

about pi beta phi

Pi Beta Phi has worked to support and empower women since 1867. In the century and a half since, more than 300,000 sisters have proudly worn our golden arrow. Through a lifelong membership experience rooted in timeless values, we promote friendship, cultivate leadership potential and enrich lives through community service — ensuring each member has the support of sincere friends and the inspiration to achieve her goals.

Throughout our history, Pi Beta Phi has helped young women develop meaningful relationships with others while reaching their personal potential. These relationships help sisters adapt to college life by providing a sense of belonging, mutual support and guidance. Our legacy of philanthropic service, innovative member programming, premier events and leadership development programs help our sisters become Friends and Leaders for Life.

MISSION

To promote friendship, develop women of intellect and integrity, cultivate leadership potential and enrich lives through community service

VISION

To be recognized as a premier organization for women by providing lifelong enrichment to our members and contributing to the betterment of society

CORE VALUES

Integrity, Lifelong Commitment, Honor and Respect, Personal and Intellectual Growth, Philanthropic Service to Others and Sincere Friendship

our history

On April 28, 1867, 12 courageous young women at Monmouth College came together to form a sisterhood rooted in shared experiences, enduring values and Sincere Friendships. Our founders had the vision to form the first secret society for women patterned after men's groups at a time when few universities admitted women. These women set the stage for a thriving organization that continues to enrich the lives of many during their collegiate years and beyond. Today, more than 150 years and 300,000 members later, we continue to celebrate our founders' vision as sisters of Pi Beta Phi.

Pi Beta Phi leads the way in the fraternity and sorority community as one of the seven founding members of the National Panhellenic Conference (NPC). Pi Phi was also the first to organize a national philanthropic project, form an alumnae department, establish an Alumnae Advisory Committee (AAC) for each collegiate chapter and was the first NPC group with a Canadian philanthropy. Learn more at history.pibetaphi.org.

"NOTHING purer OR lovelier GRACES THE NAME OF FRIENDSHIP."

LIBBIE BROOK GADDIS,
PI BETA PHI FOUNDER



In a world that needs sincere friends and strong leaders willing to work for the betterment of others, the values-driven membership experience Pi Phi provides is more relevant and needed than ever. Women coming together to support each other is as vital today as when our 12 courageous founders formed the first women's fraternity.

Now more than 300,000 sisters strong, we cultivate relationships through shared experiences and values. We prioritize philanthropic work and maintain a century-long commitment to bettering society through literacy service. Our premier programming and member events promote personal, intellectual and leadership growth and provide Pi Phis a place to develop and practice their skills.

Our founders established Pi Beta Phi with the vision of extending sisterhood and friendship to as many women as possible. Today, Pi Phis continue to be confident, diverse women who desire authentic friendships, seek opportunities to lead and dream of making an impact in the world. Our members find that Pi Phi sisterhood is more than four years — it's for life.

pi phi for life

Membership in Pi Beta Phi provides a lifelong network of support for our sisters, beginning in their collegiate years and lasting through decades of alumnae involvement. Pi Beta Phi provides ongoing support for all sisters as they continue a journey of Lifelong Commitment to the Fraternity.

As alumnae, our members draw depth and strength from the network of Pi Phi sisters worldwide. We hear countless stories of Pi Phis relying on one another when moving to a new city or starting a new career. With nearly 300 alumnae clubs across the globe, Pi Phis find sisters along the way no matter where life takes them.

We hope each member takes full advantage of the friendships, leadership development and opportunities for philanthropic service Pi Phi offers. Whether volunteering, attending events or giving back to our Foundation, our sisters remain dedicated to Pi Phi long after college. "OUR **OBJECT** ... IS TO SEND OUT INTO THE WORLD WOMFN WHO WILL **EVER BE** AN honor AND A blessing." THOMPSON, PI BETA PHI **FOUNDER**





philanthropic service to others

Pi Phi believes in the power of reading. We believe reading always has been — and always will be — a powerful step toward a life of enduring impact. We believe in inspiring readers, sparking imaginations and igniting the desire to learn, that readers become leaders and that reading is the foundation of all that we can achieve in life. We believe when one out of four children grows up unable to read, that's one child too many. One child … one moment at a time … one life changed forever.

Read > Lead > Achieve® is Pi Beta Phi's philanthropic effort, which inspires a lifelong love of reading that can unlock true potential, creating a more literate and productive society. Today, Pi Phis participate, donate and advocate for literacy through Read > Lead > Achieve reading initiatives, just as sisters first did in 1912 with the establishment of Pi Beta Phi's Settlement School in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. Yet as long as illiteracy remains a barrier to success, Pi Phis must continue to build on the legacy of our past by strengthening our efforts today and in the future

pi beta phi foundation

Pi Beta Phi Foundation is uniquely focused on helping Pi Beta Phi fulfill its mission — promoting friendship, developing women of intellect and integrity, cultivating leadership potential and enriching lives through community service. The generous support of sisters and friends through gifts to our Foundation helps bring that mission to life, making an impact across our sisterhood and in our world.

Because grants from our Foundation provide critical funding for every Pi Phi program, gifts are investments in every Pi Phi sister. Gifts to our Foundation:

- Create opportunities for leadership development and personal growth;
- Ensure access to education through scholarships;
- Champion reading initiatives;
- Advance collegiate housing;
- Preserve our heritage; and
- Help care for sisters when they need it most.

As a premier organization for women, we've worked to support and empower our sisters since 1867. Our Foundation secures the resources Pi Phi needs to ensure future generations of women benefit from the support of sincere friends and the inspiration to achieve their goals.





Pi Phi facilities aren't just living spaces. They're communities. And some of our members' fondest memories are formed during their time in Pi Phi housing — whether a traditional chapter home, a university residence hall or a common meeting space.

Pi Phis need living and meeting spaces that support their educational pursuits, meet expectations for safety and are competitive with other options. Pi Phi is committed to offering premier service for a premier housing experience. Our Fraternity Housing Corporation (FHC) offers resources designed to support more than just housing, honoring the needs of each chapter and helping to achieve a positive housing experience.

Founded in 2008, FHC leads Pi Phi's efforts to support and manage chapter facilities. Through FHC resources, Pi Phi is able to stay current with housing trends, discover and share promising practices and reduce risk. FHC works collaboratively with the independent, volunteer-led Chapter House Corporations who own and manage other Pi Phi facilities. Whether we're providing local volunteers with expert guidance or fully managing chapter facilities, FHC is committed to creating a positive housing experience for every Pi Phi.

pi phi facts



THE BADGE

A golden arrow with the Greek letters "Pi Beta Phi" on its wings. The 12 links in the chain represent each of the founders



THE CREST

The crest, or coat of arms, of Pi Beta Phi is a lozenge blazoned with a Pi Beta Phi founder's family crest.



THE COLORS

At the 1882 Convention, Pi Beta Phi delegates voted to adopt wine and light blue (later changed to "silver blue") as the official Fraternity colors.



THE FLOWER

In 1890, the wine carnation was chosen as the official Fraternity flower.

While the angel is not an official Pi Phi symbol, songs about Pi Phi angels first became popular in the 1930s. Angel images and references are commonly used among our members, chapters and alumnae clubs today.

our leadership

From our earliest days, Pi Beta Phi has been strong thanks to the dedication and leadership of volunteers who guide our organization at the local, regional and international levels. These women support the mission, vision and strategic direction of Pi Beta Phi. Through their work, our volunteer leaders live our values and help to make Pi Beta Phi an even stronger sisterhood for generations of women to come.

Our Fraternity, Foundation and FHC are supported by a professional staff based at Pi Beta Phi Headquarters in St. Louis, Missouri. In partnership with our volunteer leaders, Headquarters staff members serve our membership by facilitating Pi Phi's daily operations and providing support for strategic priorities.

BY THE NUMBERS

316,000+

members ever initiated into Pi Beta Phi

19,750+

approximate number of collegiate members

211,000

approximate number of living Pi Beta Phi alumnae 204

Pi Phi chapters installed since 1867

135

active chapters across the United States and Canada

47

states, districts and provinces with active chapters

289

active alumnae clubs in the United States, Canada and United Kingdom

2,500+

alumnae who volunteer for Pi Beta Phi



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