

GUIDELINES FOR PLANNING OR PARTICIPATING IN JOINT INITIATIONS

Definition:

Joint Initiation - Ritual initiation with 2 or more participating chapters at the same time and location being hosted by one chapter and jointly planned by all chapters involved.

Joint Regional Initiations - Ritual initiation planned and promoted by the Regional Vice President (or appointee) and having a designated host chapter location and inviting all chapters within the region to participate.

Advance Planning/Approval Steps:

Place - All initiations (single or joint) are required to be held on campus or at the location of a simultaneous Fraternity conference (i.e. hotel).

Reservations - Make sufficient room reservations at least 2 months in advance and preferably 4 months or 1 semester in advance of the initiation date. It is strongly recommended that each participating chapter have their own private room for Part I of Ritual. One large room, auditorium, chapel, etc. needs to be confirmed for Part II. A large area for a combined waiting room is sufficient as long as it is semi-private (quiet) and each chapter pledge class can sit together.

Regalia - One set of official Regalia must be reserved by the hosting chapter (i.e. the chapter at the campus where initiation is held or the chapter closest to the conference hotel site) or by the Regional Vice President for a Regional initiation. All chapters participating in a joint initiation must submit a regalia request to confirm their initiation date and plans, though they will not need or receive additional trunks.

Badges - Each chapter must separately order their own badges before initiation; ideally placing the order immediately after the Pledging Ceremony.

Participants/Ritual Team:

- Part I - It is strongly recommended that each chapter conduct their own Part I in a room at the site of the Part II joint ceremony. The available space and size of pledge class will help determine the most appropriate plan.
- Part II - Representatives of each participating chapter should be invited/encouraged to take part in the Part II presentation. It is encouraged that the Ritual team for Part I and II be the collegiate members of the chapter.
- Timing - Part II must immediately follow Part I (as in a single chapter initiation). It may be suggested that the Part I and II Ritual Team are different individuals so the Part II room setup and Part II rehearsal can be completed while Part I is being conducted. Approximately 15 minutes between Part I and II should be planned and enforced, therefore each chapter must be given a time limit for Part I and enforce the ending time limit that is communicated.
- Conclusion - Each Ritual participant must assist with the re-packing of Regalia and the host must do a regalia inventory before leaving the initiation site. The hosting chapter (or RVP) is responsible for forwarding regalia as instructed.

Alternate Arrangements:

- The Law - Road trips cannot be required for any pledge event, meeting, or initiation nor can additional expenses (travel) be required for initiation. Chapters should explain purposes and benefits of joint initiations and invite pledges to participate. An on campus initiation must be offered within a reasonable time (same school term within 10 week pledging limit) for any pledge who completes the Pledge Education Program and is unable or unwilling to attend/travel to a joint initiation. This may require an additional regalia reservation.