



Leadership Academy

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

PROTOCOL & TRADITIONS

*Delta Internal Development
Participant Manual*

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AGENDA

- ◆ Welcome
- ◆ Introductions
- ◆ Meditation
- ◆ Objectives
- ◆ Ice Breaker
- ◆ Protocol
- ◆ Traditions
- ◆ Symbols, Insignia, Colors, and Regalia
- ◆ General, Administrative, Rap Order
- ◆ Attire
- ◆ Official Songs
- ◆ Evaluation
- ◆ Closing

OBJECTIVES

- ◆ To increase sorors' knowledge of the Sorority's Protocol and Traditions
- ◆ To ensure that sorors know the proper attire for National Conventions, Regional Conferences, Chapter Meetings, and Ritualistic Ceremonies
- ◆ To ensure that sorors are familiar with the correct way to sing the Sorority's official songs.
- ◆ To ensure that sorors know the Secrets, Passwords, Signs, and Grips of the Sorority

ICE BREAKER – “The Ties that Bind”

NOTES:

INTRODUCTION

Two principles which form the template for all the traditions and protocol activities that we present in the Sorority are:

Principle One – Organizations that survive and thrive over a long history are those that articulate a sound system of beliefs and values. We are gifted in Delta Sigma Theta with a strong belief and value system – the nine Jewels and the “Delta Oath.”

Principle Two – Traditions, ceremonies and protocol must support and enhance the organization’s belief and value system.

The 10th National President, Dorothy I. Height, wrote:
“To preserve tradition, we must bring it into the current decade and make sure it remains viable for decades to come.”

INTRODUCTION

NOTES:

PROTOCOL

Prescribed social usages, etiquette, and acts of courtesy observed by members of the Sorority.

- Respect and Recognition for Founders
- Respect and Recognition for the National President and Past National Presidents
- Respect and Recognition for Regional Director/Representative
- Respect and Recognition for Chapter Charter Members
- Respect and Recognition for Honorary Members

PROTOCOL

NOTES:

TRADITIONS

The handing down of information, beliefs and customs by word of mouth or by example, from one generation to another, usually without written instruction.

- Three Rites of Passage
- A soror is entitled to attend the three Rites of Passage of any chapter, granted that she is properly attired. Sorors under disciplinary action are not entitled to attend Induction and Initiation.
- The secrets, passwords, signs and grips are never written but are transmitted by word of mouth from one Delta to another.
- All Sorority insignia should be worn properly, respectfully, and in good taste.
- Membership in Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. is a lifetime commitment. Therefore, every soror is due recognition and courtesy in any chapter, regardless of chapter membership.
- Ceremonies **may not** be altered or suspended without permission of the National First Vice President in conjunction with the Ritual and Ceremonies Commission.

TRADITIONS

NOTES:

SYMBOLS, INSIGNIA, COLORS, REGALIA

- The Sorority Pin
- The Pyramid Pin
- The Fortitude Pin
- The Diamond Jubilee Pin
- Millennium Pin
- The Sorority Seal
- The Sorority Crest
- The Sorority Emblem
- The Sorority Colors
- The Pyramid Colors
- The Pyramid Flower
- The Sorority Stone
- The Sorority Flower
- The Sorority Official Robes
- The Sorority Public Motto
- The Pyramid Public Motto
- The Fundamental Principles
- The Torch of Wisdom
- The Sigma
- The Delta Flag
- The Delta Banner
- The Floral Tribute (Omega Omega)

SYMBOLS, INSIGNIA, COLORS, REGALIA

NOTES:

GENERAL, ADMINISTRATIVE, RAP ORDER

- Who Speaks for Delta
- Speaking Tours
- Official Delta Stationery
- Electronic Mail
- Internet Guidelines
- Chapter Roster
- Visiting Sorors
- Rap Order

GENERAL, ADMINISTRATIVE, RAP ORDER

NOTES:

ATTIRE

- Pants shall not be worn to the following ceremonies:
 - Three Rites of Passage – Black
 - Grand Chapter Formal Opening – White
 - Regional Conference Opening - White
 - Memorial Observance –Black, Red, or White (one color, no combination of colors)
 - Rededication – Recommended by chapter(s) in charge
- Ecumenical Service – Red, White, Black, or Business Attire; White (preferred)
- Closing Banquet – Formal or After-Five attire
- National/Regional Plenary Sessions and Chapter Meetings – Business Attire (jackets must be worn over sleeveless tops or dresses with or without straps)
- Founders Day – To be recommended by the chapter(s) in charge

Note: Sorors should wear hosiery to all ceremonies.

ATTIRE

DON'T DO LIST:

- No Flip flops (This does not apply or refer to dressy sandals or open-toed shoes)
- No denim (jeans, shorts, skirts, or jackets)
- No khaki
- No paraphernalia jackets

ATTIRE

NOTES:

OFFICIAL SONGS

Sorors should be able to sing the following without the aid of the Ritual or songbook:

- Delta Sigma Theta National Hymn
 - Delta Prayer
 - Beta Hymn
 - Delta Mizpah
 - Delta Sweetheart Song
 - Pyramid Hymn
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- All sorors sing the six (6) official songs
 - The official songs are never sung as solos or renditions
 - The official songs are never improvised, changed, or appended to other songs
 - All verses of the official songs are sung

OFFICIAL SONGS

Delta Sigma Theta National Hymn

- Written by Florence Cole Talbert and Alice Dunbar Nelson
- Sung at Chapter Meeting, Regional Conference, and Grand Chapter Formal Closing Ceremonies, Grand Chapter Formal Opening Ceremony (if the Honorary Member Initiation Ceremony takes place), Rededication Ceremony, and Initiation Ceremony
- Sorors form a circle, cross arms right over left, join hands, and sing all verses in unison

Delta Prayer

- Written by Johanna Gow Bush
- Sung at Chapter Meeting, Regional Conference, and Grand Chapter Formal Opening Ceremonies, Rededication Ceremony, Initiation Ceremony, Memorial Observance, and Omega Omega Service
- Sorors remain seated and sing all verses in unison

Beta Hymn

- Written by Anna L. Dorsey Wilson and Isabelle Askew
- Sung at Grand Chapter Formal Opening Ceremony (if the Honorary Member Initiation Ceremony takes place), Pyramid Induction Ceremony, and Initiation Ceremony
- Sorors sing all verses in unison while standing

OFFICIAL SONGS

Delta Mizpah

- Written by Johanna Gow Bush
- Sung or recited at Chapter Meeting Closing Ceremony
- Sorors form a circle, join hands, and sing or recite in unison

Delta Sweetheart Song

- Co-Lyricists were Dorothy Jean Swope and June Mack; Collaborator was Alberta Ray White; Arrangements by Eloise Logan Penn
- Renditions or additions to the song are inappropriate
- Sorors form a circle, join hands, and sway to the right on the word “may”
- Can be sung at Sorority functions and other Greek functions.
Exceptions:
 - Serenading a Delta bride (**bride only**) at her wedding reception as she stands in the center of the circle.
 - Upon any noteworthy accomplishment by a soror
 - Events of other Pan-Hellenic organizations

Pyramid Hymn

- Hummed at Honorary Member Initiation Ceremony and Crossing Over Ceremony
- Sung at Pyramid Induction Ceremony and during Jewel Ceremonies
- Sorors form a circle around the pyramids (**pyramids form an inward facing circle**), join hands, and sing all verses in unison

OFFICIAL SONGS

NOTES:

SECRETS

PASSWORDS

SIGNS

GRIPS

The Leadership Academy

2008-2013

Elsie Cooke-Holmes, Co-Chair

Pamela E. Smith, Co-Chair

Schean G. Belton, Esq.

Stephanie M. Cooper

Deloris Johnson Drakes

Lisa Farmer-Cole

Soraya Williams Farver

Charlotte M. Freeman, Ph.D.

Renee LaVerne Harper

Beverly Harris Schembri

Wendy J. Johnson (2012-13)

Sandra F. Mack, Ed.D.

Gwendolyn J. Mosley

Mandy Mullens-Williams

Mabel Lake Murray, Ed.D.

Mildred Porter-Duncan

Norma H. Sermon-Boyd, Ed.D.

Jennifer R. Smith

Hellenna L. Terrell, Ed.D.

Barbara Woods, Ph.D.

Shannon Jones, Staff Liaison