



Public Induction Ceremony

Required Induction Items:

1. Several candles to light the area of the induction
2. Enough taper candles (commonly used for candlelight vigils) for both those inducting new members and those being inducted
3. A decorative brass compass (available from a variety of internet providers)

Optional Induction Items:

4. Certificates of Membership (either printed by the institution or purchased from the National Office)
5. Rho Alpha Sigma lapel pins (available through the National Office—check for pricing).
6. Legacy plaque with engraved names (suggested that there be enough space for multiple classes of inducted members).

NOTE: In places where the term Resident Advisor or RA is used, chapters should substitute the title(s) for their host institution's live-in student staff who are eligible to hold membership in the organization/chapter

Prior to beginning the public ceremony, the Chairperson asks all members of Rho Alpha Sigma (both new and old, honorary and undergraduate) to step out of the room. The Chairperson will then welcome the guests. After all guests are settled and welcomed, the Chairperson will then bring the members of Rho Alpha into the room.

The members will enter the room, walking around the circumference of the room and coming around to complete a circle around those in attendance. The new members (both honorary and undergraduate) will be the last to enter. The members should spread out to make a symmetrical circle.

When the circle is complete, the Chairperson will begin: “Ladies and Gentlemen, Rho Alpha Sigma is proud to continue its tradition of recognizing the outstanding efforts of the *Resident Advisors* on this campus. We are also proud to recognize the outstanding efforts of those who have significantly impacted the *Resident Advisors* on this campus with an Honorary membership, but, before we introduce these outstanding individuals, it is important that we introduce you to the guiding principles of Rho Alpha Sigma.”

At this point, the Chairperson instructs the person to his or her left to light their candle and begin passing the light around the circle.

The Chairperson continues: “Our first symbol is the circle. The circle represents our value in unity, community, and consistency. To excel as a *Resident Advisor*, each person must be inclusive. No person's rights are more or less important than another's. Each member of the floor is a member of the community. All are equal; all are significant. The members of Rho Alpha Sigma have demonstrated the importance of community, and it is this reason why we are formed in a circle around you, and this is the reason why we have chosen the circle as the first of our symbols.”

The Chairperson continues: “The second of our symbols is the compass. The compass represents our value in leadership. Like the compass, the members of Rho Alpha Sigma have demonstrated their excellence in leading the members of their floors through difficult decisions and through personal turmoil. The members of this order have helped countless students find their path and purpose. Without the dedication and leadership of these members, college would pose an insurmountable task to some who are still students. It is for this reason that the second symbol

of Rho Alpha Sigma is the compass.”

If the candles are not all lit, please wait until all candles are lit before moving ahead.

The Chairperson continues: “The last of our symbols is the candle. The candle represents our value of excellence and guidance. Each member of Rho Alpha Sigma has demonstrated outstanding skill in carrying out the tasks of the position. Each member has gone above and beyond what is expected of each *Resident Advisor*. Each member has become an example for their peers. They have become the light that guides the efforts of other *Resident Advisors* as well as becoming the light that helps guide those whom they serve. It is for this reason that the third symbol of Rho Alpha Sigma is the candle.”

The Chairperson continues: “Around you are the proud members of Rho Alpha Sigma.” **Gesture toward the new members.** “Today, we have initiated several new members. As I call your name, please come forward and stand next to me.”

Chairperson: Call the name of the initiate. Read from a portion of one or more of the initiate’s recommendations. Ask that the initiate address the audience. When they are done, pin the initiate and give the initiate his or her certificate. Call up the next candidate, and the next, and so on and so forth until all initiates have been pinned and have been given a certificate.

At this point, ask the audience to give a round of applause to the new members. Blow out candles and ask that the audience stay and celebrate the new members’ achievement.

End

