

INITIATION RITUAL

OF

Xi Sigma Pi

THE SOCIETY OF XI SIGMA PI
RITUAL FOR INITIATION OF NEW MEMBERS
July 1, 1974

Section 1. Ritual

This ritual and order of initiation may be communicated in an open meeting. The previous instructions for secrecy have been repealed.

A. Pledging

Candidates having been elected shall be pledged at such time as the local chapter designates. The pledge ribbons shall be the Society colors, green and gray.

B. Instruction

- a. Shortly after pledging give each candidate:
 1. Copy of history and aims of Xi Sigma Pi,
 2. List of chapters and national officers.
 3. Government of the Society.
 4. Qualifications of a forester.
- b. At a stated time give a short examination covering the above points, if necessary for each candidate.
- c. Instruct in other pre-initiation work, which may be determined by individual chapters. For example, the development of pledge boards.

C. Interval between Pledging and Initiation

A one-(1) to two-(2) week interval is recommended.

D. Fees

No candidate shall be initiated before the payment of the initiation fees. These fees currently consist of \$15.00 national charge for lifetime membership and such local fees as may be set by the chapter.

E. Initiation

Candidates are initiated by the chapter to which they are pledged.

The ritual shall be administered to candidates singly or as a group at the discretion of the chapter.

RITUAL FOR INITIATION

Undergraduate, Graduate and Faculty Candidates

Ranger addresses candidate (or candidates) and says, in a friendly way "Pay particular attention to what you hear as it is important." As a setting it is desirable to have the room darkened, with just enough light to allow the reading of the parts. A full minute should elapse before Xi begins and a half minute interval between the other readings, during which time silence is maintained by all present.

Xi:

"Neophyte (or Neophytes) _____, I represent Xi, the fundamental of eternal friendship, which is a differentiating quality between man and beast. As an individual you depend on other people for your welfare, and they in turn depend upon you. You should appreciate the fact that all people have some good in them as well as bad. Your duty is to help those in need in such a way that they will be better fitted to carry on their life's work. Yours should be the ever-ready hand of helpfulness. Remember that the sins of omission are as great as those of commission. May you always be known as a real friend."

Sigma:

"Neophyte (or Neophytes) _____, I represent Sigma, the fundamental of honor, which, being part of the foundations of civilization, is the combination of fair play, honesty, and loyalty. Xi Sigma Pi expects you to be fair, honest, and loyal both to yourself and to your associates. To be recognized as being honorable is to have achieved the highest approbation of your associates. May you so be known."

Pi:

"Neophyte (or Neophytes) _____ I represent Pi, the fundamental or earnest endeavor, which makes an ordinary individual an extraordinary success, and an individual of exceptional ability a genius. Its keystone is efficiency and its cornerstone is untiring industry. Xi Sigma Pi believes that continuous and efficient industry will be regarded with the utmost in satisfaction, namely, the consciousness of work well done. May you so strive."

Forester:

"Xi Sigma Pi is the oldest and the largest national natural resources honor Society originating in the colleges of the United States. The objectives of our Society are: to maintain a high standard of scholarship, to work for the improvement of our management profession, and to promote a fraternal spirit among those engaged in activities related to forestry and other natural resources.

Xi Sigma Pi has recognized in you the qualities which are essential to the fulfillment of the aims and purposes of the Society. It is because of your unselfish interest in the affairs of your chosen management profession, your activity in your school, your high scholastic standing, your high ideals, and the qualities of potential leadership which you possess that Xi Sigma Pi has selected you to assist, in furthering its objectives.

Forester:

"It is still your wish to join this Society?" The candidate(s) having so declared, The Forester continues as follows:

Raise your right hand and repeat after me:

"I do solemnly swear (or affirm)/to further these objects/to the best of my ability/and insofar as is honorably possible/the interests of all my Society members/ and furthermore/I promise to so conduct myself/as to ever be an honor/to this Society and its members. "

As a setting it is suggested that a spotlight be focused on the chapter charter. Candidate(s) should face the chapter charter and chapter officers, with rest of members behind the candidate(s).

The Forester will then explain the Society's symbol.

"The first and most significant part of the symbol is the fir tree which signifies: first, vigorous life, typical of youth; second, the general study of forestry which is the original conception upon which the Society was founded. "

The crescent, on which the fir tree stands, is the symbol for Wisdom the cornerstone of art and industry. "

"In the oval beneath the fir tree are the two Greek capitals, Pi-Alpha. Pi represents the Greek word Paideia, which means education. May you always strive to pursue Knowledge, and in this pursuit gain Wisdom. Alpha represents Axios, which represents Worthiness. May you so strive to be found worthy in every endeavor.

"For the first word in the motto of our Society, we have chosen Xenia, the Greek Word for eternal friendship; second the word Sebus which stands for honor and lastly, the word Para which means earnest endeavor.

"For a password, we have chosen the last word, Para. "

"Remember as a member of Xi Sigma Pi, you have attained a distinction not within the reach of all. By accepting this honor you are obligated to act so as to be deserving of it. You have one more incentive for becoming a leader in your profession. "

"Strive always to make your decisions wise and helpful to mankind. Be friendly to your associates, Be honorable in all your acts, and always make an earnest endeavor to do your best at everything you undertake. We now welcome you as a member in Xi Sigma Pi. "

The certificate of membership should be distributed at this point and each of the chapter's old members should welcome the new member(s).

HONORARY OR ASSOCIATE CANDIDATES

Pledging: Honorary and/or Associate members having been elected, shall be pledged by the chapter which proposed their election.

Time of Initiation: Honorary or Associate members may be initiated at any time after pledging

Fees: Honorary and Associate members shall be charged no fee.

Initiation: Candidates shall be initiated by the chapter to which they are pledged

The candidate(s) shall face the Forester, who shall address him (or them) as follows:

"Xi Sigma Pi has recognized your scholarly achievement in the field of forest resources management, and we wish, by offering you Honorary (Associate) membership, to show the appreciation of the Society for your contributions to forest resources.

(A designated member shall read the "History and Objectives of Xi Sigma Pi"

The Forester will say.

"You will now be instructed concerning the meanings of the Symbol of the Society.

(A designated member shall explain "The Symbol," through and including the Password.)

"We now welcome you as a member in Xi Sigma Pi"

Honorary and/or Associate Members will then be given their certificates and welcomed by the Forester and members of the chapter.

INITIATION PROCEDURES

INITIATION

1. Article III of the constitution lists the minimal requirements for membership. Each chapter may have higher standards for membership. For example, a chapter may require each graduate student to have a minimum of a 3.5 GPA, and undergraduate students to have a minimum of a 3.0 overall, a 3.0 on all core forestry/natural resources courses, and a 3.0 at the university where the initiation will take place.
2. The timing of the initiation ceremony should be held such that all forms, etc., are sent to the National Chapter by April 5 of each year. Each chapter may wish to plan the ceremony to ensure that initiates work together and become familiar with each other. This is especially important at chapters where initiates may come from different departments. For example, the chapter may require that initiates work together to perform a service to the school or community prior to the initiation, and/or that the initiates plan and prepare the initiation dinner. The ritual for the initiation is given in this handbook; the initiation can be held in either an open or closed format. Initiates should be treated with respect at all times, as this is an honor society. In addition, all university regulations are to be followed by the chapter.
3. The following forms must be sent to the National Office – may precede or follow a chapter's induction ceremony.
 - A. Balfour Membership Certificate Form.
 - B. Check payable to Xi Sigma Pi National Office (\$15.00 for each initiate).

Certificate orders must be carefully typed on the Balfour membership certificate order form. Initiate's full name must appear, first name first. Specify chapter, school and date of initiation. Replacement certificates may be included on the order form at a charge of \$4.60 each. The order form must be signed by the faculty advisor. Certificate order forms should be sent to the National Office of Xi Sigma Pi and not to Balfour. The address of the National Chapter changes on July 1 of even numbered years. The chapter which is serving as the current National Chapter is listed earlier in this handbook (see Schedule of National Chapters). Forms sent later than April 5 may be too late for the membership certificates to be mailed back to the chapter before the end of the school year. In this case, the certificates may either be mailed back to the chapter (faculty advisor) during the summer, or may be held and mailed back to the chapter during the fall term.

4. Jewelry orders should be placed directly with the Balfour Co., 10610 East Bluegrass Parkway, Louisville, Kentucky 40299. Be sure to obtain a catalog with current prices. Xi Sigma Pi items available are: (1) Standard Badge, 10K gold, (2) Standard Key, 10K gold, and (3) Standard Key, Balfour finish.

QUALIFICATIONS OF A FORESTER

Certain well-defined attributes, no one of which is regarded as of more importance than any of the others, have come to be recognized as requisite of every true member of Xi Sigma Pi. It is believed that each pledge of _____ Chapter is able to understand the importance of these attributes to true professional practice and to understand their meaning thoroughly. These attributes are:

1. In technical training a Forester should measure up to the standards set by the best people in the profession.
2. A Forester must have that peculiar type of honesty which makes one demand the best of themselves and a full measure of service, even though for days and weeks a superior may not be present.
3. A Forester must be loyal to the profession, to other foresters, to those who give the orders, and to those who are subordinates.
4. A Forester must have initiative, for the work will frequently place each of us in situations where we must make our own decisions and formulate our own plans.
5. A Forester must be a team player, for only through whole-hearted cooperation can we be of the greatest service in this profession.
6. A Forester must have vision and with this vision, faith; for the real fruits of one's labor may not mature until years after one's exit from the stage of life.
7. A Forester should strive unselfishly for the betterment of the profession.
8. Criticism should be constructive and judgements withheld until full possession of all facts is at hand.
9. A Forester should recognize an obligation to the school which made this training possible.
10. A Forester should be true to those ideals which define the profession of Forestry.

This page was rewritten in December, 1996, while the National Office was at Humboldt State University. The rewriting was in recognition of the many contributions women Foresters have made to the Society and to correct the somewhat dated language this section contained.