



OMICRON DELTA KAPPA

The National Leadership Honor Society

Signature Leadership and Service Programs Guidelines

In June 2022, the Omicron Delta Kappa Board of Trustees approved the requirement that every circle plan and implement a minimum of one signature leadership and one signature service program each academic year. The intention of signature programs is for them to have longevity, helping OΔK to become known for these programs over time and to make the circle synonymous with leadership and service on campus. Examples of successful signature programs begin on page 2.

Collaboration and Inclusivity

- Signature programs are intended to encourage circles to collaborate with other student organizations, university departments, and/or community groups. Circles should consider collaborating with others who will help the circle reach underrepresented populations on campus or in the community.

Engagement

- It is not enough for OΔK members to simply attend an event for it to be considered the circle's signature program. Signature programs are intended to engage the circle more actively with campus programs, student organizations, and/or community partners beyond the campus. While the program can and should be collaborative, OΔK members should have an active role in the planning and implementation of the signature programs.

Brand-Building and Recruitment

- By engaging in activity outside of just the circle's members, these programs will help enhance the image, reputation, and exposure of the circle on the campus. Signature programs should be viewed as recruitment opportunities and be open to the entire campus when possible. Circles are encouraged to be strategic about identifying participants who could be future members of OΔK.

Evaluation

- Circles are strongly encouraged to embed an evaluation tool into the program to determine what went well and how the programs could be improved for the future. This could be a survey, focus group, or other means of gathering feedback.

Program Report

- Share your programs with national headquarters via the Program Report [form](#). Be sure to include photos. Your event may be shared on social media or in *The Circle* magazine. You will also want to include this information in your Circle Annual Report each year to receive credit for your Circle Minimum Standards.

Signature Leadership Program Examples (2021-2022)

Stone Ethical Leadership Challenge

- The Stone Ethical Leadership Challenge offers OΔK circles the opportunity to present a leadership program that has been developed and tested by OΔK leadership educators. OΔK can also provide funding support to implement the program. SELC is a complete leadership development package including 90-minute, half-day, and full-day programs with a guide for presenters and pre-designed ethical scenarios targeted for college students. It may be facilitated in-person or virtually. For more information on SELC, contact Tim Reed at tim@odk.org.

University of South Carolina – Columbia | Spring Leadership Panel

- The USC-Columbia Circle hosts an event consisting of a networking hour, followed by a panel of speakers featuring accomplished faculty members that represent each OΔK pillar.

Austin Peay State University | Pizza 4 the Peayple

- The APSU Circle provide leadership tips for students and promotes awareness of Omicron Delta Kappa both locally and nationally. The event draws students from every classification as well as faculty and staff. Pizza is provided and the event is held near lunchtime to encourage attendance.

Cumberland University | Cultures Communicate Day

- The Cumberland Circle partners with its Office of Diversity and Inclusion to host an event where leaders of specific student organizations come together to share their unique cultures, backgrounds, and personal stories. Each discussion concluded with techniques student leaders could use to bridge gaps between organizations, the university, and the community.

Georgia Institute of Technology | Freshman Leadership Awards

- The Alpha Eta Circle recognizes up to 10 freshmen, nominated by their peers and selected by the circle, who have distinguished themselves as leaders in their first year at the university.

University of Georgia | Spring Leadership Discussion

- The Alpha Upsilon Circle hosts an annual Leadership Discussion in which a campus or community leader with significant experience is interviewed. The event is open to the public. The speaker(s) is asked about their leadership experiences, their growth as a leader, challenges, skills, and advice, among other topics. Following the interview, attendees are able to participate in a Q&A with the speaker.

Signature Service Program Examples (2021-2022)

Morningside University | Into the Streets

- The Morningside University Circle coordinates a one-day service project which connects more than 700 faculty, staff, and students with 60+ local non-profits. Volunteers work for a four-hour shift to assist with each non-profit's identified need.

Agnes Scott College | CivicScotties

- The Agnes Scott College Circle partners with its on-campus civic engagement office to table for voter registration, voter education, and mail-in ballots throughout the year. OΔK members are trained to respond to common questions students have about voting and then help students register to vote.

Florida State University | Chamber's Classroom Connection

- The FSU Circle adopted a kindergarten classroom at a local elementary school, and supported the students throughout the year by providing a volunteer each month to read to the class, and hosting snack and supply drives at general body meetings.

Missouri Southern State University | One Warm Coat Drive

- The MSSU Circle collects more than 200 coats and warm clothing items from the campus community, which are donated to a local shelter and the Boys and Girls Club. The event is supported by a student senate grant, which provided funding for donation boxes.

Duquesne University | Faculty Appreciation Program

- The Duquesne Circle offers students the opportunity to recognize professors whom they believe best exemplify leadership and excellence in the classroom. Students write positive notes to these professors, which are delivered by members of the circle.

SUNY Plattsburgh | Skunk Day

- Skunk Day is a long-standing tradition unique to the SUNY Plattsburgh Circle. Members carry a stuffed skunk named Fiona in a cage. When a faculty or staff member is "skunked," Fiona is brought to the person's office and they are asked to provide either a monetary donation or a non-perishable food item, all of which benefit the on-campus food pantry. That person then has the opportunity to identify the next person to be "skunked."

Stephen F. Austin State University | Senior Supply Drive

- The SFA Circle worked with the director of a local and rehabilitation center to identify recipients based on need, including low-income status, formerly homeless, limited family contact, or residents without any family support. Then, lists of donation items were distributed to partners across campus, local churches, and nearby businesses.

For assistance or to discuss potential program ideas, email your circle contact:

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