



Alpha Lambda Delta Rituals

In this document, you'll find the Rituals for the Induction Ceremony. It is a description of the ceremony and the actual spoken rituals prescribed by National Alpha Lambda Delta. In each section:

- Descriptive text is presented in the standard typeface with full margins.
- **Text that should be read aloud is presented in an indented bold typeface.**
- *Placeholder text, such as "Insert name of school here" is presented in italics and should be replaced with the appropriate information when the ceremony is performed.*

The Ceremony

The Alpha Lambda Delta Rituals are designed to be dignified and impressive ceremonies that provide your new members with an appropriate sense of honor upon having been invited and initiated into ALD. They are not, however, cast in stone.

You should always feel free to make any changes necessary in order to fit the event to your institution. If adherence to the prescribed ceremonies and rituals presented here will cause problems for your chapter, please feel free to modify these contents in any way you see fit, so long as the overall effect of the ceremony is dignified and impressive, and the execution of the ceremony is safe.

Chapters are free to add elements to the initiation ceremony - speakers are very commonly included in the program. You might consider inviting the President of the institution, or the Provost, Dean, etc. to attend and say a few words about the importance of striving for academic excellence. It is helpful if the officers and advisors meet before the initiation to rehearse the ceremony. Many chapters combine their initiation with a formal banquet or a reception.

If the initiation ceremony is not complicated, a written program is useful. Samples can be found on our website. In simpler ceremonies, it is helpful if an officer or advisor explains before the ceremony exactly what will take place and that students will be called up to sign the chapter roll and receive certificates and pins.

Common Modifications

There are many ways in which these ceremonies may be modified for your chapter; some of the most common modifications include:

- **Omission of the candle-lighting ceremonies.** If your school or venue prohibits the use of open flame, or if the chapter advisors/officers are uncomfortable with the use of open flame, electric candles may be used, or the candle-lighting sections of the Rituals may be skipped entirely.
- **Shortening the ceremony.** Today's college students and families have less free time than ever. If you feel that reducing the length of the ceremony will improve attendance and attendee reactions, feel free to cut sections, such as swearing in the new officers or reducing the length of the ALD history.
- **Don't call out each initiate by name.** For larger chapters, naming each of hundreds of new initiates may be impractical. If you have a large initiation group (more than 200-300 initiates), you may want to consider performing a "blanket" initiation, and having your new members pick up their certificates either when they arrive or after the ceremony.
- Some chapters have the **student initiate say their own name** as they come up to receive their certificate. This can save time, and also eliminates the occasional embarrassing situation of mispronouncing a student's name.



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- **The positions assigned to certain roles can be modified.** For example, if your chapter does not have a Junior and Senior Advisor, if there are Co-Presidents, or if there is only one advisor, divvy up the script as needed.

Material Needed

Membership Certificates

Provided by the National Office, shipped to advisor after acceptance deadline. Certificates are 8" x 10." Some chapters purchase certificate holders, but it's not necessary.

Insignia Pins

Provided by the National Office, shipped to advisor after acceptance deadline. The insignia pin is a small piece of jewelry provided for each initiate, along with the certificate.

The script calls for ribbons, but this is an option. Some chapters affix the pin to a ribbon for a nicer presentation. The ribbon can be short and folded in a loop, or it can be longer and placed over one's head, like a necklace. Many chapters simply present plain pins to initiates, not attached to a ribbon.



Paper and Pens for Chapter Roll

Part of the initiation process is signing a sheet of paper, as a commitment to the ideals of the society. Some eliminate this as part of the ceremony (takes up time) and each initiate signs the roll when checking in before the ceremony starts. There's no formal template for the paper – feel free to design your own.

Insignia Cloth

The Insignia Cloth of Alpha Lambda Delta is white with red and gold edges, and at each end bears the Greek letters ALD and a candle. All new chapters are provided one. Over the years this item may become tattered, stained, or lost. Chapters that do not have an Insignia Cloth may purchase one for \$90 from the National Office.



Candles

Any type of candle is fine. Suggestions include long tapers of the three colors - red, white and gold (or all white), or a pair of three-branched candelabra.

Ceremony Program

As mentioned above, a program is nice to provide, and can include the list of initiates, a history of Alpha Lambda Delta, the schedule of events, and the words to the pledge so it's easier for the students to recite.

For any printed material you are producing, please refer to Alpha Lambda Delta's Visual Identity Program (found on our website) so that our brand is consistent.



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Chapter Charter

When a new chapter is formed, a charter is presented during installation. It includes the names of all founding members, hand drawn in calligraphy. If your chapter still has it, you can display it at each initiation. It is only provided once, when the chapter is first formed.



Initiation Ceremony

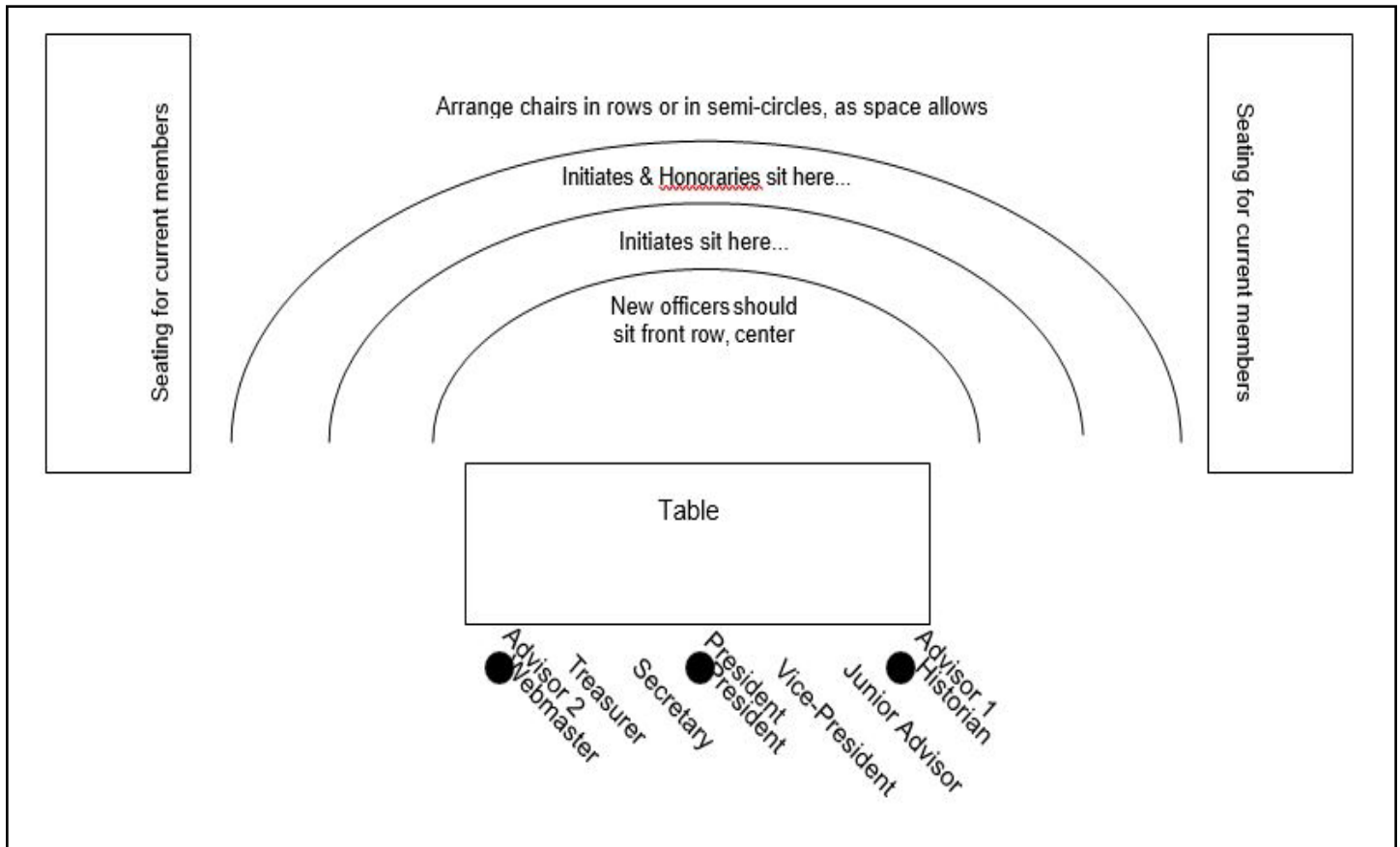
Section I: The Set-up

- The ceremony should be simple and dignified.
- Parts of the service, which are in all bold letters, must be included in the ceremony and read by Officers or Advisors. Modifications which are appropriate to a given campus are acceptable so long as the ceremony remains meaningful and impressive.
- Uniformity of dress will add dignity to the ceremony. The Officers may suggest coordinating attire for the occasion (such as black pants or skirt, white tops). It is suggested that the Advisors wear academic regalia.
- A table is set at one side of the room in which the initiation is held. Have a large enough table (or two tables end to end) in order to permit several to sign papers at one time, if necessary. The signing of five or six papers at one time, if the group is very large, saves members from standing too long at one time. Space should also be allowed on the table for ribbons (with pins) on one side and certificates on the other. Ribbons should be in the form of a loop large enough to go over an initiate's head.
- A white or red tablecloth should cover the table upon which is placed the National Alpha Lambda Delta Insignia Cloth. The Insignia Cloth is placed across the center of the table with the insignia toward the initiates. A podium may be placed on the table with the Insignia cloth stretched across it and over the center of the table.
- Long tapers of the three colors - red, white and gold (or all white) in three candlesticks grouped on each side of the table, or in a pair of three-branched candelabra, should be placed on the table used.
- The group to be initiated is lined up alphabetically outside of the room.
- The President goes directly behind the table and is joined by the Second advisor on the right and the First advisor on the left.
- The lines form a semi-circle on either side with space for four persons between the beginning of the line and the Second advisor or First advisor. If there is no audience present, the lines may form a circle. If honorary members are to be initiated, they, in pairs, enter last in the lines.
- After the above persons are in place, other members who are present enter in pairs, divide into two lines and space themselves evenly, distributed behind the initiates.
- The circle may be closed if there is no audience.
- Each initiate before entering the room may be given a small white candle with holder or paper cuff.





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Section II: The Presentation

The First advisor says:

Alpha Lambda Delta is a national society for freshmen which honors high academic achievement in the first year of college. The purpose of the organization as stated in the Constitution is to encourage superior academic achievement among students in their first year in institutions of higher education, to promote intelligent living and a continued high standard of learning, and to assist students in recognizing and developing meaningful goals for their roles in society.

Alpha Lambda Delta was founded as an honor society in 1924 at the University of Illinois by the Dean of Women, Maria Leonard (pronounced Mar-EYE-ah LEN-ard). It soon became a national organization as chapters were established at Purdue University in 1926 and at DePauw University in 1927. Growth of the society has continued until now there are 280 chapters.



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These candidates who are now presented for initiation have attained the high standard required by National Alpha Lambda Delta and are worthy to be recognized by both their college and this organization for their notable achievement in scholarship.

Madam or Mister President, I have the honor to present to you these candidates for initiation into National Alpha Lambda Delta.

Section III: The Instruction

The President says:

Members of Alpha Lambda Delta, we are here to inform the new initiates concerning our organization and to ask them to take with us the pledge to make the best possible use of our education.

The initials of our name stand for the Greek words: Allelois Lampadia Diadusousin (pronounced: al-LAY-loi lam-PAH-dee-uh dee-uh-DOH-suh-sin) which stands for the motto “we shall pass our torches on, one to another.”

The insignia of Alpha Lambda Delta represents a lighted candle. The golden base of our candle signifies honesty and integrity, which are the foundation on which we build; the shaft of our candle signifies strength and courage; and the light of our candle signifies truth and wisdom -- which can dispel ignorance and superstition, and give us the insight to live well in our time.

The Vice President says:

The red represents the burning flame of knowledge.

The Secretary says:

The white represents the search for truth.

The Treasurer says:

The gold represents the strong base of honor.



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The President says:

These, our three colors, symbolize the standards held by the members of Alpha Lambda Delta.

The First advisor says:

Your education is the means by which you learn to recognize the wonders of science, to appreciate the beauty of great literature and art, to use well our own language, to learn the lessons of past history, to speak and read the languages of other peoples, to study the social and political forces of our world, and to discuss the thought and the philosophy of other ages. Through these means you can evaluate the forces and standards of your generation and learn to live significantly.

Section IV: The Pledge

The President says:

Please say after me:

(and the new initiates repeat)

I accept membership . . .

Into National Alpha Lambda Delta . . .

Understanding that in doing so . . .

I assume the responsibility. . .

Of continuing to maintain . . .

Its standards of service . . .

Of diligence...

And of integrity.

I pledge to promote high scholarship. . .

And to use my education . . .

For the benefit of my community . . .

My nation . . .

And the world in which we live.

Note: If you print the pledge in your initiation ceremony program, it will aid the students in taking the oath.

Section V: The Initiation of Active Members

The President says:

As I call your names will you please come and sign the chapter roll.



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Initiates are called to the table in alphabetical order.

After each initiate signs the paper, Second Advisor places the ribbon over the student's head (or hands them the shorter ribbon or plain pin), and extends congratulations. The First Advisor gives each initiate a certificate.

In a large group, several may sign at the same time. Each individual's name may be called by the President in alphabetical order so that students will alternate in moving to and from the table in opposite sides.

The President says:

You have now recorded your initiation into the *[name of institution]* chapter of Alpha Lambda Delta on *[the day of the month day of month, year.]*

Section VI: The Initiation of Honorary Members

The President calls the names of honorary initiates, one at a time. As the name is called, each initiate is escorted to the table by the First Advisor or an Officer who stands behind the table while each citation is read. The Second Advisor reads the citation, patterned on that used for honorary degrees. Typical citations include a brief review of their academic credentials, positions held, and why they were selected for honorary membership (their support for first-year students, ALD, etc).

When all the citations have been read, the President says:

In recognition of your academic achievements, personal accomplishments, and your interest in the academic attainments of students, we confer upon you honorary membership in Alpha Lambda Delta. Your charge is to continue to support and encourage the ideals and high standards of this society - knowledge, wisdom and understanding. Please sign the chapter roll as evidence of your acceptance.

After each Honorary Member signs the roll, Second Advisor shakes the initiate's hand and presents insignia pin. First advisor presents the certificate.

Section VII: The Candle Ceremony (optional)

After lighting the President's candle and those of the Second Advisor and First Advisor, the President says:

We now light our candles at the Alpha Lambda Delta flame for you in token of your membership in this society.



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Second Advisor lights the candles of the initiate and of the member nearest on the right. The First Advisor does the same, on the left. The initiates pass their lights until the semi-circle (or circle) of light is completed. The members pass their lights to one another in a similar fashion. If this is done, follow the regulations of your institution and the laws of the state concerning open flames in public areas.

Section VIII: The Admonition

The Second Advisor says:

On behalf of *[institution]*, I wish to express our pride in your achievement and our congratulations to you. May you find in the years ahead the rewards of the educated person - imagination, adventure, humor, compassion and understanding. May you have tolerance in your dealings with all persons, generosity in giving to those in need, and insight into the feelings of others. In relating your education to the world in which you live, you can make a meaningful contribution to society.

Note: The installation of new Officers may follow or the ceremony may close with the singing of the Alma Mater by the group or individual or it may close with a prayer or a poem. You might also consider a guest speaker to say a few words. Maybe one of the honorary members, or the institution's President, Provost, Dean, etc.

At the close of the ceremony, the following recessional is optional:

The President goes around to the front of the table and goes down the center of the room through the circle and out. The Second Advisor and First Advisor (and new Officers, if they have been installed) go around their side of the table and follow the President out in pairs. The candles are extinguished outside the room.

Section IX: Installation of Chapter Officers

It is strongly recommended that the installation of Officers take place at the time of the Initiation Service. Otherwise it should be held at a general member meeting. If the Installation of Officers is held as part of the Initiation Service, each Officer, when called, should step out from among the other initiates to the front of the table and face the Retiring President.

Note: this script includes the most common officer positions. Edit as needed.

The Retiring President says:

We now have the pleasure of installing your Officers for the coming year. The group has chosen its leaders, and for those of you who have been chosen, the responsibility is great. Both the successes and the failures of the group will be attributed to you. Each officer should have the ability to complete with responsibility each task assigned. You have been given



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an opportunity to develop your ability for leadership in a responsible group.

The Second Advisor calls the name of the President who steps in front of the table.

The Second Advisor says:

The role of the chapter President is an important one. As you are the presiding officer your enthusiasm, your support of high standards of scholarship, and your ability to interest and involve the membership in achieving the goals of Alpha Lambda Delta will contribute to the success of the chapter. You should strive for open communication with your officers and advisors and be aware of all facets of Alpha Lambda Delta.

Will you, chapter President's name, as president, fulfill to the best of your abilities, the duties of that office?

After responding, "**I will**," the President goes to the back of the table to stand at the right of the Second Advisor.

The Second Advisor calls the name of the Vice President who steps to the front of the table.

The Second Advisor says:

As Vice President, it will be your responsibility to confer with the President and to work closely with the President in planning and executing all chapter business. You should be knowledgeable in the working of the organization and assist in an administrative capacity.

Will you, Vice President, as vice president, fulfill to the best of your ability, the duties of that office?

After responding, "**I will**," the Vice President goes to the back of the table to stand to the left of the First Advisor.

The First Advisor calls the name of the Secretary who steps to the front of the table.

The First Advisor says:

As Secretary, you shall be responsible for efficiently handling all correspondence and records, both at the national and local levels of your chapter. The necessity of keeping clear, accurate



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records is of paramount importance. Organization is a virtue to be cultivated while serving as Secretary.

Will you, Secretary, as secretary, fulfill to the best of your ability, the duties of that office?

After responding, "I will," the Secretary goes to stand at the right of the President.

The First Advisor calls the name of the Treasurer who steps to the front of the table.

The First Advisor says:

As Treasurer, you are entrusted with the financial affairs of the chapter. Keeping accurate records and paying bills promptly is your responsibility. You will work closely with the President in preparing the annual financial report. Your integrity will be your most respected quality as treasurer.

Will you, Treasurer, as treasurer, fulfill to the best of your ability, the duties of that office?

After responding, "**I will**," the Treasurer goes to stand at the left of the Vice President.

The Second Advisor calls the name of the Historian who steps to the front of the table.

The Second Advisor says:

As the Historian, you are responsible for keeping the records of the activities of the chapter. Your records should be attractive and informative.

Will you, Historian, as Historian, fulfill to the best of your ability the duties of that office?

After responding, "**I will**," the Historian goes to stand at the left of the Treasurer.

The Second Advisor calls the name of the Webmaster, who steps to the front of the table.

The Second Advisor says:

As the Webmaster, you are responsible for creating and maintaining the chapter website. You should keep the website current, accurate, useful, and attractive. The chapter's website is a vehicle by which chapter members and prospective members learn about the society and the chapter. You should also maintain a listserv or mailing list of members and



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assist in communicating to them chapter activities. It is your responsibility to keep the national office informed about the address of the chapter website.

Will you, Webmaster, as webmaster, fulfill to the best of your ability the duties of that office?

After responding, **"I will,"** the Webmaster goes to stand at the left of the Historian.

The First advisor calls the name of the Editor, who steps to the front of the table.

The First Advisor says:

As Editor, you are the liaison between your chapter and the National Editor. You are to contribute news of your chapter and to distribute the Flame to your active membership. You will also serve as a publicity chairman to the news media of your campus.

Will you, Editor, as Editor, fulfill to the best of your ability, the duties of that office?

After responding, **"I will,"** the Editor goes to stand at the right of the Secretary.

The First Advisor calls the names of the Senior Advisor and the Junior Advisor who step to the front of the table.

The First Advisor says:

As the Senior and Junior Advisors, you provide continuity for your chapter for you bring experience which will help them. With the other Officers, you are members of the Executive Council.

Will you, Senior Advisor, as Senior Advisor and you, Junior Advisor, as Junior Advisor, fulfill to the best of your ability, the duties of these offices?

After responding, **"I will,"** the Senior Advisor goes to stand to the left of the Webmaster and the Junior Advisor goes to stand to the right of the Editor.

The line-up behind the table is now (from left to right as one faces the table): Junior Advisor, Editor, Secretary, President, the Second Advisor, the First Advisor, Treasurer, Historian, Webmaster, and Senior Advisor. The line-up should curve in order to join the semi-circle of initiates and therefore complete it.



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The Second Advisor says:

You are now installed as the Executive Council of Alpha Lambda Delta for the coming year. Your work together will insure a strong chapter. Consult with your Advisors for the advice and experience which they have to offer.

I should like to take this opportunity to speak to you, the members of the chapter. In every organization, there must be those who lead and those who follow. You have chosen your leaders. Now it is up to you to support them in their endeavors. No organization can succeed without participation by its members. Support your officers in their plans, and help them. By working together, you will have the opportunity to shape and help define each other's lives. Keep in mind the purposes of Alpha Lambda Delta and you will make a significant contribution on your campus.

The Second Advisor and the Retiring President make way for the President to pass in front of them to the middle of the table. The President makes a short speech of acceptance on behalf of the new officers.

The Retiring President leads the group from behind the table. The other Officers follow in pairs. Everyone goes back to where they were at the Initiation Ceremony, and you'll conclude the event. If officer installation is happening at a meeting, the new President may return to the table to conduct a meeting, if one is planned for this time.