



# Your Lifelong Commitment to Pi Beta Phi



## Goals of this seminar:

- Reflect on your chapter experience
- Define the meaning of Lifelong Commitment
- Develop action items to remain involved in Pi Phi after graduation
- Discuss ways to support the Pi Phi and sorority experience

## Fraternity Values:

- Lifelong Commitment

**Suggested Facilitator:** Director Lifelong Membership, Vice President Member Experience

## Room setup/materials needed:

- Every member will need something to write on and a pen
- Easel paper and markers for brainstorming

- A poster or slides with the definition of Lifelong Commitment and the Pi Beta Phi mission

## **Getting started:**

- The facilitator should walk through this seminar prior to presenting it to make sure they're comfortable with the material.
- Talking points are indicated with normal font and in quotation marks. Please use these as speaking guidelines but be sure to make the presentation your own.
- Facilitation instructions are indicated with italicized font. These are hints you might find helpful when administering the material. Most importantly, have fun! The more excited and engaged you are, the more participants will be.
- If you are holding this workshop during a chapter meeting, or another time where cell phones aren't usually allowed, let participants know they will need them for this activity.

☰ Introduction: Your Lifelong Commitment to Pi Beta Phi

☰ Part 1: Your Lifelong Commitment to Pi Beta Phi

☰ Part 2: Your Lifelong Commitment to Pi Beta Phi

☰ Conclusion: Your Lifelong Commitment to Pi Beta Phi

☰ Participant Activities

# Introduction: Your Lifelong Commitment to Pi Beta Phi

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## What's your Why?

“ Welcome and thanks for joining us today! We will dive into the Pi Phi core value of Lifelong Commitment and how you will be able to utilize your own experience in college to make the most of your alumnae life. As we begin, it's important to recognize that every member may have slightly different motivations and reasons for remaining engaged in our organization, and there are no wrong answers here! I encourage all of you to participate and learn from one another. ”

OPTION 1: WHY PI PHI?

OPTION 2: WATCH VIDEO ON THE ...

*This option may be better for chapters without access to a TV, projector or space to move around the room.*

“ We'll start with an activity that might sound familiar ... let's talk about “Why Pi Phi?” During recruitment, we ask you to think about the reason or reasons you joined Pi Phi. Was it one awesome Pi Phi you met during recruitment? Was it the research you did before going through recruitment – maybe our values or philanthropy stood out to you? Maybe it was our social media presence! Those are great to know and share with Potential New Members!

Today, I want you to focus on why you stayed in Pi Phi. Sure, recruitment was awesome and your time as New Member was the best, but why are you still here? If you've ever been in a leadership position in our chapter, why did you serve our chapter in that way? What keeps you engaged in Pi Phi as a member, a senior, a leader, etc.? ”

*NOTE: This might be something your chapter covers during recruitment prep. If so, encourage members to think about whether their answers from recruitment are still the same today. They may have evolved and that's okay!*

“ Take about five minutes to write down your answer. ”

*Give members a few minutes to reflect.*

“ Does everyone have their “why?” Now, I'd like you to find someone in the chapter you haven't talked to in a while and share your answer. You'll have another five minutes to do this. ”

*Give members about five minutes to pair and share. If you are facilitating this seminar virtually, this can be done in randomly assigned Zoom breakout rooms.*

“ Staying where you are, does anyone want to share their partner's “why?” ”

*Allow three or four examples to be shared with the large group.*

“ Thank you all for reflecting and sharing! Keep your “why” in mind as we continue with this seminar. We will come back to it several times! ”

OPTION 1: WHY PI PHI?

OPTION 2: WATCH VIDEO ON THE ...

*This option may be better for a medium to large chapter without much space in the room.*

“ In this video, a TedTalk by author Simon Sinek, you'll learn more about the concepts of the “Golden Circle” and “Starting with Why.” We can easily apply these concepts to our Pi Phi experience! Simon will explain the differences between “what,” “how” and “why,” and which is most valuable to customers. During this video, think about the ways in which you're able to connect these concepts to your Pi Phi life. ”

*This video is about 18 minutes long. The concept that we'll focus on is explained in the first eight minutes. If they'd like, members may watch the full video on their own, but for the sake of time we encourage you to stop the video at about eight minutes (when he starts talking about the Wright Brothers).*

*Play the video for participants.*

“ Now that we've seen the video and learned more about the concept of “Starting with Why,” take a few minutes to think about your “Why Pi Phi.” Reflect on why you're a Pi Phi. Why are you still a member? Why are you engaged in the chapter? Maybe you've had a leadership role in the chapter — why did you serve the chapter? Write down your answers on your own. ”

*Give members about five minutes to reflect and write down their answers.*

“ Would anyone like to share with the large group? ”

*Allow three examples to be shared.*

“ Thank you all for reflecting and sharing! Keep your “why” in mind as we continue with this seminar. We will come back to it several times! ”

Sorry: we can't play video on this browser. Please make sure it's up to date and that Flash 11.1 or higher is installed. [Load this talk on ted.com](#)

CONTINUE

# Part 1: Your Lifelong Commitment to Pi Beta Phi

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## Alumnae Life

“ Now that we all know why we’re Pi Phis, let’s discuss how this can be applied to your upcoming alumnae life — whether that be in a few months or in a few years.

To start, let’s define Lifelong Commitment. What does this mean to you? Call out your answers and I’ll write them down. ”

*Allow members to call out their answers for two minutes or so. Answers may include the following:*

- *Being involved after college*
- *Joining an alumnae club*
- *Serving on an Alumnae Advisory Committee or a Chapter House Corporation*
- *Paying alumnae dues*
- *Going to Pi Phi events – locally and internationally*
- *Staying in touch with chapter sisters*
- *Reading The Arrow*
- *Making a gift to Pi Beta Phi Foundation*

“ These are all great answers and good examples of how to stay involved after graduation!

The Pi Phi definition of Lifelong Commitment is...”

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Lifelong Commitment: Remain engaged and help the Fraternity achieve its mission throughout membership.

*Display the definition on a poster or slide.*

“ Pretty simple, right? Let’s break down this definition even more.

We’re asked to help the Fraternity achieve its mission. Who can tell us the Pi Beta Phi mission? ”

*Allow a few seconds ... members may not have this memorized and that’s okay.*

“ Our mission is... ”

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Pi Beta Phi Fraternity's Mission: To promote friendship, develop women of intellect and integrity, cultivate leadership potential and enrich lives through community service.

*Display the mission on a poster or slide.*

“ Now, think back to your personal “Pi Phi why.” Are there elements of the mission reflected in your “why?” In what ways? Are you already helping the Fraternity achieve its mission? Take a look at your “why” and write down any connections you see.

For example, if one of your reasons for being a Pi Phi was the friendships you've made, how are you promoting friendship within the organization? ”

*Allow two minutes of self-reflection.*

“ So, we know the definition of Lifelong Commitment and we're clear on the mission. Let's discuss how this impacts alumnae life! ”

**OPTION 1: SMALL GROUPS WITH N...**

**OPTION 2: NEARBY SMALL GROUPS**

*This option is better for chapters looking to help members step out of their comfort zones and meet new people.*

“ In a moment, I want you to find two other members who you don't get to talk to often and discuss the following questions:

- How will you remain engaged with the Fraternity after graduation?
- How will you help the Fraternity achieve its mission throughout your membership?
- How will you encourage your sisters to do the same?
- How can your “Why Pi Phi” be incorporated into your alumnae experience?

As you develop your answers, I'd like you to be as specific as possible. For example: If you're moving to a new city and you'd like to become involved in the alumnae club, walk us through the steps you'd take to do that. Is it looking up the club president on the Pi Phi website and emailing her? How will you make this happen?

You'll have about 15 minutes to answer the questions in your small groups. Go ahead and find your groups and get to work! ”

*Allow members to form their groups and provide 15 minutes for discussion. If you are facilitating virtually, this can be done using randomly assigned Zoom breakout rooms.*

*Members can use the online Leading with Values module to reference each question they need to discuss. Send them the link to this seminar and direct them to the "Participant Activities" tab on the left side. There, they will find the questions.*



“ From where you are in the room, who would like to share one of their answers? ”

*Ask for two to three examples from various groups.*

“ Thank you all for sharing! Hopefully you all have several examples of how you can demonstrate Lifelong Commitment as an alumna! ”

OPTION 1: SMALL GROUPS WITH N...

OPTION 2: NEARBY SMALL GROUPS

*This option may be better for large chapters with not enough space to move around.*

“ In a moment, I want you to break into groups of five to six members sitting nearby and discuss the following questions:

- How will you remain engaged with the Fraternity after graduation?
- How will you help the Fraternity achieve its mission?
- How will you encourage your sisters to do the same?
- How can your “Why Pi Phi” be incorporated into your alumnae experience?

As you develop your answers, I'd like you to be as specific as possible. For example: If you're moving to a new city and you'd like to become involved in the alumnae club, walk us through the steps you'd take to do that. Is it looking up the club president on the Pi Phi website and emailing her? Do you already know someone in the club who you could contact? How will you make this happen?

You'll have about 15 minutes to answer the questions in your small groups. Go ahead and get into your groups and get to work! ”

*Allow members to form their groups and provide 15 minutes for discussion. If you are facilitating virtually, this can be done using randomly assigned Zoom breakout rooms.*

*Members can use the online Leading with Values module to reference each question they need to discuss. Send them the link to this seminar and direct them to the "Participant Activities" tab on the left side. There, they will find the questions.*

“ Who would like to share one of their answers? ”

*Ask for two to three examples from various groups.*

“ Thank you all for sharing! Hopefully you have several examples of how you can demonstrate Lifelong Commitment as an alumna! ”

**CONTINUE**

## Part 2: Your Lifelong Commitment to Pi Beta Phi

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### What will you do?

“ Our alumnae play an incredibly important role in the Fraternity. Pi Beta Phi has more than 250,000 alumnae across the globe, compared to the approximately 20,000 collegians we typically have each year. Not only do alumnae serve in volunteer capacities to support our chapters, alumnae clubs and the general Fraternity, but they are by far our largest group of advocates for Pi Phi and the sorority experience.

We know fraternities and sororities are often scrutinized — from general public opinion, to campus and local newspapers, to national and international news stories. Far too often, we see negative perceptions and sometimes even tragic mistakes shared about fraternity and sorority groups.

Given this scrutiny, why do you think our alumnae continue to vouch for the Pi Phi experience? Why do alumnae give their time, talents and money to the Fraternity? ”

*Collect some responses and write them on easel paper or somewhere everyone can see. You should hear examples like:*

- *Their best friends came from Pi Phi*
- *They loved their college experience*
- *They want to ensure women have the same support they did in college*
- *They are having a great alumnae experience*
- *Their time as an alumna is potentially richer and much longer than the time as a collegian, allowing them to share many life experiences*

- *They believe in our mission, vision and values*
- *They know how much good can come from joining a sorority*
- *They love our philanthropy*

**OPTION 1: ADVOCATE FOR SORORI...**

**OPTION 2: DISCUSS CHALLENGES**

*This option may be better for chapters that haven't spent much time thinking about alumnae life or may not have much interaction with nearby alumnae.*

“ In the same groups from our last discussion, consider the list you just made and develop some specific actions you can take as alumnae to advocate for Pi Phi and the sorority experience. This is another great time to reflect on your “Why Pi Phi!” How can you help ensure more women will be able to experience the reasons why you're a Pi Phi?

You'll have about 10 minutes to develop your list of action items as a team, then we'll hear some of your thoughts! ”

*Allow 10 minutes for discussion, then ask for two or three groups to share some of their ideas with the large group. Examples should include:*

- *Keep up to date with Pi Phi news and events. Subscribe to email updates, follow on social media, etc.*
- *Talk openly with friends and family about your Pi Phi experiences.*
- *Going into recruitment season, chat with Potential New Members and their families about your “Why Pi Phi.” Advocate for participating in recruitment.*
- *Meet other alumnae from different chapters to broaden your understanding beyond just your chapter.*
- *Get involved with an alumnae club, volunteer on an Alumnae Advisory Committee, or look for other roles/opportunities that match your interests.*

*If these examples don't come up, please add them to the list of action items.*

OPTION 1: ADVOCATE FOR SORORI...

OPTION 2: DISCUSS CHALLENGES

*This option may be better for chapters that have discussed alumnae life in other areas or often interact with an active alumnae club nearby*

“ In the same groups from our last discussion and considering the list you just made, develop some specific actions you can take as alumnae to advocate for Pi Phi and the sorority experience — both when it's easy and fun to share your experience and also when it's not so easy. There could be a time when a news story makes it difficult to own your sorority membership. Perhaps our own chapter will make a mistake in the future and we will be disappointed. There could be changes from the Fraternity that we don't agree with or fully understand. In these challenging circumstances, it could be hard to remember the good of Pi Phi and sorority membership.

This is another great time to reflect on your “Why Pi Phi!” In your small groups, discuss these two questions:

1. How can you help ensure more women will be able to experience the reasons why you're a Pi Phi?
1. What are some actions you could take when it's not so easy to advocate for Pi Phi?

You'll have about five to 10 minutes to develop your list of action items as a team, then we'll hear some of your thoughts! ”

*Members can use the online Leading with Values module to reference each question they need to discuss. Send them the link to this seminar and direct them to the "Participant Activities" tab on the left side. There, they will find the questions.*

*Allow five to 10 minutes for discussion based on how much time you have available, then ask for two or three groups to share some of their ideas with the large group. Examples should include:*

- *Keep up to date with Pi Phi news and events. Subscribe to email updates, follow on social media, etc.*
- *Talk openly with friends and family about your Pi Phi experiences.*
- *Going into recruitment season, chat with Potential New Members and their families about your “Why Pi Phi”. Advocate for participating in recruitment.*
- *Meet other alumnae from different chapters to broaden your understanding beyond just your chapter.*
- *Get involved with an alumnae club, volunteer on an Alumnae Advisory Committee or look for other roles/opportunities that match your interests.*
- *Gather the correct information. Seek out the proper sources of information so you can help eliminate rumors or false claims in your close circles of family and friends.*

- *Remember your “Why Pi Phi.” Reflecting on your Pi Phi experience can help you remember the good of the organization.*
- *Be change ready. Keep in mind the organization has evolved and changed quite a bit throughout the last 150+ years and will continue to do so in order to remain relevant. Our processes might be different in the future than they are now.*
- *Get others’ perspectives. Talk with your sisters and challenge each other to seek understanding.*

*If those examples don't come up, please add them to the list of action items. You may want to have these examples already listed on your PowerPoint or easel paper to save time.*

**CONTINUE**

# Conclusion: Your Lifelong Commitment to Pi Beta Phi

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## Debrief

“ We’ve covered a lot today! To wrap up, let’s review the topics we discussed today:

- We discovered your Why Pi Phi
- We turned the definition of Lifelong Commitment into actionable steps
- We brainstormed ways you can advocate for Pi Phi and the sorority experience

Take a minute and go back through your notes. In each of those areas, highlight or circle just one point that stands out the most to you. Maybe it’s something you want to be sure you do or maybe it was something that simply made you think differently! ”

**OPTION 1: GROUP REFLECTION**

**OPTION 2: SMALL GROUP REFLECT...**

*This option is better for small- to medium-sized chapters.*

“ Can a few people share their biggest takeaways for each of the topics with the large group?

What do you want to get out of Pi Phi after college?

How can the chapter, your future alumnae club or the Fraternity help you in fulfilling your lifelong commitment?

How will you fulfill your lifelong commitment to Pi Phi?”

*Allow three to five people to share what they gained from the seminar.*

**OPTION 1: GROUP REFLECTION**

**OPTION 2: SMALL GROUP REFLECT...**

*This option works for chapter of any size!*

“ In your small groups, share what you circled or highlighted. You’ll have about five minutes to discuss.

What do you want to get out of Pi Phi after college?

How can the chapter, your future alumnae club or the Fraternity help you in fulfilling your lifelong commitment?

How will you fulfill your lifelong commitment to Pi Phi?”

*After five minutes, bring the large group together.*

“ Are there any volunteers who would like to share their takeaways? ”

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**“ Thank you all for your participation in the seminar today. I hope you learned something new, and you’re excited about alumnae life and all it can offer! As you leave today, remember the huge impact you can have on our organization as an alumna. We hope you’ll choose to remain engaged and help the Fraternity achieve its mission throughout your membership. ”**



## Survey

Provide the following link to four members of your chapter, one from each class. You and those four members will complete the Leading with Values seminar survey to provide feedback to Pi Beta Phi.

[pibetaphi.org/lwvfeedback](http://pibetaphi.org/lwvfeedback)

**FINISH**

# Participant Activities

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## Part 1 Discussion

## Discussion Questions for Option 1 and 2

Discuss the following questions in your small groups.

Step 1

**Question 1**

How will you remain engaged with the Fraternity after graduation?

Step 2

## Question 2

How will you help the Fraternity achieve its mission throughout your membership?

Step 3

### Question 3

How will you encourage your sisters to do the same?

## Step 4

### Question 4

How can your "Why Pi Phi" be incorporated into your alumnae experience?

Be prepared to discuss your findings with the large group.

## Part 2, Option 2 Discussion

1

How can you help ensure more women will be able to experience the reasons why you're a Pi Phi?

2

What are some actions you could take when it's not so easy to advocate for Pi Phi?

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Thank you for engaging in this seminar, today! Please fill out this survey to give feedback on this *Leading with Values* seminar: Your Lifelong Commitment to Pi Beta Phi

[Complete the Leading with Values survey.](#)



FINISH