PI BETA PHI'S MEMBER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Creating Your Crest, Living Pi Phi's Heritage

Fraternity Value: Honor and Respect

Suggested Facilitator: Vice President of Fraternity Development

Goal:
- Each member will self-define their personal values.
- Members will acknowledge, appreciate and preserve Fraternity heritage.
- Members will make connections between personal values and Pi Beta Phi values.
- Members will discuss ways to incorporate Fraternity heritage into their daily lives.
- Members will create their own crest.

Room set-up/materials needed:
- Members will need a table for drawing and writing during this exercise. Banquet round tables would be ideal for sharing ideas and providing adequate space.
- Provide paper and drawing materials (markers, color pencils, etc.)
- Print copies of the Fraternity Heritage Manual Section Four – The Symbols for members to utilize during this activity and to take home after the activity is complete.

Getting Started
Talking points are indicated with a callout bullet (●). Please use these as speaking guidelines but be sure to jazz up the presentation with your own personality. Facilitation instructions are indicated with an arrow (⇒ ). These are hints you might find helpful when administering the material. Most importantly, have fun!

⇒ Before presenting this seminar, pull a few example crests that you find online (suggestions include your college/university’s crest, crest of a royal family, or crest of Hogwarts from Harry Potter). Also be sure to have the Pi Beta Phi Coat of Arms projected onto a screen, or printed paper copies for members to see.
⇒ The Vice President of Fraternity Development should take time before facilitating this session to create her own crest to share as an example with her sisters.
⇒ Set up drawing spaces with paper and writing utensils. Be mindful that members may want privacy or personal space during this activity.

Instructions
- Crests have stood the test of time, and serve as an outward symbol for people to recognize the values of an organization or house. According to the U.K. government’s College of Arms, the purpose of a family crest began by means of identification.
- Reference the sample crests that you have selected projected on a screen or pass around handouts with these images.
- Today you will have the opportunity to make your own personal crest. This crest should display to others what your values are and what you honor and respect as an individual.
Here is the crest I created for this activity. You can see how this displays the things in my life that I honor and respect the most. (Vice President of Fraternity Development will give a short description of the items on her crest and why she chose those items.)

Display or pass around the crest you created for this activity.

You will find the materials you need to create your own crest at your table. Remember, this crest should represent what is significant to you, and communicate these values to others.

Allow members 10 to 15 minutes to draw their crest. Some members may really get into this exercise and may ask for additional time. Encourage sisters to draw the most important items, and let them know they can finish up the details after the activity is done.

As members are finishing, select three or four sisters to share and explain their crest.

Now that you have created your own crest, do we have any sisters who would like to share and explain why they drew the items that they did?

During this part of the activity feel free to comment on items that you like about each crest. If a sister drew something on her crest that is a part of Pi Phi’s heritage, ritual or values, make sure to provide positive feedback on that item.

Thank you to the sisters who volunteered to share their crests. Now let’s take a moment to talk about a crest that we all are vaguely familiar with, though we may not have thought about it since our New Member Education.

Display Pi Beta Phi coat of arms on a screen or pass out pictures of it at this time.

The crest, or coat of arms, of Pi Beta Phi is a lozenge blazoned with the Brownlee family crest. An eagle is displayed in the middle on top of is the seal of Monmouth College where Pi Beta Phi was founded. The blazing sun with the Latin word meaning light, LUX, in the center, is on the eagle’s chest. In the eagle’s right talon is the monogram “IC,” and the left talon holds the arrow of Pi Beta Phi.

The lozenge signifies that the coat of arms represents a women’s organization; the eagle by holding the “IC” in one talon and Pi Beta Phi arrow in the other, signifies the absolute identity of I.C. Sorosis and Pi Beta Phi Fraternity. The coat of arms was adopted as the official Fraternity crest at the 1912 Evanston Convention.

Allow for natural conversation to happen if sisters make remarks about the coat of arms. It’s okay if no one has feedback at this time, feel free to move on to the next talking point when appropriate.

Now we are going to talk about the idea of “big r Ritual” and “little r ritual.” Has anyone heard of this concept before? Can anyone guess the ideology behind this concept?

Dr. Mari Ann Callias, a Panhellenic woman and professional in the Fraternity and Sorority arena, trademarked the idea of “big r Ritual”, and “little r ritual”. Big r Rituals are the things we do as a chapter a few times a semester, such as a New Member ceremony, celebrating Founders’ Day, or an initiation ceremony. We are setting aside time to honor and respect Pi Beta Phi and reflect on the common purpose for why we joined this Fraternity. Little r rituals are the things we do every day that live out the ritual and values of Pi Beta Phi. Are you displaying Integrity by being present and engaged in your classes? Are you finding ways to give Philanthropic Service to Others besides the designated times that we have as an entire chapter?
Can anyone share an example of how they appreciate and preserve the heritage of Pi Beta Phi on a daily basis? Also, let us know if your honor and respect for the Fraternity was present in the crest you created for the drawing activity.

Help them out! This part of the exercise is meant to be challenging and thought provoking. Provide examples of “little r ritual” to start this portion out if no one is responsive right away.

The examples you provided are excellent ways to honor Pi Phi’s heritage on a daily basis. It is important for us to remember and appreciate our vision and to be mindful of the letters we wear every day, even where we are not physically wearing our Pi Phi letters.

After discussing ways we can live out our values each day, let’s go back and add anything additional to our crests.

Allow time for sisters to add Pi Beta Phi symbols or quotes from ritual to their crests.

What are we going to do to incorporate and appreciate the heritage of our Fraternity on a regular basis?

Facilitate discussion between sisters. Make a list of ways sisters can acknowledge and appreciate Fraternity heritage.

**Final Wrap-Up**

After members have finished sharing, lead the group in the final wrap-up.

The Fraternity Heritage Manual is an important piece of who we are as an organization. I encourage you all to read the manual. There are printed copies available for you here and it is also available in the Resource Library on Pi Beta Phi’s website.

I hope this has helped you to reflect on ways we can acknowledge, appreciate and preserve Fraternity heritage in new ways. After our discussion, you should be leaving this program with some new approaches to live the values of Pi Beta Phi Fraternity in your everyday lives.

**Evaluation:** Don’t forget to help the Fraternity assess this program! The program facilitator as well as a member of each class should be asked to visit the Leading with Values website, www.pibetaphi.org/leadingwithvalues, to fill out a quick survey. Remember, the name of this seminar is “Creating Your Crest, Living Pi Phi’s Heritage.” The chapter’s Vice President of Member Development should remember to record the presentation of this program in the chapter’s monthly regional report and in their Chapter Evaluation.