

GUIDE

Delta Tau Delta Fraternity

GUIDE

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GUIDE

INTRODUCTION

You have one of the most important positions in the chapter. You are responsible for overseeing the Ritual of the Fraternity. As you know, the Ritual of the Fraternity contains the basic elements upon which the Fraternity was founded. Therefore, it is crucial that you do your job to the utmost of your ability. Here are a few of your general areas of responsibilities: chairman of the ritual committee, implementation of a ritual education program, and care and maintenance of all ritual equipment. All of your duties are centered on making the Ritual performance better. In this chapter we will give you suggestions on how to make the initiation ceremony more inspirational. The remaining sections focus on scheduling formal meetings, the Rite of Iris, and your role in the chapter leadership.

Importance of the Ritual

As Guide for your chapter, it is essential that you understand the importance of the Ritual. The Ritual should inspire each members' commitment to excellence and reinforce the values of the Fraternity. If your chapter isn't having regular formal meetings at least three times a month, you should encourage the leadership to amend this practice. A well-performed Ritual can change the entire attitude of the membership, and regular formal meetings will help increase the awareness of this important part of being a Delt.

Being a Leader

As an elected official of the chapter, you are responsible for assisting in the leadership of the chapter. Your duty as the Guide gives you the opportunity to be the leader of an essential component of the Fraternity. It is up to you to lead your chapter members into a life of commitment to excellence through the Ritual. The amount of emphasis your chapter places on the Ritual of the Fraternity will be up to you. In the final analysis, a chapter with a strong focus on ritual and values will develop a much stronger bond among its members.

DUTIES OF THE GUIDE

According to Article II, Section 7, of the Bylaws, the Guide's position is defined as:

"the Guide shall notify all members of special meetings and collect the ballots at all elections."

However, usually the duties of the Guide are much more. In many chapters the duties of the Guide also include:

1. He is chairmen of the Ritual committee, whose membership shall consist of all members involved in the initiation ceremony, and whose duty it is to work with the Vice President in performing the Ritual in all formal ceremonies of the chapter.

2. He is charged with the care and maintenance of all Ritual equipment and ensures that it is in excellent condition.
3. He is charged with designing and implementing a Ritual education program for all new initiates and any other interested member of the Fraternity.
4. He is sometimes a voting member of the Executive Committee.
5. He shall perform special duties outlined in the Ritual of the Fraternity.

ABOUT THE RITUAL

The private work of the Fraternity is represented to its members in the Ritual, and this ritualistic work is used constantly by the chapter in formal meetings. The full expression of the Ritual is found in the initiation ceremony. The intangibles of the Fraternity are based upon the Ritual, and its heritage of tradition gives each chapter the opportunity for full expression of its beauty and meaning.

The effectiveness of ritualistic work is enhanced immeasurably by strict adherence to all detailed instructions embodied in the Ritual. To attempt to execute the ritualistic work without verbatim memorization of all parts detracts from impressiveness of the ceremony.

The chapter hall should be planned and arranged according to the descriptions and diagrams in the Ritual book provided for your chapter by the Central Office.

FORMAL MEETINGS

Article VII, Section 2, of the Bylaws, states that:

"At least one meeting a month shall be in regular ritualistic due form. Officers of undergraduate chapters shall memorize their respective ritualistic parts and shall recite them at all meetings without reference to any memoranda."

It is mandate that formal meetings shall be held at intervals not to exceed one month. Many chapters have provided in their bylaws that formal meetings shall be held even more often than this, and it is recommended that all chapters follow this lead. Formal meetings have proven very effective, since they help to impress upon the members the seriousness of the work and business, they help to maintain order, and they help to familiarize the entire chapter with the ritualistic work of the Fraternity. There is no better way of bringing home to the chapter the fact that it is part of an international organization than through the medium of formal meetings.

INITIATION

The initiation ceremony is spelled out in the Ritual. The time of initiation is established by local custom in conformity with the requirements of the institution and the Fraternity. Here are a few suggestions to keep in mind as you prepare for its performance:

Lighting:

Many chapters have discovered that the impressiveness of the initiation ceremony may be enhanced by the addition of lighting equipment. Few suggestions can be made through this manual in this regard, for obvious reasons. Lighting can be used to emphasize the important symbols and articles of paraphernalia. Care should be exercised however, lest the effect become distracting and the ceremony lose its solemn effectiveness.

Initiation Team:

Many of the parts in the initiatory rite are filled automatically upon the election of the officers of the chapter. The parts not filled in this manner should be filled by appointment by the President or the Guide. A second team should be appointed, so that substitutes will be available if a member of the regular initiation team is unable to participate. The team members must commit their parts to memory perfectly, but their duty does not end there. They must understand the meaning of their parts and be able to convey this meaning to the initiates when they are introduced to the ceremony. The team members must be able to capture the spirit of the rite and convey this spirit expressively.

Spirit of the Ceremony:

The initiation should be one of the highlights of the chapter's year, for it is the goal toward which the candidates have been pointing from the first day of their pledgeship. The initiates and the chapter members should be attired in formal dress.

Alumni:

The alumni should be invited to attend the function, and the alumni relations committee should be asked to join in the preparations. Many chapters have been able to place all of the responsibility for arranging the post-initiation functions upon the alumni, who make provisions for a banquet, secure speakers, and provide the bulk of the publicity for the affair. This practice is highly recommended. It has been found that the initiation ceremony itself is made more effective if the delivery of the charge is delegated to an prominent local alumnus. Regardless of how these arrangements are handled, the alumni should be invited to attend the initiation ceremony, for this ceremony is one of the closest bonds they have with the Fraternity and the chapter.

Parents:

Initiation should be the high point of a Delt's membership. It is a time for celebration. Many chapters invite parents to the post-initiation celebration. If a new initiate's father is a Delt, special care, should be given to see that he is in attendance at his son's initiation. Few moments can be more inspirational or emotional than seeing Delta Tau Delta connect between father and son.

Inspiration:

The initiation ceremony introduces the neophyte to the inner workings of the Fraternity, so every effort should be made to create an impression upon him that will remain an inspiration for the rest of his years in the Fraternity. The fraternity has provided the ceremony; it is up to the chapter members to see that its beauty is brought to life.

RITE OF IRIS

The Rite of Iris is a dignified pre-initiation ceremony which was adopted by the Karnea in 1929. Although its use is optional, many chapters throughout the Fraternity have been using the ceremony for many years with great success. The ceremony offers an excellent addition of an inspirational nature to the pledge education program during the important period preceding initiation.

CHAPTER LEADERSHIP

As an elected officer of the chapter, you have the responsibility to take part in the leadership of the chapter. Your most direct contribution will be doing a thorough and conscientious job in your duties as Guide. These activities insure consistent ritualistic practice and develop your own leadership potential.

You will also want to take an active part in the development of chapter goals, policy, and planning. If you take a genuine interest in chapter planning, operations, and activities you will be able to assume leadership. You are in the position to listen, interpret, and be heard.

Chapter leadership requires initiative and knowledge. As an officer in the chapter, you will have an opportunity to gain the knowledge necessary for future leadership. What you accomplish depends on your willingness to work. Assistance is always available from the Central Office, your Division President and Vice President, your chapter advisor, and the other chapter officers. When a Chapter Consultant visits your chapter, you should make a special effort to talk with him about your specific duties and chapter leadership.

In summary, the role of the Guide may seem small, but its importance should not be underestimated. Your influence can be great -- it all depends upon the effort that you are willing to put into the job, and the extra mile that you are willing to go for the Fraternity.

