



OMICRON DELTA KAPPA
The National Leadership Honor Society

**GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS AND INFORMATION
VIRTUAL CEREMONY ONLY**

- I. Omicron Delta Kappa initiation ceremonies are normally open to guests; however, during the spring 2020 semester, OΔK is recommending that all such activities be held virtually.
- a. Circles are encourage to electronically invite other OΔK circles in the region and friends/family members to participate online.
 - b. Circles are also encouraged to send electronic invitations to chief institutional officers so that they too may participate online.

II. The leader of the ceremony should wear either business attire or academic regalia.

III. Arrange a table of suitable size to serve as a focal point for the ceremony.

If you do not have the official elements for the ceremony, download the image of OΔK Ceremonial Table to use as a background for your virtual ceremony.

- Drape table with white tablecloth or sheet.
- Place white long-stemmed candles on back left corner (electric candles are acceptable).
- Place circle record book on front right corner.

- a. Place a bowl or vase filled with flowers (white or blue) in the middle-front (the official flower of Omicron Delta Kappa is the blue delphinium).
- b. Place the OΔK Key next to flowers.

IV. Music or an electronic presentation may be a part of the ceremony.

V. The three “Voices” may speak from virtual locations if using Zoom for the ceremony – or the presiding officer may read all three voices.

- VI. Before you begin the ceremony, remind attendees of the following:
- a. Mute their devices until the Reading of the Three Voices. This will minimize distractions and unnecessary background noise.
 - b. Sign in to the “electronic” record book provided by the circle (this can be a Google doc, write their name in the chat feature, etc.)
 - c. During the in-person ceremony, candidates are asked to stand during the pledge part of the ceremony. We know that we are all in different spaces, but we hope you will embody the spirit of this solemn occasion and stand, wherever you are, when asked. In this way, you will be standing in solidarity with your fellow inductees even though you are not gathered in the same place.



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VIRTUAL INITIATION CEREMONY

Introductions and Welcome

(Introductory comments and a general welcome may be given the President/Presiding Officer or another individual as individuals gather for the start of the ceremony.)

President/Presiding Officer:

As the (President of the _____ Name of Institution _____ Circle/ _____ Presiding Officer's Title) of Omicron Delta Kappa, I welcome you to this initiation ceremony held on your behalf. Those of us who are members of OΔK value its high ideals and purposes as we strive to provide leadership in worthy undertakings and to be of service to others. We believe in the tenets of this society and those principles for which it stands. We are pleased and honored to share them with you today as we welcome you into the (_____ Name of Institution) Circle of Omicron Delta Kappa.

HISTORY AND SYMBOLS

President/Presiding Officer: You have undertaken upon yourselves the obligation of membership in the Omicron Delta Kappa Society. This means that you will ever seek to make it a real factor for good in academic and community life, not only in your college or university, but in American educational institutions at large; that you will make every effort to practice its high ideals, both in private and public life, so that the world may see in you a concrete, living symbol of the great principles of Omicron Delta Kappa.

Omicron Delta Kappa was founded December 3, 1914, at Washington and Lee University, in Lexington, Virginia. Our 15 founders stated that leadership of exceptional quality and versatility in college should be recognized; that representatives of all phases of college life should cooperate in worthwhile endeavor; and that outstanding students and faculty members should meet on a basis of common interest, understanding, and helpfulness.

The motives which guided the founders sprang from the desire to bring together one body for the general good of the institution, leaders from all parts of the college or university community. The success of the OΔK Idea, an essential part of which is its joint student-faculty character and a determination to maintain a consistent and high standard of leadership recognition, led to the establishment of chapters, which we call circles, at other colleges.

It has ever been our desire and custom to try to symbolize in material form our dreams, ambitions, ideals, and sentiments. In accordance with this innate desire and feeling, Omicron Delta Kappa also has tried to express in material form, the "Key," its noble ideals, lofty aspirations, and altruistic aims. The key, which is struck in the form of a circle, symbolizes union forever and the equality which characterizes membership in Omicron Delta Kappa.

The Greek motto for which the letters OΔK stands is:

(Ho Daph-no'ko-mos Kük'los) which translates as "The Laurel Crowned Circle."

Our emblem, the Laurel Crowned Circle, stands for success achieved in worthy undertakings. The shape of the Key (the President/Presiding Officer points to a large replica of the Key) represents the circle, which symbolizes the all-around and inclusive nature of our organization. The five stars on the upper bar represent the five major phases of college life, for which our Society stands:

(As each of the five major phases are identified slowly and emphatically by the President/Presiding Officer, light each candle.)

- Scholarship
- Athletics
- Campus or Community Service, Social, Religious Activities, and Campus Government
- Journalism, Speech, and the Mass Media
- Creative and Performing Arts

The number 1914 on the lower bar indicates the year in which our Society was founded.

(At this point, the President/Presiding Officer may add a brief statement about the history or traditions of the local circle such as charter date, major circle programs, and distinguished members.)

INITIATION CEREMONY

President/Presiding Officer: We who are members of Omicron Delta Kappa have observed your habits, attitudes, and capacities, and are pleased with your success, your steady growth as leaders in worthwhile endeavors, and your appreciation of the ideals and purposes of the Society. We have asked you here today to make you members of our Society and to present to each of you the Laurel Crowned Circle, the symbol of achievement. Before we accept you into The Omicron Delta Kappa Society, please listen thoughtfully to these words.

(The three voices may speak from other virtual locations or the president/presiding officer may read all three voices.)

First Voice: You should know that the Laurel Crowned Circle is not only a recognition of past exemplary conduct, but that it must also be to you a constant inspiration to finer and nobler living, so long as you shall live.

Second Voice: You should know that the Laurel Crowned Circle is not only a recognition of past loyalty to all goodworks, but that it must also be to you a constant inspiration to unselfish service to the Society, to (*name of college or university*) and to your vocation, and a life-long reminder that if greatness is to be achieved, one must serve.

Third Voice: You should know that the Laurel Crowned Circle is not only a recognition of past achievement, but that it must also be to you a constant inspiration to spend the rest of your days climbing higher and yet higher, ever remembering that death comes apace and that the longest span of human life is all too short for the completion of the tasks that lie ready to our hands.

President/Presiding Officer: Will the candidates for membership please stand wherever you may be, if you are able? You have heard in these words the great unchanging principles upon which our Society is founded. If you are willing to accept the lofty ideals, the sense of devotion, and the spirit of aspiration represented in Omicron Delta Kappa, please respond, "We are."

Candidates: We are.

President/Presiding Officer: Then please repeat after me.

"In the presence of the Circle here assembled,/

I solemnly promise/

to uphold the Ideals and Traditions,/

the Constitution and Bylaws,/

of the Omicron Delta Kappa Society/

and to support in loyal service/

its local and national officers,/

to participate in its meetings, ceremonies and initiatives/

and to diligently foster/

life-long leadership."

Congratulations!

You may be seated.

President/Presiding Officer: You have undertaken upon yourselves the obligation of membership in the Omicron Delta Kappa Society. This means that you will ever seek to make it a real factor for good in academic and community life, not only in

your college or university, but in American educational institutions at large; that you will make every effort to practice its high ideals, both in private and public life, so that the world may see in you a concrete, living symbol of the great principles of Omicron Delta Kappa.

You have been chosen to for membership in our Society because of your loyalty and devotion to (_____ *Name of Institution*) and to the things that are fine and true in life. We will invite you to sign the Official Record Book of the (_____ *Name of Circle*) at a later date and will present you with your membership pin at this time.

I will now read the names of the newest members of the (_____ *Name of Circle*).

INSERT NAMES HERE

CONCLUSION

As newly inducted members of our Society, you have taken upon yourselves the obligations of membership. As we conclude this ceremony and leave this place, take with you – and incorporate into your daily lives – the ideals of excellence in leadership and service that we have affirmed here today. Congratulations! We are confident that OΔK will thrive here and help each of you as you continue in your leadership journeys.

POST-CEREMONY DIRECTIONS

- Remind the attendees that they will need to sign the official record when they return to campus.
- Inform them of how they will be receiving their certificates and pins.
- Provide information about any virtual circle meetings or activities.