

2024 PARTICIPANT INFORMATION PACKET

Please read and review all three sections carefully.

The award-winning Miller Nichols Chapter Presidents Leadership Academy is three days of intense leadership training and networking with other collegiate presidents. This program concentrates on personal and chapter leadership.

Presidents learn to become more effective leaders, develop personal officer goals, and design a framework for chapter success. The curriculum also includes reviewing Standard Chapter Operating Expectations and networking with General Fraternity volunteers, chapter volunteers, Administrative Office staff and fellow presidents.

The Presidents Academy was named and endowed by the Miller Nichols Charitable Foundation in memory of Miller Nichols, *Kansas* '33.

1. I REGISTERED... NOW WHAT?

Arrange any absences with your professor(s)

Most universities will allow an excused absence for the Presidents Academy, as long as you communicate with the proper constituents far enough in advance (meaning you should not wait until the week of Presidents Academy to talk with your professor/work or request information from the L&E department). We can provide information to your university to help get your absence excused, but request a 2 business day window to respond. Please contact [Cody Golden](#) as soon as possible if you need assistance.

Check your email regularly

Email will be the primary means of communication regarding any Presidents Academy information. We will use the email that is current in MyBeta, so make sure you check that email address. We don't want you to miss any updates! We will send a final confirmation email with important final details two weeks before the program.

Read the Frequently Asked Questions

Pages 3-4 of this document include FAQ's pertaining to your participation in Presidents Academy. Please take a minute to read through these – it will help you be better prepared for the experience!

2. TRAVEL INFORMATION

Arrival Information	
Driving	<p>Plan to arrive at the Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile by 5:00 p.m. Central on Friday, January 5, 2024.</p> <p>Ample parking is available at no cost.</p>
Flying	<p>Your flight must arrive at either Chicago O'Hare or Chicago Midway Airports no later than 4:00 p.m. Central on Friday, January 5, 2024.</p> <p>There is not a shuttle provided to the hotel from the airport, so please utilize Uber or Lyft when you arrive to get to the hotel. There may be other attendees at the airport as you (look for people in Beta gear), so if you can, try to carpool in the same Uber/Lyft.</p> <p>If you need other accommodations, please let us know!</p>
Early Arrival	<p>If you are flying from the west coast and are not able to find a flight that arrives by 4:00 p.m., you may arrive Thursday night.</p> <p>If you arrive into Chicago on Thursday night, you may arrive at any time, although your room may not be ready until the afternoon.</p>

Departure Information <i>(note: early departures will not be allowed and will result in not receiving credit for attending the event)</i>	
Driving	Plan on departing no earlier than 12:00 p.m. Central on Sunday, January 7, 2024.
Flying	If you are flying, schedule departing flights no earlier than 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, January 7, 2024.

3. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the purpose of Presidents Academy?

Presidents Academy will develop our chapter presidents both personally and as leaders of our Great and Good Fraternity. Bringing our presidents together each year will provide a consistent wave of leadership throughout Beta's Broad Domain and help our presidents answer the call of principled leadership.

What is the Presidents Academy Attendance Policy?

The Presidents Academy policy allows for only elected chapter presidents to attend. Presidents must be present the entire time, and they must attend all sessions. **Arriving at the Marriott Hotel late (after 5:00 p.m. on Friday) or leaving the hotel early (before 1:00 p.m. on Sunday) is unacceptable and will result in not receiving credit for attending the event. Failure to adhere to this attendance policy will result in being charged the full registration fee of \$575. This fee is due in full upon failure to attend the event or if a cancellation is received after the pre-determined cancellation date. NO PAYMENT PLANS WILL BE OFFERED.**

What will we be doing at Presidents Academy?

The curriculum was developed to maximize our time together and to capitalize on the knowledge you, as well as your peers and facilitators, bring to the table. Sessions will focus on leading as chapter president, gathering and solidifying support for you and the chapter, effectively utilizing the resources available to you as a means to strengthening the chapter, learning more about the General Fraternity, and setting goals for yourself as chapter president.

What is the cost of Presidents Academy?

Thanks to the Miller Nichols Charitable Foundation, presidents are responsible for a \$99 non-refundable fee, which will be charged to the chapter after registering. The chapter can then decide to charge the president or cover the registration cost. Each president is responsible for travel to and from CPLA. All meals (except for Friday lunch prior to event kick-off) and lodging will be covered. **Please note: If you fail to attend after registering or cancel your registration after the cancellation deadline (12/15/23) has passed, you will be charged the full \$575 cost of attendance. This must be paid in full upon cancellation or absence from the event. Any late registrations or replacements will be assessed with a \$25 fee.**

Why is Presidents Academy in January?

The majority of Beta chapters have elections in late fall. The timing was chosen with the intent of bringing presidents together early in their terms of office. Strategically, all presidents will come together about every six months (at the General Convention and at Presidents Academy).

Our chapter is very busy in January with recruitment, and I have academic responsibilities. How can I possibly attend?

Start planning for Presidents Academy now! Communicate the details to your chapter's leadership, fraternity/sorority advisor and dean of students. Most universities will allow an excused absence for Presidents Academy, as long as you communicate with the proper constituents far enough in advance. We can provide information to your university to help get your absence excused. Past presidents would say that your attendance at Presidents Academy will greatly impact you and your chapter far beyond being present for chapter recruitment if they happen to overlap.

We have elections in late spring, after Presidents Academy. Can our president still attend?

Yes! Every chapter president is expected to attend Presidents Academy regardless of when elections occur. We strongly encourage chapters to adjust the timing of elections for each new president to fully take advantage of this opportunity.

What should I bring to Presidents Academy?

All of the program materials will be provided to you onsite. Attire for Friday and Saturday is business casual (no jeans or T-shirts) so we would recommend khakis and a collared shirt or sweater. On Sunday you may wear jeans and a sweatshirt or similar given that it is a travel day. It will be cold in February, so you will also need to bring a winter coat and gloves. **You will also need to bring your laptop** (if you do not have access to a laptop, please email [Cody Golden](#) to make alternate arrangements).

What happens if I can't attend Presidents Academy?

If you can't attend Presidents Academy, please work with your chapters direct Administrative Office staff contact. You should also communicate this with your chapter counselor and district chief. Please note any changes or substitutions made after the **December 15, 2023**, cancellation deadline will result in a \$25.00 change fee.

I've registered, but now I can't attend. What is the cancellation policy?

If you need to cancel, please contact [Cody Golden](#) before **December 15, 2023**. The \$99 that you paid at the time of registration is non-refundable. **If you cancel after December 15, 2023, you will be responsible for the full registration fee of \$575 (this fee will be charged to the credit card you used to register with and will be charged in full. We do not offer payment plans).**

I have an online exam or assignment due during Presidents Academy. Is there internet access?

The hotel does provide internet access available for purchase. If you need internet, you must be prepared to purchase access on your own. However, many Marriott hotels offer free or reduced cost internet for members and their membership program is free. You will not be excused from Presidents Academy sessions to take an exam or complete/submit an assignment. Please make arrangements with your professor regarding any online class work prior to your arrival at the Marriott.

I can't get to Presidents Academy until after the designated time on Friday. What should I do?

The Presidents Academy policy states that all presidents must arrive by the designated time and must attend all sessions. Presidents are strongly encouraged to do everything in their power to arrive on time. Of course, travel issues and delays are understandable and those that have flight delays or driving issues should just do their best to arrive as quickly – and safely – as possible. Please communicate any travel delays immediately to [Cody Golden](#).

What about bad weather? Can I leave early if it is snowing?

The Leadership and Education team actively follows the weather while the program is occurring and will make adjustments to the schedule in the best interest of our participants' safety. This may include speeding the program along to finish early or individual dismissals for special circumstances.

4. STILL HAVE QUESTIONS

If you still have questions, please do not hesitate to contact [Assistant Director of Leadership and Education Cody Golden](#). The entire team is here to assist you and looks forward to seeing you in February!