



A formal initiation ritual lends a measure of gravity to an induction ceremony. It reminds inductees of their connection to the national organization of Pi Sigma Alpha and to the other chapters of the honor society, and to political science scholars who have gone before them and who will follow. It helps make the occasion a memorable event of their academic lives. Such a ritual should reflect the meaning of the honor the students are receiving, and inspire them to continue to pursue academic excellence.

The Pi Sigma Alpha initiation ritual offered here may be modified, expanded, or embellished to conform to the needs of a local chapter or the particular occasion. If the induction event includes a speaker from outside the university, he or she may be included as an honorary member of the chapter. There may be remarks from other persons. Graduation medallions and/or other merchandise may be given with the certificates. The banner may be displayed, etc. It is important only that each chapter have a dignified and appropriate ceremony for the induction of members.

In advance of your event, please draw information from previous emails from the national office:

- 1) Greek Letters for your chapter
- 2) Your chapter charter date (founding)
- 3) Total number of individuals in your chapter's history
- 4) Names of notable chapter members (elected officials, scholars, etc) to be shared during event.

If you are a member of Pi Sigma Alpha from your school days or as a faculty member, please be sure to note this. Same for other members of the political science department faculty.

All or some of this information can be included as part of your opening remarks. In this centennial year I do hope you will make a point of saying a few words about the chapter's history and place in the department and on campus. If you need information from the national office please ask at any time and we will do our best to help.

Please have photographs taken and share with the national office. Not only will we promote your chapter's induction on social media but these photographs become part of our institutional history. One hundred years from when we celebrate the bicentennial of Pi Sigma Alpha it would be nice to have a record of your induction.

# Centennial Ritual of Initiation



Members of Pi Sigma Alpha, candidates for initiation, and friends: We are here today for the purpose of initiating new members into Pi Sigma Alpha, the national political science honor society. This is a special year for Pi Sigma Alpha. It is our centennial. One hundred years ago, in October 1920, the first class of members was inducted at the University of Texas, Austin. The organization sought to encourage and recognize superior achievement in the study of government and politics at the undergraduate and graduate level. That first class included thirteen students, among them a future Supreme Court Justice and U.S. Attorney General, a future U.S. Ambassador, a number of future attorneys, and other individuals who would go on to make an impact at local, national and international levels.

Today, Pi Sigma Alpha hosts chapters on nearly 850 campuses and has inducted more than 300,000 members. Its rolls feature national, state, and local political leaders including one president, three Supreme Court justices, and dozens of members of Congress. The network of Pi Sigma Alpha members stretches across law, academia, business and more.

The study of politics and government is one of the noblest of academic pursuits because a deep and true understanding of the principles by which we govern ourselves contributes directly to the quality of our lives and the well-being of future generations. You have demonstrated, both by your interest in and commitment to this discipline and by your high scholastic achievement, that you have the potential to excel as citizens and scholars and so deserve the honor of membership in Pi Sigma Alpha. With this special honor come the special obligations of leaders to exemplify and safeguard the academic aims of this college (or university), the honesty and integrity of its scholars, and the ideals of your Alma Mater.

You have earned membership in this illustrious society by attaining the highest standards of scholarship not only in the discipline of political science but in your overall academic work as well, in accordance with the rigorous criteria set forth in the national constitution of Pi Sigma Alpha, the by-laws of (name of chapter) chapter, and the strict requirements of the Association of College Honor Societies.

WILL THE CANDIDATES FOR INITIATION INTO PI SIGMA ALPHA PLEASE STAND.

Your eligibility for membership in Pi Sigma Alpha has been vouched for by (name of Chapter Advisor) and so you are duly invited to lifetime membership in both the national organization of Pi Sigma Alpha and the (name of chapter) chapter. By accepting this honor you signify your acceptance of and commitment to the ideals of high scholarship, integrity, and citizenship embodied in the goals of this institution and of Pi Sigma Alpha. Please come forward as I call your name.