WHAT’S IN A RITUAL?

FRATERNITY VALUE: HONOR AND RESPECT
SUGGESTED FACILITATOR: VICE PRESIDENT OF FRATERNITY DEVELOPMENT

Goals:
• To engage members in conversation about the meaning and importance of Pi Beta Phi’s Ritual
• To allow members a time to review chapter Rituals
• To encourage chapters to identify areas of Ritual they might improve

Room setup/materials needed:
• One copy of each Ritual document available for each group to review (The VPFD should distribute these, and make sure to obtain all copies back at the end of the seminar)
• The space should be large enough for members to spread out and work in small groups, and then return as a large group for presentations (Remember, since we are discussing Ritual, make sure the space is appropriate — nowhere public or where non-Pi Phis could overhear anything)
• Printed pieces of paper with the Ritual Review Questions, at least one per group

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 (➡️) and serve as hints you might find helpful when administering the material. Most importantly, have fun!

➡️ The Vice President of Fraternity Development, in collaboration with her committee, should work to identify at minimum (taking into account time constrictions and chapter size) five Rituals and ceremonies that will be utilized for this seminar. The VPFD should review the ceremonies and Rituals ahead of time to make sure she can answer the Ritual Review Questions for all of them. If not, she should contact her Alumnae Advisory Committee or Collegiate Regional Programming Specialist for assistance.

 startled Ritual

➡️ Print copies of the following Ritual Review Questions:
• What is the name of your assigned Ritual or ceremony?
• What is the main theme of your Ritual?
• What is the tone of your Ritual?
• What were three sentences or sentiments that really stuck out to you while reading through it?
• Why is this Ritual important?
• When you were reading through the Ritual, did you notice any discrepancies between the way it was written and how our chapter performs it? If so, what were they?
• What action or lesson is this Ritual asking us to take from it and apply to our daily lives?

➡️ Divide the number of chapter members by the number of Rituals you choose to cover, so you know how many people should be in each small group beforehand. Split chapter members into groups, making sure to represent multiple classes within each group (some ideas include dividing by Pi Phi family, randomly, etc).
• The VPFD should not be assigned to a group, so she can be available to float to groups as necessary and answer questions.

**Instructions**

> Introduce the activity:

- Today we are going to take some time to review our Ritual. We will divide up into small groups, and each group will be assigned one Ritual or ceremony to review. After answering some Ritual review questions as a small group, you will be asked to come back and present the findings of your Ritual review to the chapter.

- It is important to remember that all aspects of our Ritual and ceremonies are secret, and not be discussed outside of this room. Our Ritual has never had to be changed due to non-Pi Phis hearing about it, and we want to keep it that way. Please be respectful of our Ritual by keeping our discussions during this seminar private once you leave the room.

- Ritual is one of the defining characteristics of being Greek as well as one of the greatest privileges we have as members. After today's seminar, we'll better be able to understand how our Ritual has helped shape our organization and what lessons we can take from it.

> Ask members to divide up into groups, using the number and method you predetermined. Pass out a copy of the Ritual Review Questions and the Ritual/ceremony they'll be reviewing to each group.

> Before members begin working on their individual Ritual/ceremony, read through the Ritual Review Questions. Ask chapter members if they have any questions about the review questions or objectives of the seminar.

> Allow chapter members 20 minutes to work through the questions.

- We'll now take 20 minutes to work through these questions with our group. Remember, you'll be asked to present your answers in front of the chapter afterwards, so it will be a good idea to nominate someone to take notes and someone who feels comfortable presenting the findings as well. If you have any questions, raise your hand and I'll be around to help.

> After 20 minutes, ask everyone to return their attention to the front of the room. Help facilitate the presentations by calling on groups to present, allowing them as much time as necessary to cover the information. After each group, ask chapter members if they have any additional questions or comments regarding that Ritual/ceremony.

**Final Wrap-Up**

> After participants have finished presenting, ask them the following questions:

- How many of you learned something new about a Ritual or ceremony during this seminar?

- Which Ritual or ceremony was your favorite, and why?

- How has this seminar changed the way you think about Ritual? What lesson will you take with you as you leave?

- How many of you thought that this was a worthwhile and educational seminar? What did you like or dislike about it?
Thank members for participating and end the seminar.

The VPFD should make sure that all copies of Rituals and ceremonies that were handed out are returned to her before members leave the seminar. She should return them immediately to the chapter archives.

**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* pages on the website, www.pibetaphi.org/leadingwithvalues, to fill out a quick survey. Remember, the name of this seminar is *What’s in a Ritual?*

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.