



Privileges and Responsibilities of Membership in Beta Theta Pi

Welcome to the unique and rewarding experience of preparing yourself for membership in Beta Theta Pi. It is hoped that during these weeks before your initiation, you will come to recognize the value of membership and the significance it holds for you over the next four to five years—and beyond.

The young man selected for membership in Beta Theta Pi is far more fortunate than he realizes when he first dons the white shield bearing three gold stars. Only by living the Beta principles year after year will be come to a full appreciation of the privilege that membership in Beta affords.

The fraternity is committed to developing men of principle for a principled life. It believes in selecting outstanding young men and making good men better.

This is *Beta's pledge to you*—that your collegiate experience will better prepare you for your life and career after college—while *your pledge to Beta Theta Pi* is to be an active and devoted member both during your college years as well as in your many years as an alumnus.

It is worthwhile to note, too, that the title “pledge” occupies an old and respected position. Among others, synonyms also used today, both inside and outside of Beta Theta Pi and other fraternities, are *prospective member*, *new member*, *candidate* and *neophyte*.

Importantly, a man cannot buy his way into Beta Theta Pi; he is selected because a Beta chapter saw in him the potential for a worthy member who, by his future achievements, would add to the radiance of the Beta badge and to the luster of the good name of Beta Theta Pi.

Rich in History

The pledge inherits more than 175 years of traditions, ideals and accomplishments. His pledge pin identifies him at once as a prospective Beta, and he is stamped

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Building authentic friendships is a critical cornerstone of the new member orientation design. The friendships you build within Beta will support you throughout your collegiate and alumni years.

Your Brother's Keeper

When a young man is under consideration for membership in Beta Theta Pi, he becomes his brother's keeper. He is interested in every man in the chapter, and every brother is interested in him.

A Beta is expected to conduct his personal life, on campus and off, in a manner that will always reflect credit on his organization and on the preparation and training which he is receiving.

A Beta is responsible for maintaining a standard of scholarship above the norm—minimum 2.5 GPA—although his chapter may adopt an even higher standard for membership. And in 2012, Beta once again established the highest academic requirement of all fraternities, requiring every chapter to achieve or exceed the All-Men's GPA for the campus, and not lower than 2.80—whichever is greatest.

A Beta must carry his share of the chapter's financial burden, live within his means and pay his obligations to the Fraternity and to others promptly. He must realize that the bills of his chapter must be paid. If he does not pay his share, he forces the other members to pay his way for him.

2.8 GPA

Minimum Beta GPA Standard



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with a name that has been enriched by the lives and deeds of more than 200,000 men who have worn the Beta badge before him.

The term “pledge” is not a noun, as is often applied to prospective fraternity members, and should not be construed as an individual who is being tested before membership is conferred. Rather, “pledge” is a verb that testifies that the uninitiated is learning about the Principles and The Code of Beta Theta Pi and is preparing to accept its mission and vision.

Consequently, your goal is not to learn how to become a good “pledge” but rather how to become a good brother, exemplifying the values of Beta Theta Pi.

Just as every privilege in life carries responsibility with it, so membership in Beta Theta Pi carries with it an obligation for members to conduct themselves at all times in a manner that will reflect credit on the individual and the Fraternity.

Each Man’s Actions Far-reaching

Beta’s reputation and good name are entrusted to each prospective and initiated member. Activities and accomplishments that reflect favorably on the individual Beta add strength to the entire Fraternity, and it follows that actions that are unbecoming of a gentleman not only bring discredit to the individual, but his shame is shared by Betas everywhere.

Consider the parents of a new college student who object to their son joining a certain fraternity because of the reported misconduct of one of its members, without regard as to whether the rumor was true. The result: an outstanding young man was discouraged from the advantage of the Greek experience.

Like initiated Betas, the pledge also has the reputation of the Fraternity in his charge and must prove himself worthy of the trust.

Lessons for Life

The new member education program is designed to prepare men for membership in Beta Theta Pi. The pledge is instructed in the history, life and lore of the Fraternity so he will have a thorough appreciation of the organization he is joining. Only through such a curriculum can a man be prepared to be an intelligent and fully contributing member.

This education period is a time of adjustment to group living and to college life. Upperclassmen are constantly alert to any difficulties in the younger man’s relationship with Beta and with the college.

Part of this training may emerge from the constructive criticism, advice and example of upperclassmen—all given in the spirit of helpfulness.

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Wise is the man who takes correction and profits by the experience. If the criticism seems unjust, he should first analyze himself to see if he can find a basis for the complaint, and ensure he is not unknowingly at fault.

Any testing of pledges is conducted by the chapter. The General Fraternity does not participate in the qualifying of prospective members.

Taking Personal Responsibility

New member education is a process of preparing one for membership in the Fraternity, which begins upon initiation when a man accepts all of the rights, privileges and responsibilities of a Beta. As in all education, the individual must take primary responsibility for his education. No one can educate him without his full participation.

The Fraternity has obligations, too. The chapter must provide a constructive program of instruction and discipline for the pledges. Initiated members should set the example and the standards for them.

A pledge is a singularly selected man and has a right to expect to be treated as a man, not a second-class citizen. There is no place in Beta Theta Pi for hazing and activities that are harmful, vulgar or degrading. *Beta Theta Pi has always stressed building men up, not tearing them down.*

Shoulder, Study, Strive

The pledge—this selected man—is expected to earn the right to become a Beta by all he says and does. An indifferent and unmotivated pledge will become an indifferent and unmotivated member.

He should cheerfully *shoulder* the challenge of becoming his brother's keeper. To the best of his ability, he should *study* the Fraternity's lore and history contained in this and other sources. He should strive to achieve the highest standards of intellectual, cultural and social achievement in college life—the hallmark of Beta Theta Pi since its founding.

In so doing, the pledge will progress from the honor of being a Son of the Stars to the cherished goal of joining the Sons of the Dragon.

Welcome to the unique and rewarding path that lies ahead ... your road to the Beta Vision.

To the Pledge

The three bright stars are yours, my boy,
 You're pledged to Beta's band;
 "Guard well your shield from life's alloy!" —
 Tis Wooglin's stern command.
 And if old Wooglin sees you live
 A life his praise can win,
 You'll have the best that life can give —
 You'll wear the Beta pin.
 And when our Circle folds you in,
 Our mysteries you'll know;
 You'll feel the bond that makes us kin,
 That sets our hearts a-glow.
 So steer your path tow'rds Wooglin's den,
 And with us sing his praise,
 Until he makes you blest of men
 For all your span of days.
 —Kenneth Whitney Rogers, Syracuse 1917