

Sample Induction Ceremony Script

The following is a sample script for a Lambda Pi Eta induction ceremony. Please feel free to use it as a guide and adapt it to meet the individual needs of your chapter. Many chapters will invite a key note speaker such as faculty members, deans, administrators or individuals outside the university or discipline.

Room Set-up: Chairs are arranged theater style with a center aisle. A table is in the front of the room with three candles. To the right is a podium for speakers and to the rear of the room is a table for refreshments. Greeters meet people at the door with a program and any other handouts.

Faculty Advisor: I would like to begin by welcoming everyone to the Lambda Pi Eta (*your chapter*) Induction ceremony. First, it is my pleasure to introduce to you the chapter officers and our special guests (*make a list of chapter officers and any special guests*).

President: The name Lambda Pi Eta is represented by the Greek letters L (lambda), P (pi), and H (eta) symbolizing what Aristotle described in his book, *Rhetoric*, as the three modes of persuasion: Logos meaning logic, Pathos relating to emotion, and Ethos defined as character credibility and ethics. The candle lighting ceremony will further describe each of the meanings behind these Greek letters.

Lambda Pi Eta was founded by the students of the Department of Communication at the University of Arkansas and was then formally endorsed by the faculty member and founder, Dr. Stephen A. Smith in 1985. The Speech Communication Association – now the National Communication Association - established Lambda Pi Eta as an affiliate organization and as the official national honor society for outstanding students in Communication in 1994. In February 1996, Lambda Pi Eta was inducted into the Association of College Honor Societies. Today, there are over 600 chapters of Lambda Pi Eta nationwide.

Now I would like to ask all new inductees to please assemble in the rear of the room and for faculty and Lambda Pi Eta chapter officers to please come to the front of the room and form the receiving line. (*Faculty should be at the front left side of the room and officers at the front right side of the room. New members should be lined up alphabetically in the back of the room.*)

Chapter Officer #1: The first mode of persuasion is logos, or logic. In all aspects of scholarship and its application to one's life, logic plays a major role in deliberations and problem solving. (*Light first candle*)

Chapter Officer #2: Pathos, or emotional appeal, the second symbol of our organization's title, encompasses a driving force that makes an organization vital and effective. (*Light second candle*)

Chapter Officer #3: The last mode of persuasion is ethos, or character credibility and ethics. Aristotle sees character credibility as a primary means of affecting change in society and in one's life. Thus it is appropriate that ethos is a major symbol of Lambda Pi Eta and its six goals. (*Light third candle*)

Chapter Officer #4: The purpose of the Honor Society, according to the national Policies and Procedures is:

1. To recognize, foster, and reward outstanding scholastic achievement
2. To stimulate interest in the field of Communication
3. To provide an opportunity to discuss and exchange ideas in the field of Communication
4. To promote and encourage professional development among Communication majors
5. To establish and maintain close relationships and mutual understanding between faculty and students
6. To explore options for further graduate education

Chapter Officer #5: The membership in Lambda Pi Eta is composed of undergraduate students who have declared an interest in the field of Communication and have achieved a high level of academic excellence.

To be eligible for membership, students must have completed 60 semester hours (90 quarter hours) in undergraduate courses; have a cumulative Grade Point Average of at least 3.0; have completed the equivalent of 12 semester hours (18 quarter hours) in Communication courses; have a Grade Point Average of at least 3.25 in those courses; and be currently enrolled as a full-time student in good standing with their institution.

President (*to inductees*): As I call your name please come forward to receive your certificate of membership and your lapel pin. (*As names are read, each member should come forward through the receiving line, shaking hands with faculty and receiving membership materials. Once through the line, members should line up behind the table facing the audience.*)

President (*to inductees*): As newly inducted members of Lambda Pi Eta, do you accept the challenge to maintain the high academic and leadership standards set forth by the organization, and to serve as examples for the achievement of excellence in the field of Communication? And do you promise to work toward the achievement of the goals as set down by the national Policies and Procedures of Lambda Pi Eta? If so, please answer "I do."

pause as inductees say "I do"

(*To audience*) I now present to you the newly inducted members of the (*your chapter*) chapter of Lambda Pi Eta for the (*academic year*). On behalf of Lambda Pi Eta and the (*your chapter*) chapter, Welcome! Will the faculty, administration, family members, and friends gathered here today please join us in welcoming these new members!

pause for applause

Thank you for your attendance today in support of these remarkable inductees. Now, I would like to invite you to join the new members for refreshments available at the back of the room.