed themselves. Its use was lost to us, for a key minus a lock did not symbolize warmth and happiness. But certain our goal must be near, we again turned our prow forward.

“Will we never realize our dream,” our hearts cried out silently. “Must we forever be towed about in this great sea of uncertainty?” Even our small craft, lurching to and fro in the dark night, was anxious to enter a quiet harbor for rest.

We traveled endlessly onward. Then suddenly, as if heaven made daylight only for us, the sun flamed over the horizon, and there, in our very own boat, lay an anchor shining, strong, silent, and golden. Its arms were thrown open on either side, as if to embrace us in its powerful grip. Joy, contentment, friendship and great happiness entered our hearts. This was our signal at last. Nothing was lacking. Now we had indication enough to pause and fix our ideals and dreams for which we had traveled so far and searched so long. Quietly the anchor spoke, and with these few words, we knew our goal was realized.

Unity

I was about eight years old when I found the best toy I ever owned. It was what I then considered to be a group of “real, live friends” that could come out and play whenever I wanted. I was the youngest of four children, the older three all being much older than I and moved away from home. We lived in a suburb that was pretty isolated and I had to be driven to and picked up from school by my mother. Therefore, I didn’t have friends come over or go to friends’ houses often. So, you can imagine when I found these friends I was very anxious to play with them.

My new friends were the entire Disney cartoon family. They resided on an old puzzle that once belonged to my older sisters and brother. I’ll never forget how I raced into the living room to show my mother my “new” toy. She laughed when she saw it and told me how my sisters used to compete to put it together. She couldn’t believe something that old was still in the house. I promptly told her I was going to put it together and then invite all my new, old friends to a “tea party” (I’d always wanted to have a really big tea party).

I dumped all the pieces out of the box and began turning them face up. The edges were all worn and some of them were bent. The colors that composed the faces and the clothing of the once bright characters were now dull and faded. But I didn’t mind. In my mind they were the brightest colors I had ever seen. With

each new face I found, I held up the piece and said “see Mom, look, it’s Cinderella” or “Thumper” or whomever it turned out to be. She would laugh and tell me it had been Jane’s (my oldest sister) or Kim’s (next older) favorite character.

Once I had the pieces all turned over I began to put them together. My mother began to tell me stories about my brother and my sisters. She told me about how my brother Frank used to wreck the puzzle just to get my sisters’ attention. Once one of the puzzle pieces accidentally fell into the sink filled with water and my mom had to fish it out for a hysterical Jane who had stolen the piece from Kim who then locked herself in the bathroom. I took it that they were much younger than I at the time because I was too mature to EVER do something like that. She kept telling me stories as I put my friends carefully together.

Within an hour I had finished putting all the pieces together, but the puzzle still wasn’t complete! I started to cry, and my Mom bent down and looked at the puzzle and said “Well, honey it is an old puzzle, and like I said your brother and sisters were always fighting over it. It’s only natural some of the pieces would be lost.” I didn’t find this very comforting and just cried more, breathing between sobs that I wanted all the pieces and how could I invite just parts of my friends to a tea party? She hugged me and then said she had to start dinner, but she’d see what she could do.

I was all prepared to go crying to my daddy when he came home and make him fix my puzzle (because dads can fix anything for an eight-year-old girl) but instead I was surprised to find him carrying a present for me. I quickly opened it, my tear stained cheeks began to dry; inside was another Disney cartoon puzzle. But I didn’t want it. It wasn’t old and loved like my puzzle. It was new and cold from being in the car and it smelled funny—not like mothballs. I started to cry. When I finally managed to explain why I didn’t like it my dad suggested that we just take some of the pieces from the new one and put into the old one to fix it. I gave this some thought and decided that was the best idea EVER!

So, I ran to the living room and dumped my new puzzle all over the floor and quickly turned over the pieces with the help of my father. But the puzzle wasn’t exactly the same. The pieces did not fit in the right places. I started to cry. That night I went to bed and cried myself to sleep thinking about my friends who weren’t quite whole and that I had no way to fix. I kept thinking about how sad they must feel, and I ached for them.

School was long because I kept thinking about the empty spaces in my friends’ cartoon. But, when my mother came to pick me up she told me she had a surprise for me. She figured out how to fix the puzzle. School was nothing compared to the 15-minute drive home, I was so anxious. Mom pulled into the driveway and we both jumped out of the car. She took my hand and we ran all the way up to the front door and into the living room. Then she took out a box and showed me a bunch of puzzle pieces that she had made and drawn the outline of the missing parts of the incomplete characters. She showed me how they all fit and told me that all I had to do was color in the outline. I was so excited. The new pieces fit so perfectly and were unique and made with such loving care that how could I help but not love them? I immediately began to

color them with my crayons, being extra careful, of course, to stay inside the lines. When I finished I put them all in the puzzle and then stood back to look at them.

They were obviously different from the others, but they were special. They seemed to me to add more love and warmth to the puzzle than it had before because the loving care that went into making them. I must have hugged my mother for ten minutes to thank her and when I looked up there were tears in her eyes. Today I gave that very same puzzle to my daughter. I am sure in time she, too, will lose pieces and I will make new ones for her just as my mother did for me. I hope that someday she gives it to her little girl and makes new pieces for her. Although some day, there may not be any original pieces of the puzzle left, they will be remembered as the story of the puzzle is passed along. It is this story that will make the puzzle a most cherished gift.

The Value of Secrecy

From the moment we cross the threshold of fraternity life and take the vows of our sisterhood, we have laid upon ourselves most solemn and sacred obligations. If these vows mean what they should to us, we cannot guard them too carefully. These passwords, mottoes and emblems were not chosen by the Greek letter fraternities as mere matters of form; but as wellsprings of action as motives and rules of life. They are the Lares and Penates of every Fraternity man and woman and should be honored, obeyed, and guarded as carefully as were the household gods of the ancients.

We do not violate our absolute Oath of Secrecy, at least not in the letter of the law, but there is a difference between outward loyalty and being real and true in our own hearts. These rules have been adopted for a purpose and if we use them and incorporate them into our lives they will serve as food for our better natures. They will strengthen and help us to act well our part in life. Only then are they serving the end for which they were created, while we are living up to our full privileges as Greeks.

Robert South once said, "The soul and spirit that animates and keeps up society is mutual trust." This is doubly true of the fraternity. The whole structure of our sisterhood rests upon the foundation of trust in its individual members. Each one is responsible for the security of the whole edifice. Hence absolute secrecy in all things relative to our order is not only vital to the best interests of the Fraternity, but also the fact we are expected to keep perfectly the vows thus imposed upon us has likewise a stimulating effect upon our lives. Since we know we are trusted, we determine to be worthy of that trust. It appeals to our honor, and our nature responds and strives to reach its highest ideal.

If we allow our forms and ceremonies to become mere formalities, only to be looked up for Initiation, we cannot expect them to be of much service to us, and we become in fact, only a social club, which, while pleasant enough, does not answer the purpose of the secret fraternity. Let us animate these forms by putting an active, living force into them, thrill them with our own intensity of purpose, and let our watchword keep the door of our hearts while we follow the advice of Polonius,

“To thine own self be true; and it must follow, as the night the day, thou canst not then be false to any man.”

Edited from an issue of the 1899 ANCHORA.

Velveteen Rabbit

This is the story of The Velveteen Rabbit, a children’s tale presenting a basic quality of human understanding.

At first, the rabbit, a Christmas present for a young lad, is put aside for other toys, for he is only made of velveteen and stuffed with sawdust—not nearly as exciting as the expensive mechanical toys.

During his stay in the nursery, the rabbit strikes up an acquaintance with the skin horse, which had lived longer in the nursery than anyone. In fact, the skin horse, wise from watching beautiful mechanical toys break and be thrown away had been loved so much his tail was almost gone, his skin was rubbed bare in spots, and his legs were wobbly from being ridden.

One day, the rabbit asks the skin horse, “What is real? Does it mean having things that buzz inside you and a stick-out handle?” The skin horse tells the rabbit, “Real isn’t how you are made. It’s a thing that happens to you. When someone loves you for a long time—not just to play with—but really loves you, then you become real.”

“Does it hurt?” the rabbit asked.

“Sometimes,” the skin horse said. “But when you are real, you don’t mind being hurt. Becoming real doesn’t happen all at once,” the skin horse tells the rabbit. “Generally, by the time you are real, most of your hair has been loved off and your eyes drop out, and you are loose in the joints and very shabby. But these things don’t matter at all, because once you are real, you can’t be ugly except to people who don’t understand. And once you are real, you can’t become unreal again—it lasts forever.”

The rabbit dreams of becoming real. One day, after he had become a special pet, he hears the little boy call him real. “It must be true,” he thinks. The velveteen is rubbed smooth in many places, his ears are worn, and his pink nose is almost gone from receiving many kisses.

But the rabbit is taken away to be burned one day, for his master has scarlet fever. Before he is destroyed, the magic fairy comes and tells the rabbit she is going to make him real. “But I thought I was real,” the rabbit said. “You were real to the little boy. Now I will make you real to the whole world.” Then she tells the velveteen rabbit:

If your velveteen starts to lose its sheen,
Don’t go; don’t go.
If your arms don’t move and your ear’s askew,
Who knows, who knows?

Love is a major part of every beating heart,
And so I know
Love has made you real, in this life you'll feel aglow
I know, who loved you so.

And so it is with Delta Gamma. We are "stuffed" with many years of Delta Gamma love and sisterhood. Our anchor has changed slightly over the years, but our ideals have survived. We change to meet the modern world, but we always will keep our bond of love and friendship.

Ritual Events

Candle Pass

A candle passing is a traditional way to honor someone who has a special celebratory announcement. It is typically arranged secretly between the member and the director of rituals. All participants stand in a circle. The designated person, typically the director of rituals or the president, begins the candle pass.

Always use a votive candle in a holder so it will not get hot and is large enough to retain a flame for as long as the pass may last. An electronic or battery-operated candle is recommended.

You may consider making candle passes special for members by decorating the candle with ribbons, flowers, bows, etc. and giving the candle to the woman to keep as a remembrance.

During the first pass, the candle remains lit. The first pass symbolizes friendship. On consecutive passes, the person honored blows the candle out for following announcements:

- Second pass—pinned (when a member is given her partner's pin; pre-engagement)
- Third pass—engagement or a planned wedding or if wedding has taken place
- Fourth pass—baby/grandbaby announcement (alumnae)

If there is more than one announcement, repeat the process.

POLICY: Candle/Open Flame

Open flames/candles may not be used in chapter facilities

Firesides and Fireside Activities

A fireside is an informal ritual allowing each member/new member an opportunity to reflect on her Delta Gamma experiences in a positive and dignified manner. A Hannah doll, cream rose or other significant item, such as an anchor badge, may be passed. Candles should not be used. *The intent of a fireside is always for positive reflection and to grow sisterhood. It is not a time for negative feelings or venting about someone or a particular event/happening.*

Firesides are typically facilitated by the director of rituals and can incorporate a specific theme to help focus the shared comments to help meet the chapter's goals for the event. Ideas for themes include:

- Why are you glad to be a Delta Gamma?
- Why did you join Delta Gamma?
- Name one positive thing Delta Gamma has given to you.

Variation for Large Chapters:

The ideas below will help large chapters of more than 125 women conduct a meaningful fireside within a reasonable time frame.

- Divide participants randomly into small groups (8-10) and draw a topic to discuss from a hat. Example: If you had one wish for the chapter, what would it be and why?
- Divide chapter into member classes and give each member class a prompt as described above.
- Ask members and new members to respond to the prompt in 30 seconds or less or finish the prompt with a short phrase.

Fireside Connections

Connect with your sisters: a great way to connect a new or young group with each other, or to take a step back from the business aspects of Delta Gamma and think about your sisters and friends

- Have the group sit in a large circle and ask a few members to stand in the middle of the circle.
- Ask the sitting members to close their eyes while a speaker reads out questions.
- As the questions/statements are read, the standing members walk around and tap people on the head indicating that the statement applies to that person.
- **Have the standing members switch every so often so others get a chance to touch someone who influences them.**
- Possible questions/statements (Touch someone who ...)
 - Makes you laugh
 - You wish you knew better
 - You remember from recruitment when you went through
 - Is a leader
 - You admire
 - Is a good big sister
 - Has taught you something important
 - Has shared a secret with you
 - Is a friend
 - You trust
 - You respect
 - Really lives OUT LOUD
 - Is a good listener
 - Has helped you when you needed it most
 - Lives up to our motto of do good
 - Can really brighten your day
 - You can depend on
 - You can count on in DG
 - Really carries the team
 - Has made you try harder
 - Has inspired you
 - Stays positive about change
 - Is fun to be with

- You have shared a secret with
 - Has touched your life
 - Gives it their all
 - Has given you good advice
 - Is very special to you
 - Sets a good example for the new members
 - Is very strong
 - Does a good job
 - Makes you proud to be a DG
 - Challenges you
 - Shows compassion
 - You appreciate
 - You believe in
 - Has recently done something nice for you
 - With values you admire
 - With a good sense of humor
 - With dreams and ability to make them happen
 - Is creative
 - Represents the 5 points of the star
 - With good ideas
 - Is reliable
 - Is patient
 - Is forgiving
 - Is a great sister
 - Represents the group well
 - Represents the values of Delta Gamma
- Questions can be tailored to fit the Fraternity guidelines or chapter-specific events and should encourage positive connections between members.

Memorial Ceremony Options

The purpose of a memorial ceremony is to provide chapter members the time and opportunity to honor a sister who has died.

In addition to the ceremony, the chapter may want to consider the possibility of a lasting tribute such as a memorial scholarship or memorial donations. If this is planned, friends and relatives should be advised. Contributions, in lieu of flowers, may be made in honor of the deceased member.

The Delta Gamma Foundation is an excellent suggestion for memorial contributions and/or Foundation scholarships. Contact Delta Gamma Executive Offices for specific information and for establishing such a memorial.

This ceremony should be used at a time suitable for those involved. Afternoon or evening hours probably are most suitable.

Resources:

- Delta Gamma alumnae and friends
- Minister, priest or rabbi
- Members of the deceased's family

Suggested equipment:

- Small table
- One candle in a holder
- Flower—either a single rose in a bud vase, a bouquet of wild flowers or a floral arrangement (if desired, the flowers may be given to relatives or a close friend at the dose of the ceremony).

Responsibilities of officers:

- Work together to set a date, time and place for the ceremony.
- Finalize the selection of the ritual readings and the order and content of the ceremony.
- Make any advance preparations, such as telephone calls for readers, flowers, food, etc.
- Ask close friends of the deceased if they would like to contribute to the ceremony by reading a selection, dedicating a song, giving a tribute or recalling memories.
- Assign someone to prepare the location to ensure a smooth and beautiful ritual
- A song leader is needed to select songs and lead the singing.

The memorial does not have a set format. The following is suggested:

Opening comments: Made by the president or a member of the clergy.

Tributes: Memories of the deceased, given by a close friend.

Song

Reading

Prayer

Closing Remarks (possibly follow with soft music)

Choose from the following materials which are suitable and augment it with songs and readings that are special to your group.

Ceremony:

Opening comments by the president (*She lights the memorial candle to begin the service*)

We are here to honor _____ who died/passed away on _____. We are here to think about her life with us and to be grateful for it. We are here to think about her love and to be thankful for it. Although she is gone, she is a part of each of us here today and always.

(The president or another alumna member gives an account of her life in Delta Gamma and her special qualities and personal characteristics that made her an important member.)

Delta Gamma is just proud of its part in the life of _____ and can consider her life a tribute to the ideals we all cherish.

Song

Choose a song the group especially likes or consider using one of the following selections:

- Psalm 23
- Psalm 121
- Friend

*Friend we will remember you,
think of you, pray for YOU.
And when another day is through,
we'll still be friends with you.*

- Excerpt from Anna Boyd Ellington's first Initiation Address:
"Be faithful to yourself, act well your part and then when life's young dream is past, the battle of life fought and won, and the mellow light of evening gathers around your pathway, the scenes enacted here will rise upon your memory like constellations on the evening sky to cheer and comfort you."

Or:

A death has occurred
and everything has changed
by this event.
We are painfully aware
that life
can never be the same again,
that yesterday is over,
that relationships once rich
have ended
But there is another way
to look upon this truth.
If life went on the same
without the presence of
the one who has died,
we could only conclude
that the life we here remember
made no contribution,
filled no space,
meant nothing.

The fact that this individual
left behind a place
that cannot be filled
is a high tribute
to this individual.

Life can be the same
after a trinket
has been lost
but never after

the loss of a treasure.
-Paul Irion

Or:

The Death of Friend

Oh God, it's happened to you a million times, but to us the death of a close friend is a rare and shattering thing. We pray for your help to accept what we cannot understand, or to understand what we find hard to accept. Sustain us in the hope of resurrection and grant to our friend a new beginning in a world beyond ours, where your peace reigns and there is no more sorrow. We commend her to your keeping and her family to your care.

I am standing upon the seashore. A ship at my side spreads her white sails to the morning breeze and starts for the blue ocean. She is an object of beauty and strength and I stand and watch until at last she hangs like a speck of white cloud just where the sea and sky come down to mingle with each other. Then someone at my side says,

"There she goes!"

Gone where? Gone from my sight ... that is all. She is just as large in mast and hull and spar as she was when she left my side and just as able to bear her food of living freight to the place of destination. Her diminished size is in me, not in her. And just at the moment when someone at my side says, "There she goes!" there are other eyes watching her coming and other voices ready to take up the glad shout, "There she comes!"

- Henry VanDyke

Prayer (optional – read by the director of rituals)

Dear God, our hearts and minds are full of the loss of _____. Give us the inner strength to take that from her life, which was good and make it a part of our own, so she can live in us. Give us the wisdom to understand the meaning of her life and her death. Take care of her, God. Amen.

Closing remarks (optional)

God be in my head, and in my understanding
God be in my eyes, and in my looking,
God be in my mouth, and in my speaking,
God be in my heart, and in my thinking,
God be in my soul, and at my departing.

If desired, the president or rituals chairman may present the flowers to the selected person. The president blows out the candle to conclude the service. The song leader starts a song such as "Dear DG" and informs the participants the singing will be followed by humming as they file out. Use "The Songs of Delta Gamma" to find appropriate music.

POLICY: Candle/Open Flame

Open flames/candles may not be used in chapter facilities

A Farewell to our Delta Gamma sister

Written by Maureen Syring, Wendy Faust and Ginny Gilbert, June 2015

(Reader: I invite all Delta Gamma sisters present to join me as we bid farewell to our beloved sister _____.)

Reader:

We have gathered in memory of our dear sister (name)_____, initiated into Delta Gamma Fraternity at (chapter of Initiation-school)_____ in (year of Initiation)_____.

We do this together so we may celebrate one final act of love and hope with reverence and appreciation for everything (name)_____'s life has meant to all who share her golden anchor.

The Delta Gamma badge is an anchor, the age old symbol of Hope. The word Hope means "a feeling that something good will happen." Hope never dies, it simply stays in the lives of all who were touched by the life of (name)_____.

In Delta Gamma, Hope is not just a feeling, but a belief encompassed in our motto: Do Good.

Doing Good is the legacy that nurtures the bond of our Delta Gamma sisterhood. With this nourishment, life is present, even in farewell.

As each new day brings change and prosperity, gestures of Hope and Good will reveal themselves from our shared memory.

Farewell, dear sister (name)_____. Your life's legacy will vitalize the bond of sisters who hold you in their hearts forever.

(Now each Delta Gamma sister present will place a white rose on the casket, table or memorial alter and return to their seats.)

Option: At the end, the Delta Gammas present can sing "Dream Girl" as a final goodbye.



Weddings

While there is no official ceremony for Delta Gamma weddings, it is often customary for members in attendance at the reception to gather around the bride and serenade her with "Dream Girl."

As a reminder of her Delta Gamma membership and sisterhood, a bride might pin her Delta Gamma badge inside her wedding dress or to a ribbon-wrapped bouquet.

Giving a cream rose to sisters in attendance.

Bride Bag Ritual

This idea may be used at both the collegiate and alumnae levels and it may be continued as a chapter tradition through the years.

Instructions: A tote or other similar bag is used, preferable with the word "bride" imprinted on it. It is the right size to hold make-up, an extra pair of shoes, or other emergency supplies the bride might need on her wedding day. An anchor or nautical motif helps make it perfect for the Delta Gamma bride.

Each bride takes a small swatch of fabric from her wedding dress and stitches it inside the bag with her initials and wedding date.

The bag is then passed to the next bride as sisterly congratulations, with the condition she pass it down to the next DG bride.

Inside the bag include a "bride" book or journal for each bride to sign and date.

Ritual presented by Vancouver alumnae chapter.

Section 5: Inspiration and Initiation

Guidelines for Inspiration, Initiation and Celebration

Delta Gamma Fraternity recommends using the two-day Initiation plan, which is ideally suited to a weekend, held between the hours of 9 a.m. and 10 p.m.

Day 1 (Friday/Saturday), Inspiration - perform the ceremony/ceremonies for Inspiration. Maximum time for Inspiration is one and one-half hours; may be followed by an optional special dessert or "Delta Gammas only" activity.

Day 2 (Saturday/Sunday), Initiation/Celebration - the Initiation ceremony/celebration is conducted, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 10 p.m. Celebration may be as simple as cookies and punch or elaborate as a brunch, lunch, dinner or picnic for all chapter members, local alumnae and perhaps, parents. No alcohol or men (except fathers) may be included. A gift exchange may be included at this time but should not overshadow the ceremony.

If participants need to drive to the location of celebration, an Event Guideline (for an event without alcohol) must be approved by the advisory team chairman/Council Appointed Coordinator. Celebrations are always alcohol free with no men present (exception being fathers).

Inspiration:

- Is a bridge between being a new member and being an initiated member.
- Is the time when the mood for Initiation is set and chapter harmony between new members and members is accented.
- Is the means by which new members and members prepare for Initiation, and should be enjoyable, meaningful and inspiring.

A well-planned and properly executed inspiration period tells the new members Delta Gamma

- is proud to have them as potential members
- needs and wants them
- is a special kind of sisterhood

The inspiration period:

- should last no more than 1 1/2 hours
- should include inspirational activities
- should be placed on the calendar so members and new members may plan their schedules accordingly
- must be planned around the time available for new members and members so adequate study time exists and all may be present

Inspiration should include:

- Ceremony for Inspiration
- Chapter selected ceremony/ceremonies
- Inspiration Closing Ceremony

Inspiration Ceremonies

Inspiration Ceremony

The Inspiration ceremony prepares the new members for the Initiation ceremony.

It reminds them of our Founders, their ideals and the philosophy of Delta Gamma Fraternity, and provides the opportunity for expressions of friendship.

Inspiration should begin with the Ceremony for Inspiration and end with the closing ceremony to prepare new members for initiation. Each chapter may select one or more additional inspiration ceremonies to personalize inspiration to each chapter. Reminder: it should not exceed 1 ½ hours. After Inspiration, the director of rituals should let the new members know how to prepare for the Initiation ceremony

Alcohol/Inspiration and Initiation

Pre- and post-events/activities (sponsored or co-sponsored) wherein alcoholic beverages are available may not take place no less than 48 hours prior to Inspiration/Initiation or 24 hours after Inspiration/Initiation/Celebration. Celebration is an alcohol-free event. No events, with or without alcohol, should occur between Inspiration and Initiation.

Ceremony for Inspiration

director of rituals:

Today we share
Words and beginnings
Hopes and songs
Expectations for the future
Built from yesterday,
Built from now.

Tomorrow
Watercolors and rainbows,
Impressions and scenes,
A tapestry of feelings
Woven from memories,
Woven from dreams.

president: Hopefully with your new member experience, you have already begun to feel the greater closeness of unified friendship. As each of you grows in and with Delta Gamma, may you come to realize more fully each day the meaning of Delta Gamma unity.

Unity is defined as the state of many related parts being drawn together in a singleness of purpose, of ideals and spirit. How does Delta Gamma unity fulfill this definition?

director of rituals: The unified purpose of Delta Gamma is, first of all, to provide closer, more meaningful and lasting friendships. We want to build the type of friendship that is willing to sacrifice personal whims for the good of others. Through this selfless kind of friendship, we are better able to see beyond our own desire in helping others less fortunate than we are. By adopting this attitude as a part of our philosophy of life we not only strengthen ourselves as a group, but also as individuals we enhance our own personal ideals.

By strengthening our ideals, we are unified as we improve the qualities of our own personalities: our integrity, our loyalty, and our devotion to ourselves, our sisters and the rest of the world.

Vice president: programming: It was through the love and friendship of three special young women that Delta Gamma was founded one wintery night in 1873 at the Lewis School in Oxford, Mississippi. Through their bond, our fraternity has grown into the outstanding organization it is today. Tomorrow you will join over 185,000 women who have worn the golden anchor of Delta Gamma. As you take that important step, it is only fitting to reflect on our early beginnings.

First speaker: Anna Boyd Ellington is remembered for her easy laughter and her joyous heart as well as her keen intellect. It is in her honor we celebrate Delta Gamma's commitment to friendship—the bond of love and understanding that keeps us close.

Second speaker: Eva Webb Dodd was a shy, quiet sort of young woman whose greatest trait was her deep devotion to her friends. In her honor, we acknowledge the importance of loyalty—the loyalty we show to one another and to the Fraternity and its high ideals.

Third speaker: Mary Comfort Leonard was a warm, witty, affectionate person, an inspiration to all who knew her. In remembrance of her, we reflect on honor—the honor and integrity each one of us preserves individually, to reflect in all, honor to Delta Gamma.

Song: “When You Go Away to College” or other appropriate song

director of rituals: We shall now consider the individual parts of our anchor and what each contributes to this age-old symbol of hope.

Vice president: programming: Friendship is the foundation of our Fraternity, just as the anchor is the foundation of our symbols. The physical aspects of our organization—the members, officers, policies, programs, and philanthropies—support the heart and soul of Delta Gamma, which is friendship.

Director of new members: Ours is not an ordinary anchor. The shield and crossbar add a special beauty and sparkle. Our sisterhood, a special caring and respect for one another, is what raises our friendship above the ordinary.

Vice president: member education: The cable makes our anchor whole. Winding about, touching every part, the cable of love ties every Delta Gamma to her sisters. This cable can be loose, weak and easily broken, or it can be strong and taut. We are putting our faith in you to be a strong link in the cable, which symbolizes our everlasting friendship and sisterhood.

Vice president: social standards: Our Founders' friendship not only brought them close together, but they also reached out to include others in their circle. Their lives made a circle friendship that was completely unselfish. We strive to live by their example today.

With membership in Delta Gamma comes responsibility. When you signed the Statement of Obligation, you committed yourselves to the enduring values of our Fraternity and promised to accept the responsibilities of lifelong membership in Delta Gamma.

Honor Board member-at-large: The philosophy of Delta Gamma states: Delta Gamma's primary purpose is to create an environment for its members in which lasting friendships are established and in which members find the processes, the experiences, and the disciplines which will stimulate clear thought. Its aim is to foster an atmosphere in which women will develop deeper love and consideration for mankind, a more profound understanding of the purpose of life and a basic wisdom upon which to build their lives.

junior member of Honor Board: As members of Delta Gamma, we accept the responsibilities that come with the standards of our Fraternity. We are respectful of our country, our university and our Fraternity. We live by the high standards and ideals fostered by Delta Gamma, and we uphold the oaths presented in the Initiation Ceremony.

We contribute our talents and energies toward maintaining the strength and success of our chapter, the Foundation and the Fraternity. We strive to achieve our academic potential. We attend chapter meetings and meet all financial obligations.

We wear our badges to show pride in our membership. We act in accordance with the Constitution and policies of Delta Gamma Fraternity and conduct ourselves in ways that will always bring credit to both Delta Gamma and the fraternity system.

sophomore member of Honor Board: As you begin this beautiful experience as a member of Delta Gamma Fraternity, please remember our Founders' motto: "Do Good." You will find committing yourself to Delta Gamma can be more rewarding than you ever imagined. You will find the members who give the most also seem to get the most out of belonging. With your support, our chapter and

our Fraternity will continue to prosper and to maintain the excellence established by our Founders many years ago.

director of rituals:

An anchor ...
One of gold which will endure forever
Made of friendship, love and laughter,
Built with endurance and strength.
What does it mean this symbol of love and hope?
Each individual holds the meaning deep inside
And only through a sharing and radiance within can anyone know or
Realize the very meaning of this special anchor.

(Chapter members hum or sing "Dear DG.")

vice president: member education: New members of _____chapter, your presence here has made our circle of friendship larger. Tomorrow, your commitment to the enduring values of our Fraternity and acceptance of the responsibilities of lifelong membership will make Delta Gamma stronger.

president:

Together Today for a Stronger Tomorrow
We have met, strangers among strangers searching for
 Meaning through people and experiences.
I cannot predict what will become of us; I only know
 What happens will be because we have shared ourselves.
We can only give to each other only what we need most-
 Love, shaping tomorrow's world and yesterday's memories
Our friendship will not be erased by the passage of time.
 You are a chapter in my life never to be experienced again.
I can see in you, the strength of mankind, the beauty
 Of nature and the love of God.
Today will be a pleasant memory tomorrow because we have cared
 Enough to give ourselves—the only thing we have.
We are gathered here today to form a unit, to make a stronger
 And better tomorrow.

(Chapter may insert one or more informal ritual ceremonies to personalize the Inspiration)

Adapted from ceremony written by Becky Abraham, Beta Theta-Duke.

Required Closing Ceremony for Inspiration:

director of rituals: Tomorrow as you prepare for the Initiation ceremony, you will be asked to change from street clothes into simple white robes. This request is not intended to be intimidating or embarrassing. The robes reflect our Greek heritage and are commonplace in the ceremonies of many Panhellenic groups.

The robes represent our bond of friendship. For a few special moments, we shed the coverings and the trappings of the outside world to acknowledge our shared ideals and goals.

In order to not detract from the simple beauty of the white robes, we suggest that you wear neutral colored undergarments and preferably a slip as well. The simplicity of our attire serves as the perfect background for our anchor badges. The focus of our Initiation ceremony will be the golden anchor; therefore, we ask that you wear none or very simple jewelry other than your Pi Alpha pin.

Our Initiation ceremony is designed to be a celebration and an affirmation of the unique bond of friendship that is Delta Gamma. To further that ideal, I remind you all meetings and proceedings of our Initiation ceremony remain a secret to be shared by those who wear the golden anchor. This is done not to set us apart from all others, but to bind us closer to each other. Tomorrow, you will enter that special bond of friendship.

Optional Ceremonies for Inspiration

Chapters may select one or more of the ceremonies to be included in Inspiration to personalize for each chapter. Remember, Inspiration should not exceed 1 ½ hours.

Anchor Rose Ceremony

This is a fitting ceremony for large new member classes.

Instructions:

- Initiated members hold pink, yellow and red roses.
- New members hold cream roses.
- As a description of color is read, the corresponding flower color is placed in the vase.
- Make sure there are more cream roses than other colors, thus all initiated members might not have roses.

First speaker: I would like to share some thoughts with you on what Delta Gamma offers and can mean to you. What it means to us. I can think of no better way than through this lovely multi-colored bouquet of roses.

Contrary to many existing beliefs surrounding sorority living, individuality is never lost by being a part of Delta Gamma. Just as there are many colors and shapes in one bouquet of roses, so there are many different women that make up the unified body of Delta Gamma.

Second speaker: The pink rose reminds us of the opportunities offered by Delta Gamma to develop into a mature woman, prepared for the responsibilities of a career or a family. The constant working with others in our on-campus and off-campus activities is a real testing ground for leaders. Delta Gamma encourages and stimulates us to become the uncommon person in life. It is an opportunity

for initiative and creativity we as Delta Gammas could not have found in any other sorority group.

Appropriate song of choice ("Edelweiss" is a suggested song)

Third speaker: The yellow rose is an opportunity for service beyond self. Our community service is just one example of all of our opportunities that have given us a chance to become "people-oriented." Not only is this awareness continuous throughout our college years, but also throughout life.

The red rose exemplifies the chapter's cooperative effort and spirit seen often within the love of Delta Gamma. Many fields in life depend upon team effort and getting along with others. Delta Gamma has provided an excellent workshop for the development of sensitivity to human relationships.

Appropriate song of choice ("I love DG" is a suggested song)

First speaker: The cream rose you now hold in your hand is the primary rose in this bouquet. It is the symbol of Delta Gamma sisterhood and friendship. Its classic elegance and richness surround the others, forming a complete and beautiful bouquet...yet never allow the individuality, the uniqueness of each rose, of each petal, to be overshadowed or hidden by its own beauty.

The total experience of living, of life itself, is not all to be found in Delta Gamma. We do not pretend to possess that. But, the doors, the channels to all of Delta Gamma, are here. And, as Delta Gammas, we retain our own individuality, while choosing to become part of a great sisterhood. The decision is always our own, guided by the values and ideals of Delta Gamma.

Balloon Ceremony

Instructions:

- Provide one helium-filled balloon to each new member. The balloons and ribbons should be bronze, pink and blue.
- Attach a long ribbon to each balloon, tie the balloon to each new member's wrist, and have her hold the balloon until the appropriate time.
- When she releases the balloon, the ribbon will keep it attached to her wrist to prevent it from being released into the environment. The objective for attaching the balloons to wrists is to be environmentally correct and not pollute the environment or harm wildlife.

First speaker: We are gathered around the anchor tonight to launch this special inspirational weekend of activities for ____ (insert number) super, hard-working young women. In your hand you hold a fragile and beautiful balloon. If you hold it too tight, you know it may break and the potential for an exciting destiny is gone. But if you let it go you know it will fly with the wind and go on an incredible journey.

Second speaker: You, too, are beginning a journey with Delta Gamma and each of your sisters is so excited for you to embark on this adventure. You, too, can soar and rise to greater heights. The secret is to always be yourself and use the strength you hold from within. This is your special time, just for the ____ (insert number) of you. You have earned it! So, as you hold the ribbon of your balloon,

you see how it rises to achieve new heights and destinations. You, too, will rise to new heights and destinations as you leave the new member period of Delta Gamma and prepare to become a/an initiated member/s.

Third speaker: Hold your ribbon tight but release the balloon. It soars, but remains anchored; just as you will soar, but remain anchored to the ideals, love, and friendship of Delta Gamma. Watch your balloon! The sisters of _____ chapter are here to keep you anchored in sisterhood as you soar to new heights as an initiated member of _____. Good luck and welcome aboard!

Bubble Ceremony

Can you remember when you were just a small child? You received bubbles. At first you only blew small ones, knowing if you blew them too fast they might pop! So, you started slowly, the bubbles grew bigger and bigger. You loved their beauty and what they had become. But you knew they had come to reach a size that would be the largest and best they could be, so you set them free. Free to soar; free to be whatever they wanted to be. As we stand here tonight, we know you are ready. You are at your best and it's time to let go.

We hope with all our hearts you will soar and always strive for your goals. Let's take a moment before we let go of the bubbles. Before you let go of your new membership, remember the beginning and all the memories of learning to love this place called Delta Gamma. So, come and we'll fly together like no bubbles before. The wind cannot catch us; the sun only guides us. We'll be the strongest! We'll be the best! We'll be together from now 'til the end of our days. Gently blow your bubbles. Let them soar!

Carnation for a Friend

We who already wear the golden anchor want to tell you how very proud we are of all of you. We want you to know we are happy you chose to join us here and become part of Delta Gamma. We really appreciate your presence and the many contributions you have made to us during the year.

You have made a difference in our lives, both individually and as a group, and we are as excited as you are that you will soon become members. Inspiration is a perfect time for us to express these feelings; to grow closer as a group, to let you see more fully the meaningful relationships that can grow within the house, and chance for all of us to reflect upon and renew those very special ties. These deep feelings cannot easily be expressed with words, but you will notice them through the time we share as a house having fun, laughing, sharing, and singing. There is just a feeling, an intangible "something" you will begin to feel and appreciate during this inspiration time.

Delta Gamma is also a place to grow. We grow inside the house as well as outside the house. Delta Gamma is your home and you should always feel free to bring your friends from outside of the house into Delta Gamma. Take this carnation and give it to a special friend outside of Delta Gamma, to show her she is always welcome in your new home.

Celebration of Candles for New Members

The following ceremony is presented in sections so that it may be conducted by a single individual or any number of individuals reading separate sections.

Seven candles are needed – one used for lighting and six to be lit.

The letter read as follows:

“One of the objectives of the Fraternity is to provide for and cultivate lasting friendships among educated women of similar tastes and in this connection to provide for and create an atmosphere for our undergraduate members which will stimulate the best elements of social relationships. (Other goals included distinguished scholarship, activity in the college community, and to work and play together in ways that are mutually beneficial.)

Years later, we stand here together to celebrate the fact that for us, Delta Gamma’s goal has been achieved. That we are here together proves lasting friendships have been created and have flourished for over half a century.

As those who are proud to wear the golden anchor of Delta Gamma, we will now light candles, a tribute to the past and a challenge to the future. The first three candles are emblematic of the three Founders. We are proud of these fine young women who set for us the highest ideals and who left us a precious heritage that has been cherished through the years.

Candle 1: In memory of Anna Boyd Ellington, we light the first candle: for friendship, the bond of love and understanding that keeps us close.

Candle 2: For Eva Webb Dodd, we light the second candle: for loyalty, the loyalty we show to one another and to the Fraternity and its ideals.

Candle 3: The third candle we light for Mary Comfort Leonard. Hers is the flame of honor: the honor and integrity each of us preserves individually, to reflect all honor on Delta Gamma.

Candle 4: In addition to honoring the Founders of the Fraternity, we light another candle to honor the generations of women who have sustained the organization since 1873 and to perpetuate the ideals of the Founders. We acknowledge a special debt to those in _____chapter who have brought our chapter through some difficult times over the years to its present condition of security and strength. We acknowledge a very special debt to those in _____chapter whose selective wisdom chose each of us, most unknown to each other, as new members in __year of charter__ and for lifelong friendship in Delta Gamma.

Candle 5: We light this next candle to honor those of our original new member class who are no longer with us. (Here you can submit names and honor members of your own chapter) Their friendship is remembered with joy and gratitude and they are much missed.

Candle 6: We light this last candle to remind us of friendship now and in the future. We are grateful for each other and for our shared experiences as Delta Gammas, which have enriched our lives. For the women of the future, we do provide a model of unique and enduring affection and loyalty. May they be as blessed as we have been by our membership in Delta Gamma.

Conclusion: The soft glow of these small flames, first kindled in 1873, lighted the way to a great fraternity. These candles have burned clearly, the flames growing stronger year after year, their glow reaching farther and farther to shine on the Fraternity of women that is Delta Gamma today. For each of us, they symbolize the special, long lasting bonds of friendship which membership in Delta Gamma has brought to each one of us.

(Ceremony may conclude with renewal of the Oath of Friendship, unless it is being used at Inspiration or with other non-members present. Also, music may be added as appropriate and possible.)

POLICY: Candle/Open Flame

Open flames/candles may not be used in chapter facilities

Ceremony of Colors

Equipment: Enough six-inch cut ribbons should have been prepared for all the new members. At this point in the ceremony, the director of rituals presents each designated initiated member with a ribbon which they then tie around the new member's left wrist as prompted in the ritual.

Ceremony:

director of rituals: Today, as your journey toward sisterhood nears its completion, you will recall a night months before. It was then you stood in this same room. Not yet a new member but hoping the Bid Day's celebrations would find you at the golden anchor of Delta Gamma. Today, after many weeks of hard work, there are anchors in your eyes. Soon there will be the glow of sisterhood. A sisterhood so strong that its reflection can be seen in the pink of an exciting new dawn, the blue of a calm midday, and the bronze of a lazy afternoon. We are here today to tell you of our colors bronze, pink, and blue.

Bronze

Bronze is the color of the sun, of a strong body that has lived in the elements, of a metal that bends and molds itself to fit man's needs. The late afternoon is filled with the bronze light of a sun that has made the earth grow for a day, that has warmed her people, and that will continue to give new life year after year. Delta Gamma has chosen bronze because its daughters, like the sun, give their own warmth to each other and to the rest of the world, from generation to generation. Through this continued giving, the bronze in Delta Gamma stands for the highest ideals a girl can foster within herself and is as lasting and as sure as the rising and setting of the sun.

Pink

Pink is the color of a new dawn, of the first flower, of womanhood. The early morning, a time that totters between the dark of the night and the heat of the day; a color that gives hope in its newness and its freshness. For Delta Gammas it is the dawning of a sisterhood that has been extended to each one of us here. Today our devotion to each other and to ourselves is creating another dawn for the Delta Gammas of the future.

Blue

Blue is the color of midday, of the Gulf Stream, of a child's eyes. As college women we have experienced the dawn of our lives and we have yet to experience the evening. But today we are all in the midday of living. The time of no protective shadows, the time of bringing our shortcomings and our strengths to light. Members of Delta Gamma pledge themselves to examine their own lives, their own adherence to a truth that, though nebulous and seemingly unattainable, has a marked effect on its pursuers. May the bronze of the evening, the pink of the morning, and the blue of the noon day be an inspiration to you to carry on your own individual search for the truth, and to stand tall and free within the symbols of that truth within Delta Gamma.

director of rituals: There is an old story of a father whose daughters were forever quarreling among themselves. No words he could say did any good to stop the fighting, so he cast about in his mind for some striking example that should make them see their discord would lead them to misfortune. One day when the quarreling had been more violent than usual and each of the daughters was moping in a surly manner, he asked one of them to bring him a bundle of sticks. Then, handing the bundle to each of his daughters in turn, he asked them to try to break it. (Hold bundle together and "try" to break.) Although each one tried her best, none could do so.

The father then untied the bundle and gave the sticks to his daughters to break one by one. (Untie and give sticks to readers 1 and 2.) This time the individual sticks broke easily in their hands. (All break sticks.)

"My daughters," said the father, "Do you not see how certain it is if you agree with each other and help each other, it will be impossible for your enemies to injure you? But if you are divided among yourselves, you will be no stronger than a single stick in that bundle."

As you wear your bronze ribbons, we hope you will reflect on what has been said tonight. In unity lies strength.

First speaker: And yet we stand together now as a group, each of us willing to support the others in whatever they do, and each of us expecting the same support in return—what changed us from a group of individual new members into the sisterhood we are today.

Second speaker: The answer lays in the special bond that holds our sisterhood together—our loyalty to each other. Throughout our new member period, and in

the months or years which have followed, we have all learned the strongest friendships are those which are based on faith in each other.

Third speaker: I have faith in my sisters that they will always be there when I need them the most, and my sisters know I will always do the same for them.

Fourth speaker: I have faith in my sisters they will always treat me with respect, and my sisters know I will always do the same for them.

director of rituals: In honor of the faithfulness which keeps our sisterhood strong, I present to you this golden ribbon. Though the true significance of the color bronze will not be revealed to you until Initiation, I hope for now it will remind you of the unity our chapter has. Just as the Delta Gamma cable binds each of us faithfully to one another, so will this ribbon remind you of the ties that will soon become a permanent part of your lives.

First speaker: Last we speak to you about the loyalty which makes our sisterhood so strong. Now, you will learn about a second reason for our strength, the dedication we all feel to the ideals of our Fraternity.

director of rituals: Delta Gamma's philosophy is to create an environment for its members in which lasting friendships are established and in which members find the processes, the experiences, and the disciplines which will stimulate clear thought...its aim is to foster an atmosphere in which women will develop a deeper love and consideration for mankind, a more profound understanding of the purpose of life, and a basic wisdom upon which to build their lives.

Second speaker: In essence, Delta Gammas are expected to live up to the Founders' basic motto: Do Good! Each and every one of us brings something special with her when she is pledged: her talents, her hopes, her dreams, herself. When we all strive to be the best people we can possibly be, then we will make our Fraternity the best it can be as well.

director of rituals: Thus, the second ribbon you will receive tonight is for dedication. Though you will not learn the true significance of the color pink until Initiation, I hope you will accept this ribbon as a reminder of the commitment we have in our ideals, the dedication we have to this Fraternity.

Third speaker: The whole structure of our sisterhood rests upon the foundation of trust in its individual members. Each one is responsible for the security of the group as a whole. Each one is bound to the others by her honoring of this trust.

director of rituals: Next you will receive your third and final ribbon, which will make your set complete. Though I cannot tell you the true significance of the color blue, I hope this ribbon will remind you of the honor and trust which are so essential in fraternity life. Throughout your new member period you have been learning the secrets that make our sisterhood special. Soon you will have the remaining secrets revealed to you. We want you to know we believe in you and we are giving you our trust. We are truly proud of you for making it to this point. As you contemplate the honor and trust which bind all Delta Gammas together, think also about the similar lessons we can learn from geese.

Fourth speaker: As each goose flaps its wings, it creates an “uplift” for the bird following it. By flying in a “v” formation, the whole flock adds a greater flying range than if each one flew alone.

director of rituals: People who share a common direction and sense of community can get where they are going quicker and easier because they are traveling on the thrust of one another.

Fifth speaker: Whenever a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of trying to fly alone and quickly gets back into formation to take advantage of the “lifting power” of the bird immediately in front.

director of rituals: If we have as much sense as a goose, we will stay in formation with those who are headed where we want to go.

Sixth speaker: When the lead goose gets tired, it rotates back into the formation and another goose flies at the point position.

Chance made us sisters, hearts made us friends. ~ Unknown

The Flower Ceremony

Preparation:

Distribute a flower to each attendee. Can be artificial, but fresh is more impressive. Inexpensive flowers such as carnations or a mixed bouquet may be used, especially if there are many in attendance. The mixed bouquet shows diversity and placing together forms a beautiful bouquet.

Speaker should have four roses—one cream, one yellow, one pink, one blue (if possible, may place cream rose in water tinted with blue food dye overnight).

Have all stand, perhaps in a circle. Follow the ceremony with the Oath of Friendship if only initiated Delta Gammas are present. If visitors are present, chapter may sing a non-secret song or read a poem to close.

Ceremony:

When someone close to you would like to speak of faithfulness, love or dedication, she or he often uses flowers to carry the message. Flowers portray symbols and feelings more eloquently than words. They express our joy, pride and love. The symbol of Delta Gamma sisterhood and friendship is the cream colored rose (*hold up cream rose*).

Just as the cream colored rose is the symbol of our Fraternity, the yellow rose (*hold up a yellow rose*), like the color bronze represents our faithfulness to Delta Gamma and to each of us as individuals. The pink rose (*hold up*), like the Delta Gamma pink represents our dedication to the ideals of our Fraternity. The blue rose (*hold up*) symbolizes the honesty and respect we have for Delta Gamma, ensuring sincerity in all aspects of life.

These ideals of friendship, faithfulness, honesty and dedication are encompassed in our Anchor, the ancient symbol of Hope. The golden anchor will endure forever as it is made of friendship, love, laughter and sisterhood and built with endurance, strength and dedication.

Today /tonight you received a symbol, a flower, to express our deep feelings for friendship and sisterhood. We chose a flower because of its similarity to our ideals. The flower, like our friendship, is life giving. It grows when nurtured and becomes stronger, reaching for higher horizons. The flower, like our sisterhood, is a promise for the future, both for you and for our Fraternity. It is our sincere wish you will continue to grow and blossom in Delta Gamma just as these flowers have blossomed.

“One flower - one woman - one sister”

Together the individual flowers become a bouquet and we as individuals become a sisterhood.

Human Anchor Ceremony

Preparation:

Ten members holding lit candles will form an anchor. They begin by standing in a semi-circle. After the members recite their lines, they each move to a pre-designated spot to form an anchor. Members will need to practice in advance.

D is for the Day you entered college, filled with dreams of ivy-covered-walls, looking for a place in your chosen college, searching all the faces in the halls.

E is for the Everlasting friendships kindled in the classrooms and the quad where men and women exchange fresh and vital ideas and freely talk on many and varied subjects.

L is for the Laughter in the hallways, quiet talks, bubbling noisy fun surrounded by others like you; yet knowing all the time you're an individual.

T is for the Times you felt the closeness, the warmth, and glow which included you. You then chose to share the DG spirit knowing these friendships will be true.

A is for your Delta Gamma Anchor, a symbol of love and unity, a pledge of your loyalty to your sisters and acceptance of each individual personality.

G is for the Girls in your chapter, each one unique in her own special way, yet growing together toward common goals by living to the fullest every day.

A is the Appreciation gained as initiated members realize understanding, sorrow and joy bring fulfillment to their lives.

M is for the Many times you've given to and received the mutual love and respect you found in your sisters of Delta G.

M the second M is for Memories when college days have flown and you remember that one fall night and how the anchor shone.

A is After college when you're known as an alumna and have your own small children with whom you can have fun. Then the love and cherished friendships will linger with you still and the Delta Gamma anchor stays within your fulfilled heart.

DELTA GAMMA has been spelled out for you with an anchor made of candlelight by women who, on a night like this, chose our bronze, pink, and blue and the privilege of wearing the anchor bright.

POLICY: Candle/Open Flame
Open flames/candles may not be used in chapter facilities

Inspirational Speech

Tonight, is one of the last nights you will be a new member of Delta Gamma Fraternity. In a matter of hours, you will become lifelong members of the finest woman's fraternity in North America. We believe you have earned the privilege of wearing the golden anchor; and we sincerely hope wearing it will always be a source of pride to you and provide an inspiration to work for greater goals in life.

Initiation into Delta Gamma is a serious step and not to be taken lightly. Throughout the years, the secrets and meanings, which are soon to be revealed to you, have been closely guarded by all who wear the Golden Anchor.

Already you have begun to feel the greater closeness of unified friendship. Each of you, as new members, has grown into and with the sisterhood Delta Gamma. May you come to realize more each day the full meaning of Delta Gamma sisterhood and unity.

Unity, defined, is the state of many related parts being drawn together in a singleness of purpose, of ideals and of spirit. Now, how does Delta Gamma unity fulfill this definition?

The unified purpose of Delta Gamma is, first of all, to provide closer, more meaningful and lasting friendships. We want to build the type of friendship, which is willing to sacrifice personal whims for the good of others. Through this selfless kind of friendship, we are better able to see beyond our own desires by helping others especially those less fortunate than we. There is an old saying, "You always find someone with a problem more difficult to solve than your own." By adopting this attitude as a part of your philosophy of life we not only strengthen ourselves as a group, but also as individuals we more fully develop and strengthen our ideals.

By strengthening our ideals, we attain greater unity by improving the qualities of our own personalities: our integrity, our loyalty, and our devotion to ourselves, our sisters, and to the rest of the world. In determining our own ideals, we not only

gain a greater understanding of ourselves, but also of others. We develop a more broadminded attitude toward others, an ability to distinguish between right and wrong, and then to accept that which we sincerely believe to be right. In establishing ideals for ourselves, we never stop short of the highest possible aims and then never stop working toward them. A selfless attitude is the first step toward promotion of Delta Gamma ideals and of one's self.

When we speak of self, we most often refer to the spirit. Thus, we come to the most obtrusive and possibly the most difficult unity we seek to define and justify: the unity of spirit. Delta Gamma's unity of spirit is built upon willingness to work for each other and the Fraternity, thoughtfulness for remembering the little things which brighten life for others and consequently ourselves, and humility in admitting mistakes and seeking to correct them.

And so, as you approach this time when you will be drawn into the bonds of Delta Gamma sisterhood, keep foremost in your mind the unity of sisterhood, unity of purpose, of ideals, and of spirit. Through this, greater unity in Delta Gamma may you grow stronger in your understanding and love of all mankind.

Leaf Ceremony

Over time, we will have seen the trees on campus change from naked twigs to the new growth of buds to a brilliance of color with green leaves and beautiful flowers.

When the flowers and leaves have reached their brilliance and the winds begin to change, the petals and leaves fall from the trees and into the winds and waterways and are carried away. Their brilliance and beauty gained through their growth on the tree goes along with them. Others they encounter along their travels are able to share in their growth and all they have achieved.

As you stand here tonight, we see how you have grown. You, too, have blossomed and become beautiful and brilliant, and we know now you are ready, ready to be released from the tree and to join the other leaves going on their ways.

We hope that as you travel down your stream in life, the brilliance and growth you have gained as new members of Delta Gamma will be shared with all you meet along the way. Before you let go of your leaves, before you let go of your new member period, let's take a moment to remember the beginning of the friendships you have formed and love you found at Delta Gamma. Just as the trees are changed every year by the leaves, so has Delta Gamma been changed by each of you.

So, come and let us travel together, knowing we share not only the past and the present, but the future as well. And as we travel the stream, we will stay afloat and be strengthened by each other's presence. For we'll be together from now on ... *(Release leaves)*

Lighting of the Anchor I

What you will need:

For anchor:

- white candles
- matches
- enough sisters to form a large anchor
- selected songs (about 4)

For ceremony:

- low table
- lit candles
- lighter

Ceremony set-up:

- Shape sisters into a large anchor and light each “area” after speaker.
- Can shape small (5) groups of anchor and light each anchor after speaker.
- Cluster sisters and light each cluster.
- Use seniors as the anchor and other sisters in a semi-circle.
- Use a wooden anchor with votives and candles; light each candle within “designated area.”*

Ceremony:

Initiation candidates are brought into a room, arranged standing in a semicircle.

president: New members of Delta Gamma, this is the night before your Initiation. I trust you have considered what type of sailor you would like to be on your Delta Gamma voyage. Now that you have returned for the second ritual in this Inspiration period, I would like for you to continue thinking. Think back over your new member period; the love you have shared and the love you will continue to share with us. Think of the deeper meaning of sisterhood, for tomorrow and we will share with you one of our deepest possessions.

director of new members: During this Inspiration period, you will begin to learn how Delta Gamma can be the base upon which you may build your life. On the crossbar of our anchor, our motto Tau Delta Eta binds all of our sisters together. When its meaning and our ideals are revealed to you, take them into your heart, that you might be a Delta Gamma worthy of their meaning. This is the last night you will be a new member of the Fraternity, and tomorrow you will join us in a unity stronger than words can express.

director of rituals: Tomorrow when you arrive for Initiation, you may feel differently coming here than you ever have before. You should feel this way, because you are on the threshold of something you have never experienced. Just remember all of us are waiting here with open hearts, and we want your trust as you are shown some things that are perhaps new and strange. We hope you will come with quiet, open souls and minds, to finally receive all of our sisterhood.

Tonight we would like to share this poem with you:
 So you're going to be a sailor now
 Set your ship upon the sea,
 To venture far, to learn and grow
 And be what you can be.
 But before you set sail and leave the dock

I have a gift for you
To help you on your voyage
Into the endless blue.
The gift I give is home of love,
For where you'll go I've been.
I'll share the gift that I once got
To protect me from the sea.
I give to you an anchor gold,
Solid, pure and strong
To adorn the hull of your new ship
All your travels long.
It may not seem a wondrous gift,
But in time will grow to be,
For it offers true security
Out on the unknown sea.
And while you sail so joyfully
Atop the rolling tide,
Your anchor gold is pleased to sit
So sweetly by your side.
Yet a day will come when the sun will flee
And the thunder clouds storm in,
And your little ship will begin to toss,
And roll and dive and spin.
Yet through despair you'll find your strength,
Go seek your anchor gold,
And throw it down into the deep
And wait 'till it takes hold.
Wrap its cable 'round yourself
And never let it go
And it will hold you safe and strong
While the icy gale winds blow.
So sail away and sail far
And be what you can be,
But love and protect your anchor gold
Your strength against the sea.

If you will please follow me now; the sisters of _____chapter have prepared something for you. Please take this time to confirm with yourself if you are prepared to make this commitment tomorrow.

New members are led to where the sisters have formed an anchor. A candle is lit at the bottom of the anchor and the flame spreads upward and then out to the ends. While the candles are being lit the sisters sing selected songs.

Written by Epsilon Nu-James Madison.

***POLICY: Candle/Open Flame
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Lighting of the Anchor II

director of rituals:

Sisterhood is a very special bond born the day a young woman pledges Delta Gamma. This bond grows she lives within the membership of Delta Gamma. Delta Gamma aids in the enrichment of the individual. It shows one there is more to self-improvement. It promotes sensitivity and enthusiasm and builds self-confidence. Yet most importantly, Delta Gamma means cooperation—a necessary element of sisterhood. What is sisterhood? To each and every Delta Gamma, sisterhood means something different. I'd like to share with you a poem that exemplifies the sisterhood found in DG.

What is Delta Gamma?

It is a circle of smiles
It is a place you're proud to bring your friends
It's learning the true meaning of citizenship
It's studying for a purpose
Delta Gamma is a warm smile and a meaningful hug
It's doing your share
It's lifelong friends
It's assuming responsibility
It's coming together because men are horrible at times
Delta Gamma is an ideal which serves as an incentive
It's a cup of coffee after studying late
It's your sisters happiness
It's fixing up a blind date
It's being a hostess when guests come
It's encouraging your sister to her highest potential
It's helping to make your own rules
It's standing up and being heard
Delta Gamma is a badge, a flower, a creed
It's a democratic unit, sincere congratulations
It's forever ...
What is Delta Gamma? A brilliant torch,
A special kind of love.

First speaker: *(holding a lit candle)*

The base of our anchor is symbolic of the very heart of Delta Gamma friendship. A Delta Gamma is a friend behind you; she is a friend still unknown. She belongs to a community of individuals united through friendship. Delta Gamma understands flaws, temptations, and weaknesses. She also appreciates joy and achievement. In Delta Gamma, we share the experience of friendship.
(Transfer flame among the sisters who are the base of the anchor.)

Second speaker: *(holding lit candle)*

The shield on the anchor represents Delta Gamma as a home for its members. It provides the opportunity to understand and represent others. We offer you the closeness of a precious family relationship. This home provides a quiet place for serious times and a happy place for lighter moments. Through our doors pass the loveliest women in the world, beauties of both mind and spirit. Delta Gamma, a home away from home.

(Transfer flame among sisters who make up the shield of the anchor)

Third speaker: *(holding lit candle)*

The crossbar at the top of our anchor is there to show Delta Gamma believes educational and cultural interests are of prime importance. We realize the primary reason for our presence on campus is the achievement of our education. Our Fraternity ideals add to our collegiate education values that could not be achieved through the academic curriculum.

(Transfer flame among sisters making up the crossbar of the anchor.)

Fourth speaker: *(holding lit candle)*

The final element of our anchor is the cable that links and strengthens collegians and alumnae. Sisterhood and membership are not just for college days, but for life. Membership means a link with the past, a part of the present, a vision of the future.

(Transfer flame among sisters making up the cable.)

Song leader: "Do I See an Anchor in Your Eye?"

POLICY: Candle/Open Flame

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Mirror Ceremony (I am a Delta Gamma)

Equipment:

- Pi Alpha curtain (*this is the only curtain that new members may see*)
- low table and white cloth to cover to the floor
- mirror, full-length preferred

Instructions:

- This night may be planned and presented by designated initiated members under the leadership of the director of rituals.
- The presenting members are responsible for set-up, speakers and clean up.
- As many as four speakers may be used. They should practice their material several times before the actual ceremony.
- The mirror is positioned in front of the curtain and is removed after the mirror ceremony.
- The visual aids are placed on the table.
- The entire new member class is escorted in small groups by their big sisters to stand in front of the mirror, eyes open.
- After the first part of the mirror ceremony ends, the big sister leads the new members to be seated on the floor or in a chair. The big sisters join the semicircle.
- The new members are seated in front of the table.
- Big sisters and other members form a semicircle around the new members. Members remain standing.
- Officers and speakers stand behind the table.

Ceremony:

vice president: member education: (Name of each new member repeated here), look in the mirror and see the reflection of the love of your sisters. Today think of Delta Gamma as an endless voyage. The best sailor is not indifferent to the beauty of the sea around her. She forgets herself and considers her shipmates. Her voyage is bright and successful. However, there are those who think only of themselves and never find the fullness of their voyage. What type of sailor will you be?

(The big sister then escorts the new member to her seat.)

(The ceremony continues once all new members are seated.)

Speaker:

When you get what you want
In your struggle for self
And the world makes you queen for a day,
Go to the mirror and look at yourself
And see what that girl has to say.

For it isn't your father
Or mother or men
Whose judgment on you must pass
The person's whose verdict counts most in this life
Is the girl staring back from the glass.

She's the one to please
Never mind all the rest
For she's with you clear to the end
And you've passed your most difficult and dangerous test
If that girl in the glass is your friend.

You can fool all the world down the pathway of years
And get pats on the back as you pass
But your final reward
Will be heartaches and tears
If you've cheated that girl in the glass.

song leader: *(Leads the chapter in an appropriate song.)*

director of rituals: The pride in our membership results from the knowledge our Fraternity is outstanding. our ideals are high; Our responsibilities are great. You have the potential to become outstanding members of Delta Gamma. This goal is not impossible. Let us point the way.

First speaker: We can gain a deeper insight into the lives of our Founders. We know Anna was remembered for her easy laughter and her joyous heart. Mary was a warm, witty, affectionate person, and was an inspiration to all who knew her. Eva was a shy, quiet person whose greatest trait was her deep devotion to her friends. It was through their love and friendship Delta Gamma was founded one snowy, winter night in 1873 at the Lewis School in Oxford, Mississippi.

Second speaker: Delta Gamma has always been devoted to friendship. Our Founders' friendship brought them together, and today, it is the tie that binds us close and makes us special. Friendship is the heart and soul of Delta Gamma.

Third speaker: When we signed the Statement of Obligation, we committed ourselves to the enduring values of our Fraternity and promised to accept the responsibilities of lifelong membership in Delta Gamma.

director of rituals: Our pride in membership is the result of our belief our Fraternity exemplifies excellence. Our history, our friendship, our anchor and our responsibilities all make us what we are today. We are Delta Gammas.

president: I am a Delta Gamma. I am a member of a Fraternity of women whose organizational structure is large in size, but whose purposes are definite and meaningful.

Delta Gamma's philosophy states:

Delta Gamma's primary purpose is to create an environment for its members in which lasting friendships are established and in which members find the processes, the experiences, and the disciplines which will stimulate clear thought. Its aim is to foster an atmosphere in which women will develop a deeper love and consideration for mankind, a more profound understanding of the purpose of life, and a basic wisdom upon which to build their lives.

When I became a member of Delta Gamma, I accepted the responsibilities that come with the standards of our Fraternity. I am respectful of my country, my university and my Fraternity. I live by the high standards and ideals fostered by Delta Gamma, and I uphold the oaths presented in the Initiation ceremony.

I contribute my talents and energies toward maintaining the strength and success of my chapter, the Foundation, and the Fraternity. I strive to achieve my scholastic potential. I attend all chapter meetings, and I meet all financial responsibilities.

My membership unites me with all women who wear the golden anchor. I'm proud to be a Delta Gamma and I know through me, people will know my Fraternity. I understand my conduct does reflect upon my Fraternity, my chapter and my sisters. My actions do affect others.

Honor, honesty, sincerity, and integrity are the foundation of our organization, and are the values that make us special and set us apart from mere social clubs. It is important we do not lose sight of our standards. Policies and procedures may guide us, but our ideals are what make us great.

I am proud to be a Delta Gamma. I want to share that pride in membership with you. As a Delta Gamma I offer you my friendship for life and the guarantee I will uphold the standards and responsibilities of the Fraternity. I ask only that you place the same value upon your membership as I place on mine.

To choose and to be chosen is a wonderful honor. You have chosen Delta Gamma and Delta Gamma has chosen you. As you begin this beautiful experience as a member of the Delta Gamma Fraternity, please remember our Founders' motto: "Do Good." With your support, our chapter and our Fraternity will continue to prosper and to maintain the excellence established by our Founders many years ago.

(silent pause)

Song leader: *(Leads chapter in an appropriate song.)*

(Big sisters escort new members from the room unless another ceremony is planned.)

Reflections

Reflections is an optional presentation which can correspond to your chapter's Fourth Degree. Please be careful not to disclose or repeat what your chapter actually does during the Fourth Degree. For example, if your chapter has candle passing, you would not want to have one during this presentation.

This presentation should still be done in a way not to distract from the seriousness and inspiration of the other presentations and from the Initiation ceremony yet to take place.

The chapter officers or a group of initiated members under the leadership of the director of rituals and the vice-president: member education can present this part of Inspiration. Those involved should be fully aware of their responsibilities. If food is to be served following the presentation, it should be prepared ahead of time.

This evening could be the time when the chapter presents traditional ceremonies, songs or readings. The following could be considered: The Velveteen Rabbit, Raggedy Ann, The Giving Tree, Balloon Ceremony and Cream Rose Ceremony.

The following is a suggested format:

director of rituals: On this (date) you became a new member of (chapter name) of Delta Gamma. On this date you pledged yourself to Delta Gamma and accepted the responsibilities of being a new member.

vice president: member education: It has been my privilege to guide you through your new member program. During this time, you have become acquainted with each other, adding a new dimension to the word sisterhood. You have learned the history of Delta Gamma, its purposes and organization; and you have prepared yourself for full membership in the Fraternity. Tonight, let us reflect upon special memories of your new member Program.

director of rituals: *(optional candle pass)*

Let us light a candle and pass it among us so we can share those special thoughts we have regarding Delta Gamma membership.

May include the new member class, initiated members or both. The president will start the candle with a prepared statement or special thought. Each new member or initiated member then follows with her special thought. president is also responsible for a closing statement when the candle has been passed around to all those participating.

Speaker:

Together Today for a Stronger Tomorrow

We have met, strangers among strangers searching for
Meaning through people and experiences.

I cannot predict what will become of us. I only know

What happens, will, because we have shared ourselves.

We can give to each other only what we need most-

Love, shaping tomorrow's world and yesterday's memories.

Our friendship will not be erased by the passage of time.

You are a chapter in my life never to be experienced again.

I can see in you the strength of mankind, the beauty of nature, and the love of
God.

Today will be a pleasant memory tomorrow because we have cared
enough to give ourselves--the only thing we have.

We are gathered here today to form a unit, to make a stronger and better
tomorrow.

Song leader: *(Leads chapter in an appropriate closing song.)*

Other suggested poems that may be used:

Raggedy Ann

Raggedy Ann lives in my room,

She sits in my rocking chair,

No one pays any attention to her,

You would hardly know she was there.

Her eyes don't move but she watches me

And everything that I do,

Her bright red hair, her pinafore

And her flowered dress of blue.

She sees me at my worst,

She sees me at my best,

She sees me wild with anger

And peaceful while I rest.

Although I'm getting older

And dolls have lost their charm,

Sometimes I simply can't resist

Holding her in my arms-

Friends will come and friends will go

But I know she will always stay true,

For written down upon her tiny heart

Are the comforting words, "I love you."

- Kelley Nelson

The Road to Change

director of rituals: Two paths diverged in a yellow wood
I'm sorry I couldn't travel both and be one traveler-
Long' stood and looked down one as far as I could
to where it bends in the undergrowth.

First speaker: The earth is a constantly changing place. From the introduction of mankind into nature, to the newest technological advancements of today, growth and innovation have long established themselves as vital to our world. As our world continues to change in our hands with the likes of country border recognition, medical advancements and quality of life, the breathtaking colors of our forests in season, the running waters of spring streams and the flight of the butterfly dutifully remind us nature is an agent for change as well.

director of rituals:

Then I took the other as just as fair
and having perhaps better claim
because it was grassy and wanted wear
though as for that, the passing there
had worn them about the same.

Second speaker: Change is in all of our lives. Each new day brings something different and unique into our being. Some things are small or may go unnoticed, others are large decisions or choices, but we weigh and deliberate each one with fidelity, courage and strength. Each path we may choose to tread affects our lives immeasurably, altering our journey in life as we travel our own road.

director of rituals:

And both that morning equally lay
that leaves no steps had trodden black.
Oh, I kept the first for another day,
yet knowing how way leads on to way,
I doubted if I should ever come back.

Third speaker: Delta Gamma is also an agent for change. We changed the face of fraternity/sorority life with our inception and expansion. We have continued to stretch the limits of the fraternity/sorority world through innovation, programming and worldwide friendships. We have demonstrated a woman's organization founded on friendship, service and personal development can not only survive, but also can flourish in the changing times that surround us. As our world and selves continue to grow and change so must Delta Gamma.

director of rituals:

I shall be telling this with a sigh
somewhere ages and ages hence,
two roads diverged in a wood
and I took the one less traveled
and that has made all the difference.
-Robert Frost

president: We talk of change and growth and choices today; we will be living them tomorrow. As we pass down our own roads, we have met and come together to be Delta Gammas. Our college life is but one stop of many, and we

continue to travel together over the hills and through the valleys of our sorority experience. Just as the Fraternity was changed the day our chapter was chartered, we are moving into a new era together today. Change can be a scary and unknown thing, but it can also be about greater personal development, improved chapter relations and deeper friendships. Consider the day you pledged Delta Gamma; it is one that has changed your travels for life.

director of rituals: So, as we stand, together, facing two roads, we shall take the path less trodden. It is sure to need great efforts, much patience, and all of our support. The challenge that awaits us can bring our chapter an even greater sense of pride, closeness and achievement. Together we are breaking new ground for Delta Gamma and ourselves. With hope, honor, courage and each other, this new path is the one of our future.

Chapter: *Sing appropriate songs, use butterfly activity, etc.*

Follow the poem by giving each person a little piece of note paper with a butterfly on it. Have them write out the name of a sister who has shown them a new thing or helped them in some way. Exchange notes.

Or:

Ask each person to fill out a butterfly-shape paper and write on it what new thing DG has given to her. Collect and then make a visual chart or tree asking everyone to hang her butterfly at the next meeting to show how everyone in the chapter is benefiting from membership in Delta Gamma.

Initiation

Initiation is more than the process through which a new member becomes a member. The total meaning of Delta Gamma is found within the Initiation ceremony. It should be the most meaningful moments of membership. The ceremony handbook is to be locked in the rituals closet or files at all times when not in use.

Alumnae Involvement in Collegiate Initiation

Attend an Initiation ceremony at a nearby collegiate chapter if at all possible. The director of rituals might ask one of your alumnae members to read the Alumnae Charge in the Initiation ceremony booklet. Usually the honor is given to alumna whom the chapter wishes to recognize. She may choose to give the charge in her own words or to add appropriate words of her own. There should be no conversation before or after the charge. This is a time for meditation.

Attend post-Initiation explanation at a nearby collegiate chapter. It is held at the first Formal Chapter following Initiation. The collegiate director of rituals reviews the curtains, oaths, password, grip and songs—a great reminder and alumnae update of our Initiation promises.

Fourth Degree Update - Invite collegians to attend your alumnae meeting and share their chapter's unique Fourth Degree.

Your group may wish to help the collegians develop their chapter history, which is a part of the Fourth Degree. The collegiate historian tells the story of the founding and beginning of the chapter and gives a brief history. If a special alumna or chapter member is present, she may be asked to speak.

Your group can volunteer to help make a Fourth Degree chapter letter display. This may be a curtain, wooden carving or needlework; whatever the collegiate chapter chooses.

Initiation of Alumna Initiates

Part of Delta Gamma since our founding, Anna Boyd Ellington, Eva Webb Dodd and Mary Comfort Leonard quickly found eligible candidates for membership in their new club, many of whom were older, yet shared the same desire to “Do Good.”

There are special times when the Council of Delta Gamma approves the Initiation of qualified candidates who are not collegians, who are alumna initiates:

- Might be women with whom an alumnae group has worked closely with through the years in Service for Sight opportunities.
- Are outstanding women in our communities who did not have the opportunity to join a sorority in college, yet whose interests and ideals are the same as those set forth by our three Founders.
- Provide support for newly installed collegiate chapters, or when an established group becomes a chapter.
- Support a collegiate and/or alumnae group as well as the Fraternity.
- Meet all the requirements for membership,
- Are granted all the privileges and responsibilities of membership in Delta Gamma after Initiation.
- Bring to our membership a wealth of knowledge and compassion for our philanthropy.

Responsibilities of the collegiate chapter:

- Welcome the alumna initiate.
- Initiate candidate at the next local collegiate chapter Initiation ceremony, where she becomes an initiate of that particular chapter.
- Include the alumna initiate in all facets of the Initiation ceremony, the inspiration and any related events, such as a luncheon or reception following the ceremony.

Responsibilities of the local alumnae group:

- Help alumnae chapter members understand the unique role the alumna initiate plays in the Fraternity as a new alumna member.
- Welcome the alumna initiate and include her in alumnae activities.
- Take special care to reach out and welcome her into their group, calling to offer rides to events and ensuring she is warmly introduced to the alumnae chapter.

Initiation Ceremony Review (Alumnae)

An alumnae group may obtain copies of the Initiation ceremony from nearby a collegiate chapter's director of rituals or rituals adviser. With permission from the chapter management team (CMT) and advisory team, you may be able to borrow the rituals curtains and carefully display them in a member's home. Or, if mutually arranged, the chapter may let your alumnae group use its chapter room for this special formal meeting.

If your group does not have a rituals chairman or an assistant rituals chairman, one may be appointed for this program.

Introduction by the alumnae president or rituals chairman: It has been many years since most of us have seen either a Pi Alpha ceremony (formerly the Pledge ceremony) or an Initiation ceremony. The formal rituals have been truly inspirational as well as a source of fundamental ideals and standards for us. It is our hope to share with you the inspiration we have received, to help you refresh your memories as to the oaths we have taken, and to remember the qualities unique to Delta Gamma.

We alumnae are oftentimes so overburdened with the mechanics of Delta Gamma-giving programs, raising monies, helping collegians with recruitment programs, sponsorship programs, serving collegiate chapters on advisory teams, house corporation boards, and serving our fellow man with our many Foundation projects, we quite forget to take time to remember what Delta Gamma really is all about. Tonight we are going to present a formal alumnae chapter and review the Initiation ceremony of Delta Gamma.

president: _____alumnae chapter (association) is now in formal meeting. Delta Gamma collegiate chapters meet formally once a month. Tonight, we meet formally as a reminder that rituals are a special part of the Delta Gamma experience. They link the present with the past and make Delta Gamma unique in the Fraternity world. Rituals give members a common bond, which, despite geography and time, is shared by Delta Gamma everywhere.

rituals chair: Fraternity rituals encompass the ideals, first stated by our Founders, which challenge us to strive for excellence. There are many informal rituals and formal rituals, which make up the body of Delta Gamma rituals.

Tonight, we will consider the most formal of Delta Gamma rituals: The Initiation ceremony. We will review the meanings of the symbols we hold dear and consider the oaths of the Initiation ceremony.

The Alumnae Charge of the Initiation ceremony is read by an alumna before the new members proceed into the room for the Initiation ceremony.

(At the time of Initiation, before the actual ceremony begins, the new members are asked to take the Oath of Secrecy.)

(Assistant rituals chair reads the Oath of Secrecy of the Initiation Ceremony.)

rituals chair: Following the Oath of Secrecy, the Initiation begins. In the First Degree, the degree of our origin and heritage, the story of our Founders is told and the crest is explained.

(Assistant rituals chair reads the First Degree of the Initiation ceremony.)

rituals chair: The candidates are charged with the responsibilities of Delta Gamma. They are asked to take the Oath of Responsibility.

(Assistant rituals chair reads the Oath of Responsibility of the Initiation ceremony.)

rituals chair: The Second Degree, the degree of the Greek letters," explains the meaning of the words "Delta Gamma."

(Assistant rituals chair reads the Second Degree of the Initiation ceremony.)

rituals chair: Originally the Initiation ceremony had six oaths. The Oath of Secrecy and the Oath of Responsibility have been changed over the years. But one remains as our Founders wrote it in 1873, the Oath of Friendship.

(Assistant rituals chair reads the Oath of Friendship from the Initiation ceremony.)

rituals chair: The Third Degree is the degree of the golden anchor.

(Assistant rituals chair reads the Third Degree of the Initiation ceremony.)

Rituals chair: The candidates are brought into membership as they sign the roll book and receive their badges. As the candidates exchange their shields for the anchor badge, they are told what the anchor stands for. They are also taught the grip and the password during this part of the ceremony. At the end of this degree, the candidates repeat the Oath of Friendship for the first time. The oaths are the bonds of honor of Delta Gamma.

The Fourth Degree is the degree of each individual chapter. The meaning of the chapter motto is revealed. Each chapter has a constant motto relating to the chapter's Greek name. Each year, the chapter also chooses a special "Watchword" that is needed to enrich the Fraternity experience. This chapter Watchword is revealed in the Fourth Degree.

(The chapter also displays its chapter letters on the Fourth Degree curtain. The chapter history is read and chapter and new member Watchwords are presented.)

The Initiation ceremony brings new meaning into the lives of those who witness it for the first time. Tonight, we hope it has brought renewed meaning, rediscovered truths and commitments, and has reaffirmed a common bond shared by off Delta Gammas.

Our Founders' friendship is the foundation of our Fraternity. Their friendship and their Fraternity brought them close together, but they also reached out to include others into their circle. Let us now reach out in friendship and repeat, together, the Oath of Friendship.

Legacies and Initiation

A special bond exists between a Delta Gamma legacy and her Delta Gamma relatives. This unique bond is a wonderful thing for a chapter to experience and witness during Initiation.

Whenever a Delta Gamma legacy is to be initiated, the Delta Gamma family member/s should be contacted as soon as the new member period begins to formally invite them to attend and participate in the Initiation of their legacy. Enough time needs to be allowed for them to make travel arrangements, which often times includes air travel.

The following should be arranged well in advance to ensure this remains a SURPRISE for the legacy:

- Appoint a member to meet the relative/s in a pre-arranged, secret location away from where the legacy new member is. Contact information, such as cell phone numbers, should be exchanged.
- Ensure the relative/s know the proper times and locations for the ceremony and celebration.
- Provide appropriate Initiation attire for the relative/s.
- Arrange a private area for the relative/s to change into robes.
- Communicate to the big sister of the legacy that relative/s will be attending and will pin the badge on the legacy during the ceremony.
- Ensure the appointed chapter escort/s bring the relative/s into the room at the correct time during the ceremony before the badge is to be pinned. Directions are in the Initiation ceremony book as to when this secret happens.

Initiation Ceremony

Initiation is a ceremonial way of initiating and renewing lifelong membership in Delta Gamma. Practice must occur carefully and completely with the chapter in advance. Consider having the chapter meet after Inspiration to practice. Planning and practice ensure a meaningful and lasting memory for everyone, especially the new members.

New members must be educated as to the special event that is going to occur, with respect and dignity.

Each officer with Initiation responsibilities should refer to the Initiation ceremony to review her duties well in advance of the ceremony date.

Only members of the Fraternity may be present in the immediate area of the chapter house or other facility during the rehearsal of or during private, formal ritual ceremonies. All persons who are not initiated members of the Fraternity should be asked to leave the chapter house or immediate area of another facility.

An exception may be made for the house director. She may remain in her room in the chapter house.

Initiation Delay/Extenuating Circumstances:

If a candidate has been approved for Initiation and for some satisfactory reason is unable to be initiated (illness, finances), she may be allowed to continue as a new member until the next Initiation with the approval of the chapter advisory team chairman and Regional Collegiate Specialist/Council Appointed coordinator. If the delay is due to Honor Board sanctions, she may continue as a new member until the next Initiation with the approval of the chapter advisory team chairman and the Regional Collegiate Specialist/Cabinet Appointed Coordinator. However, Initiation paperwork must be resubmitted on Anchorbase and approved before the next Initiation. If her Certificate of Membership has been ordered, the certificate must be destroyed. There will be a charge for the engraving of the new certificate.

Prior to Initiation, practices should be held for the following:

- Officers with speaking parts and song leader
- Members who are participating for the first time
- Songs and musical accompaniment (if any)
- Fourth Degree
- Big sisters and officers

The ceremony must be followed as written unless the Regional Collegiate Specialist/Council Appointed Coordinator/New Chapter Coordinator, Director: Member Education and/or Council has given permission for changes. The location and the time of the Initiation must contribute positively to making it a lovely and meaningful event. Crowded surroundings, over scheduling with other events and inadequate time detract from the ceremony.

Blindfolding and Closing of Eyes

Blindfolding and closing eyes are considered forms of hazing. Blindfolds are not to be used in any Delta Gamma ritual ceremony. The closing of eyes presents a safety hazard and should not be required of any ritual ceremony. The effect of wonderment may be achieved by leading the new members into a darkened room by candlelight and turning the lights on when all have entered. This is why our Initiation ceremony ask new members to turn around to face their sponsor rather than close their eyes.

The Fourth Degree

The Fourth Degree offers the opportunity for creativity. This is the degree of each individual chapter and emphasizes the unique qualities and accomplishments of the chapter. The Fourth Degree must still maintain the sense of dignity of the ceremony.

Printed as part of the Initiation ceremony is a Fourth Degree which is intended as an aid and does not need to be followed verbatim. However, the Fourth Degree MUST include the following:

- **Display of chapter letters** - The chapter letters may be displayed on a curtain made by the chapter and added to by each new member class. Other displays such as a wooden carving or needlework are also appropriate.
- **New member "Watchword"** - The new member "Watchword" is an addition to the chapter motto chosen when the chapter was installed (see First Degree). The "Watchword" should be chosen at the beginning of each New Member Pursuit. It should not be a quickly chosen word or phrase, but rather a carefully planned concept woven into the ritual programming for the year.
- New member class contribution -
- **Chapter Watchword** - The chapter's Watchword, chosen for that year, is also shared with the chapter, along with the reason why it was selected.
- **Chapter History** - The history should be succinct and tell of important, interesting and unique events occurring since the day of charter. It should be kept in the rituals closet and updated annually.

The remaining content of the Fourth Degree is optional. It may contain one or more of the following:

- A song dedicated by the chapter to the new member class.
- An original poem or prose selection written by a chapter member(s).
- An inspirational portion developed by the new initiates. The director of rituals and the vice-president: member education should inform the new member class of this responsibility during their New Member Pursuit and offer guidance and direction.
- A special formal or informal ritual ceremony (i.e. ceremonies found in this handbook or in the Informal Rituals Ceremonies).
- Accompaniment by a musical instrument.

Fourth Degree Ideas

- A slide show prepared for the Fourth Degree can depict the history of the chapter, i.e., former new member classes, old pictures of the house, etc.
- A new symbol can be added to the Fourth Degree curtain each year. The meaning of each symbol is reviewed during the Fourth Degree. Example: Gold star symbolizing ambition; bronze, pink and blue balloons symbolizing upward movement.
- Each past new member class explains to the current new member class what its square on the Fourth Degree curtain represents.
- The seniors write a poem to the new members, read during the Fourth Degree. Each new initiate receives a hand-written copy of the poem.
- Senior give testimonials about what Delta Gamma means to them, keeping them short and in harmony with the appropriate mood for Initiation.
- Chapter members bring their favorite flowers and place them in a vase to form a large bouquet showing how beautiful diverse membership can be.

- New members add pieces of bronze, pink and blue ribbons to a ribbon cable that has been formed from past new member classes.
- The sidewalk is lined with luminaries on the evening of Initiation. Paint Greek letters for Pi Alpha on one side of the buckets or bags holding the candles and Greek letters for Delta Gamma on the other side.
- A copy of the hazing policy is included with the Inspiration and Initiation schedules for members.
- A Hannah doll is passed between initiates with words of inspiration and congratulations.
- The director of new members writes to the parents of all new members and asks them to write a special, brief note to their daughters. These letters can be read during the Fourth Degree. (This works best with small new member classes.)
- New members are given a bracelet during Inspiration and the meaning is revealed during the Fourth Degree. This is done only if Inspiration is held just prior to same day as Initiation.
- Inspirational poem.
- Memorial ceremony/celebration of life for a deceased member, while not detracting from the importance of Initiation to the new initiates
- New members present a song, poem or reading to the chapter.
- New initiates place a cutout hand on a curtain to form Delta Gamma Greek letters. As each hand is placed, the new initiate tells what Delta Gamma means to her.
- Make booklets for the new members with an inspirational thought or message from every member of the chapter.

Post-Initiation Celebration

A celebration, simple or elaborate, is always held immediately after Initiation. Celebration events may include simple refreshments such as cookies and soda, or more elaborate refreshments such as small hors d'oeuvres, breakfasts, brunches, lunches, dinners (informal or formal with several courses) or picnics.

If participants need to drive to the location of celebration, an Event Guideline (for an event without alcohol) must be approved by the advisory team chairman/Council Appointed Coordinator. Celebrations are always alcohol free with no men present (exception being parents).

- New initiates may be presented small gifts to celebrate their Initiation.
- A slide show of the new member period can be shown.
- New member awards can be given.

Policy: Alcohol/Inspiration and Initiation: Pre- and post-events/activities (sponsored or co-sponsored) wherein alcoholic beverages are available may take place no less than 48 hours prior to Inspiration/Initiation or 24 hours after Inspiration/Initiation/Celebration. The Celebration is to be an alcohol-free event. No events, with or without alcohol, should occur between Inspiration and Initiation.

Initiation Review Meeting Post-Initiation Explanation

The director of rituals should conduct an explanation of these ceremonies with the new members. The Post-Initiation Explanation is to be done during the Week 9 meeting of the New Member Pursuit.

A carefully planned and properly implemented new member rituals program will ensure the chapter a membership that appreciates, values, and loves the rituals of Delta Gamma Fraternity.

The explanations should be informal but done with sincerity and respect for the ceremonies. The director of rituals should explain the various aspects of the ceremonies and the reasons for each. These are informal discussions of the formal ceremonies and should give new members and/or members a better understanding of the rituals that were performed.

White Ribbon Oath of Friendship Review Ceremony

To be held immediately after Initiation or at the first formal chapter after Initiation. May also be held at an alumnae gathering. **This is not for Inspiration or to be performed with non-members present.**

Members line up in alphabetical order. They walk into the room and sit in chairs formed into three sections:

- On each chair there will be a white ribbon, candle*, and a strip of cloth.
- One third of the strips will have FRIENDSHIP, 1/3 SYMPATHY, 1/3 ASSISTANCE.
- These are arranged accordingly:
 - FRIENDSHIP
 - SYMPATHY
 - ASSISTANCE

director of rituals: Keep in mind each of us is special because we are different. We have come together in this friendship because we have our differences to bring to each other. So, listen to me as I listen to you; we will hear ourselves grow into the realization of expanding mutual respect.

president: The white ribbon will symbolize for each of us our own Initiation and the vows we took at that time and will always remind us of this new member class.

director of rituals: Please join me in saying the Oath of Friendship.

president: FRIENDSHIP is the first part of the oath. It symbolizes a newfound source of security for our newest members. Those of you whose strips say friendship, please tie them together now, and still hold your part of the rope.

director of rituals: SYMPATHY is an emotion that comes from giving to Delta Gamma and getting an unexpected reward. Members that have experienced sympathy for the young members as they struggle for their identities and also for older members as they find sadness in their approaching graduation and leaving the chapter, join your strips that signify sympathy.

president: ASSISTANCE is the invaluable gift from our oldest members and alumnae, as they give physically and mentally to their lifelong family of Delta Gamma. Please tie together your strips of assistance.

*Still holding their strips, **song leader** starts "Take a Look," start a candle passing down each row.*

director of rituals: We are now ready to welcome new members as they are the links that join these parts together.

Trust is an essential part of Delta Gamma. We, as members, trust you to keep the secrets and ideals of our fraternity, so you in turn must trust in us as we unfold them to you. Sisterhood and friendship go hand-in-hand with this joining bond of trust.

Members stand up with their cloth strips and candles and begin to walk outside. Form an "L" shape around the anchor.

Song leader: humming, "Will You Wear Our Anchor."

New initiates are led out and around the anchor. Explain FRIENDSHIP gets wrapped around the crossbar, SYMPATHY goes around the middle and ASSISTANCE goes around the flukes. Keep humming.

POLICY: Candle/Open Flame

Open flames/candles may not be used in chapter facilities

Section 6: New Member Rituals

New Member Pursuit

The ideals and principles of Delta Gamma are embodied in the rituals of the Fraternity. Through rituals, new members learn Delta Gamma is much more than just a social club. Their involvement in a specially designed rituals program enables the new members to develop pride in and love for the Fraternity's philosophy.

New members must be assured ritual ceremonies never involve embarrassing activities. Ritual is a special experience and a time for reaffirming chapter and personal goals and ideals. The content of our rituals serves to enrich our lives. The ceremonies provide a formal transition from one stage of Delta Gamma life to another.

The chapter director of rituals should conduct the rituals program for the new members weekly using the guide and ceremonies in the New Member Pursuit Facilitators Guide.

Informal programs of an ongoing nature should also be developed for the new members. However, the new members may also be included in the daily rituals program for members when appropriate.

A well-developed rituals program for new members consists of the following formal ceremonies and informal ritual events:

Pi Alpha Ceremony

Formal pledging must be held within the first week of the new member period. The Pi Alpha ceremony is a new member's first experience with Delta Gamma rituals. It should be meaningful, impressive and effective.

The Pi Alpha ceremony is a separate booklet kept locked in the rituals cabinet/closet.

Formal pledging must be held within seven days following the issuance of bids. If possible, the Pi Alpha Ceremony should be held on Bid Day. Bid Day attire may be worn during the Pi Alpha Ceremony if held on Bid Day. Instructions and guidelines are printed in the Pi Alpha ceremony booklet.

Post-Pi Alpha Ceremony Explanation and Post-Initiation Explanation

The director of rituals should conduct an explanation of these ceremonies with the new members. The Post-Pi Alpha Ceremony Explanation may be given at the next new member meeting and the Post-Initiation Explanation is done during the Week 9 new member meeting that follows Initiation or could be used as the ceremony for the formal chapter.

The explanations should be informal but done with sincerity and respect for the ceremonies. The director of rituals should explain the various aspects of the

ceremonies and the reasons for each. These are informal discussions of the formal ceremonies and should give new members and/or members a better understanding of the rituals that were performed.

Pi Alpha Ribbon Pledging Ceremony

This ceremony is used when the Pi Alpha ceremony cannot take place within the first week after bid acceptance. **It is not to be used in place of the Pi Alpha ceremony.**

The Fraternity and the National Panhellenic Conference recommends formal pledging occur on bid day. For chapters unable to hold the formal ceremony within one week following bid day, the Ribbon Pi Alpha ceremony may be used. It is usually held on the day the new members receive their bids. It is informal and simple, but should be conducted in a meaningful, sincere manner.

Equipment:

- Assemble bronze, pink and blue ribbons into a bow or loop with small safety pin attached. Provide one for each new member.

Responsibilities of Chapter Officers:

- The president, vice-president: member education and director of rituals set the time and place for the ceremony and inform the new members.
- The song leader leads the chapter in singing and selects the music.

Instructions:

- Ribbons are given in advance to the appointed chapter members to pin on the new members as they arrive.
- The ceremony begins after all new members have received their ribbons and have been greeted by the members.
- New members are arranged in a group semi-circle with the chapter members around them, all facing the chapter president.

Ceremony:

president: You have received our invitation to become new members of Delta Gamma Fraternity. You will become new members at a formal Pi Alpha Ceremony on (date) at (time). Today we give you our colors to wear until you become new members. The bronze, pink and blue ribbons are a token of our future commitment to you and yours to us. We would like you to make this promise of friendship.

director of rituals: This is the promise:

I promise to wear the Delta Gamma colors/
with love and respect,/
knowing they are a symbol/
of friendship, ideals and responsibilities/
that will be revealed to me/
when I become a new member.

Will you repeat after me? If so, answer, "I will."

new members: "I will"

director of rituals and new members: "I promise to wear ..." etc.

president: You are now bound to us by a promise of friendship in Delta Gamma. We look forward to having each of you wear our Pi Alpha pin.

Song leader: leads the chapter in singing an appropriate song.

Watchwords Ceremony

Celebrates the culmination of new member education by sharing Delta Gamma heritage.

The Watchwords ceremony takes place during the New Member Pursuit. This is an optional activity of the New Member Pursuit.

Prior to meeting:

- Place speaking parts on index cards.
- Prepare chapter and alumnae participants by educating them on their role, practicing their parts and rehearsing the appropriate songs.

During the meeting:

- Set the tone of ritual by using background music.
- Perform the Watchwords ceremony.

Equipment:

- Pi Alpha curtain and standards
- three votive candles for the table

Instructions:

- president stands in the center
- vice-president: member education stands to president's right
- director of rituals stands to president's left
- narrator stands off to the left, a bit in front of other line of speakers (narrator could be in costume from turn of the century to set tone of ceremony)

Wrap-up:

- Close the ceremony with an appropriate song.
- Present each new member with a flower, note or other token of esteem.

Variations:

- After the ceremony is finished, ask each woman to place a note in a sister's box. The note can be a thank you, special sentiment, poem or thought. You can also read the notes aloud in the large group.
- After the ceremony is finished, divide the participants into five groups and ask them to create a list of activities the chapter does in regard to each of the narrator's parts.

Encouraged guests:

- local alumnae
- big sisters
- entire chapter

Ceremony:

director of rituals: New members of _____ chapter of Delta Gamma, we are here together today to reflect on our contributions and commitment to one another and our Fraternity. We share a rich heritage, a remarkable desire for excellence and the highest qualities of character.

song leader: *(Leads chapter in "Sisters True.")*

director of rituals: As we hear the words Anna Boyd Ellington spoke so long ago after the first Initiation, let us reflect upon your first days and times with Delta Gamma.

narrator: "Dear sisters, you are now members of the Delta Gamma club. Ours is an associate sisterhood ... "

vice president: member education: You came into Delta Gamma as individuals; it is that individuality that makes Delta Gamma what it is. Be proud to wear the anchor. It is a symbol of the strength and support you receive as sisters from the commitments we have made to one another.

narrator: "... based upon the sincere desire for mutual improvement ... "

vice president: member education: The scope of the Fraternity, although far reaching, excels through the truth and loyalty of members. It is a time-tested honor, one filled with unique opportunities for personal development and service.

narrator: "... its cementing element is love ... "

vice president: member education: As we have shared the heritage of our Fraternity, we have seen it is one born of love and tended by the loyalty members harbor for a lifetime. A rich history and a sterling future share in providing us opportunities for lifelong friends and memories.

narrator: "... its stimulating principle truth ... "

vice president: member education: The individual is the cornerstone of our Fraternity. Honor is the code by which we live and interact with one another. We share a mutual responsibility and relationship to further the growth of Delta Gamma.

narrator: "... its Watchword duty."

Vice president: member education: We each have the responsibility to honor Delta Gamma as we have to honor one another and ourselves. As we meet the

five points of the membership star, strive to reach our own potential and maintain the highest qualities of character, it is our duty as members, to maintain the integrity of what has been willed to us by others.

president: I am and always will be a Delta Gamma. As we each assume the name of Delta Gamma, we also assume the responsibility to maintain the strength and sincerity of membership. It is up to each of us to offer our energies toward its success, its future and its survival. It is up to each of us to place our best intentions alongside that of our sisters. It is up to each of us to show pride in membership and to foster good relations throughout our lives. It is up to each of us to support the Fraternity wherever it may be, in whatever form it may assume and in whatever ways we can. It is up to each of you to "be what you seem" and to follow the Watchwords of OUR Fraternity.

director of rituals: As the stars in the sky make the constellations of the night, the stars you are shine bright in Delta Gamma. As you look to the sky, and the stars shine upon you, remember you are what make Delta Gamma a better and brighter place.

Song leader: *(Leads chapter singing "Do I See an Anchor in Your Eye" or "Will You Wear Our Anchor.")*

Section 7: Founders Day

Founders Day is among the most honored of Delta Gamma's ritual traditions. It provides a special occasion when alumnae and collegians meet together to honor the three Founders and to rededicate themselves to the ideals of the Fraternity.

Founders Day observance should be held on March 15 or at the nearest convenient date. The ceremony may be performed with local alumnae in a joint Founders Day observance.

Planning should start early in the year and a date set suitable for both alumnae and collegians. This is a great collumnae activity; the collegians should be a part of the organization of the Founders Day affair.

Additional Founders Day resources are available in the library at deltagamma.org, including the chapter roll call list and tips and “how-tos.”

The Candlelighting ceremony is the official Founders Day ceremony. All guests and non-members may view it but must leave the room if the Oath of Friendship and/or the singing of “Faithful and True” are performed.

Policy: Founders Day

Each collegiate and alumnae chapter and association shall observe Founders Day in an appropriate fashion and use the official candlelighting ritual.

Suggested Program Agenda for Founders Day

The agenda may be adjusted to the needs of the group.

Grace The “Delta Gamma Grace” and/or “Blessing” (see page 26 for lyrics and music), may be sung or said before the group is seated. (optional)

Short memorial for deceased members of the group, if appropriate.

Welcome by the toastmistress, introduction of head table and reading of messages.

Introduction of honorees such as Council/Cabinet officers; former Council/Cabinet officers; advisory team members; charter members of the chapter(s); house corporation board members; past officers; outstanding Foundation volunteers, Fraternity or local award winners, and outstanding collegians.

Songs by collegians only or entire group.

Recognitions

Highlights of the past year and plans for the future.

Presentation of awards Fraternity and local awards, 25-, 50-, 60-, 70- and 75-year member recognitions.

A cream colored rose may be presented to each anniversary member. Certificates of anniversary membership are sent directly to anniversary members from Executive Offices.

The following is a guide to use in presenting the rose/s:

The golden cable of each Delta Gamma anchor symbolizes the continuance and strength of our friendship in our Fraternity. To our new initiates, in their anticipation for the future, the cable shines brightly. To those who have worn the anchor for years, the cable has proved its durability - the brightness has been mellowed and burnished, but the glow that remains is evidence of its lasting quality and its purity.

(Include here a few words about the special attributes of and the contributions made by the recipient if possible.)

We honor you with this cream rose. It is a symbol of the hope and friendship in your ___ years in Delta Gamma.

(Optional poem to be read following presentation of anniversary roses.)

A Lifetime

A lifetime of service,
A lifetime of love
For the ideals embraced by three young women.
You have experienced the changes of the seasons,
Witnessed the crying turned to laughter,
And donated your strengths and talents
To make her stronger.

You have weathered the stormy seas
To find the days filled with sunshine
And to a purpose to life.
You have offered the priceless gift of friendship
And have secured a unique place
In Delta Gamma history.

The girl in the mirror now reflects
The beauty of age and character.
You serve as an inspiration and guiding light
For those who sail behind
And cling to the golden anchor.
May life richly bless you
With hope, friendship, loyalty, and love.

Down Rodak, Beta Tau-Miami (Florida)

If finances allow, the anniversary members may be presented with the rose pin/lavaliere designed especially for them and available from the official Fraternity jeweler via the Delta Gamma website. Individual anniversary members may order their own pins, also.

Introduction of speaker and speaker's remarks.

Candlelighting Ceremony (see pages 24-25 for ceremony.)

- The Candlelighting ceremony is the traditional ceremony of Founders Day and should be rehearsed by those chosen to perform the ceremony.
- Five members participate: a narrator and four candlelighters.
- When collegians are present it is customary for them to conduct this service. Some groups are fortunate enough to have three generations of Delta Gammas, mother/daughter groups or distinguished charter members who might like the honor of participating. You might ask the oldest and youngest members in the area to represent the sisterhood by sharing the candlelighting honors. Be creative!

In the Beginning ... Our Founders

This ceremony leads into the Candlelighting ceremony and is a lovely addition to Founders Day.

director of rituals: You have heard us speak of our three Founders many times, and tonight we would like to give you a deeper insight into these women and their lives.

First speaker: The year 1873 marked the worst depression in the history of our nation. Neither the automobile nor the airplane had been invented. Most long-distance travel was done by rail. The typewriter, phonograph, telephone and electric light were soon to be invented. The nation was faced with severe domestic problems ranging from strikes and labor reform.

Second speaker: The Lewis School was situated among the rolling hills of Mississippi in Oxford. It was founded before the Civil War and it enjoyed a reputation as a select school for young women. The curriculum stresses the things considered proper for a woman of the Victorian Era's education: literature, art and music.

At Christmastime 1873, our Founders were trapped at school by a set of circumstances: a shortened Christmas vacation and impassable roads, for Kosciusko (Kossy-us-ko) was far off the rail lines. To alleviate their boredom and homesickness, they started something wonderful, something that expressed the deep love they had for each other: the Delta Gamma Club.

Third speaker: Anna was born on January 22, 1856, a rosy-cheeked girl with very dark hair. She was fun loving and popular with her friends in Kosciusko. Her friends considered her brilliant, a natural leader.

After Anna graduated from the Lewis School, she became a school teacher. She didn't marry until 1882 when she was 26. After four daughters and only eight

years of marriage, DA Ellington passed away. In 1895, Anna returned to Mississippi to take care of her ailing father. After his death, she returned to Kosciusko and settled within a block of Mary and Eva.

She continued to teach school all the while, for she was determined her daughters would have college educations. Just as her goal was in sight the youngest preparing for college in the fall, Anna died. She was only 50 years old. Though her life was filled with tragedy and hardship, she spent it always doing for others. She was remembered for her easy laughter and her joyous heart, as well as her keen intellect

Fourth speaker: Mary, born on January 22, 1856, was a tall girl with blonde hair and blue eyes. Mary was a warm, very affectionate person. She was intelligent and plain spoken.

In 1880, she married Charles H. Leonard and for a time, the husband and wife team worked as educators. Eventually, the Leonards moved to Florida where they lived and taught for nine years. During this period, Mary bore three sons. After her husband's death, she returned to Kosciusko and the comfort of her lifelong friend Eva.

She threw her whole soul into teaching for the next 16 years, so her sons would be provided for. Though she loved her public school teaching, Mary was most dedicated to spreading the gospel in her Sunday school classes. Mary remained Eva's most loyal and intimate friend from the time of their childhood until Eva's death. The two enjoyed traveling together and attended many Delta Gamma Conventions. Mary died in 1940 at the age of 84. She was much loved, admired and respected; she was an inspiration to all who knew her.

Fifth speaker: Eva, born on July 5, 1855, was a small girl with auburn hair. She was Anna's cousin. Eva was naturally shy, a quiet sort of person.

Two years after she graduated from the Lewis School she married the Honorable S.L Dodd, a prominent attorney and later judge in Kosciusko. She was active in many civic organizations, but her life was devoted to her home and family. Eva was no stranger to sorrow. She bore eight children, but only two survived her. The judge also died suddenly of a heart attack leaving her heartbroken.

Eva and Mary traveled to many Delta Gamma Conventions in their later years, where they discovered the progress their little club had made. Eva's life was a model of selflessness, love and fortitude under trials. She died in 1934 at the age of 79.

(Song leader leads the group in an appropriate song.)

(Proceed with the Candlelighting ceremony.)

The narrator and the candlelighters take their place behind the table and face the audience for the service. The first candlelighter holds the small, lighted candle and uses it to light the first candle. After saying her part she passes the

small candle to the second candlelighter, and the process continues. With all candles are lit, the candlelighters remain standing as the narrator concludes the ceremony. The candles may be left burning, if safe and appropriate, otherwise, they should be extinguished at the end of the ceremony.

Reminder:

- The Friendship Circle may be used to conclude the Founders Day celebration.
- The Oath of Friendship and “Faithful and True” may be used only when initiated Delta Gammas are present.
- The Oath of Friendship and “Faithful and True” may not be printed on the program.
- After the Oath of Friendship, while still in the Friendship Circle, the group may sing “Faithful and True.”

Note: The Oath of Friendship is repeated and the song “Faithful and True” is sung only in the presence of initiated members of Delta Gamma.

Candlelighting Ceremony:

Each collegiate and alumnae chapter and association shall observe Founders Day in an appropriate fashion and use the official candlelighting ritual.

Informal Founders Day Ceremony

Occasionally, alumnae groups meet for Founders Day in informal settings, such as picnics, private homes or parks, where the lighting of candles in memory of the Founders seems inappropriate.

(The following brief statement may take the place of candlelighting. The alumnae president should read it.)

alumnae president: We remember our three Founders— Anna Boyd Ellington, Eva Webb Dodd and Mary Comfort Leonard —for their friendship. Each in her own special way set standards for our present Delta Gamma. Their pin gave us a hope for the future, a loyalty between sisters with lifetime membership, and high ideals for our Fraternity and in our way of living. We honor them for their integrity and for their high standards, and we pledge to make ourselves more thoughtful to each other's needs and to uphold our Oath of Friendship always.

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