

Rituals Formal Ritual for the Induction of New Members

President: Members of Psi Chi, your purpose in meeting here is to induct into Psi Chi, the International Honor Society in Psychology, [number: _____] members who are earnest students in the field of psychology. Secretary, have these persons met the qualifications for membership in this Society?

Secretary: We have carefully examined the records of these candidates and recommend them to you because we believe they possess a vital interest in the science of psychology and show promise in the field.

President: You are about to be inducted into an organization which is international in scope, international in interests, and international in opportunities. Active members may hold office and vote on issues of societal importance to Psi Chi, as well as attend regional and Society annual psychology conventions. By your presence you have indicated a desire to be instructed in the purposes and ideals of Psi Chi.

[To the candidates:]

President: If upon hearing these instructions you still desire to join our fellowship, you will affirm your acceptance of the responsibilities of your membership and sign the [name of school:]

Psi Chi Chapter Roll. Mr./Madam Vice-President, will you please instruct the candidates.

Vice-President: Before assuming membership in Psi Chi, we invite you to know the history and purposes of the organization, its standards and ideals. The purpose of Psi Chi is to encourage, stimulate, and maintain excellence in scholarship and to advance the science of psychology. These aims are admirably summarized in the two Greek words, "Psyche" [Psy-key] and "Cheires" [Ky-race].

[A member to the right of the Vice-President will explain "Psyche."]

Member: "Psyche" [Psy-key] may suggest "mind." "Psyche" may also suggest scholarship and enrichment of the mind. That this purpose shall be fulfilled, we have chosen as members those whose academic records are outstanding. If you are true to this ideal, you will strive to bring credit to Psi Chi in your academic work. Yet, scholarship means more than the attainment of an honorable record. It demands that you not be content with merely

adequate performance of the tasks required of you, but that you strive for real mastery of the subject to which you are devoting your mind. The test of this is within yourself. Be satisfied only with work well done, and finally, remember that true scholarship requires integrity.

[A member to the left of the Vice-President will explain "Cheires."]

Member: "Cheires" [Kyrace], meaning "hands," stands for fellowship and research. Herein lies the real test of your interest in this field. The word has its origin in fruitful fellowship; it is the culmination of careful scholarship. It does not require expensive apparatus and elaborate techniques, although these are sometimes of value, but rather it demands observation, logical thinking, and critical-yet tolerant-open-mindedness. If you follow these standards wherever you are and whatever your position, you will contribute your share to human progress. Our motto, "Psyche Cheires," may be expressed in these words: cooperation in the investigation and cultivation of the mind.

[The Platonic Myth (on page 12) which follows this ritual may be read by the Chapter President here or at the conclusion of the ceremony.]

Vice-President: As future psychologists, you should acquire an attitude of tolerance toward those whose opinions or behavior differ from your own. One of the most fundamental teachings of psychology is the fact that individuals differ. This means that they have varying interests and motives, and that they strive for different goals. You may look upon your science as a developing effort to understand human nature. As you grow in perspective, you will become more dissatisfied with the incompleteness of your science.

This will be an indication of maturity. With respect to your association with the local chapter of Psi Chi, the members have the right to expect you to attend all meetings except when absence is unavoidable, participate in programs when invited, further the cause of psychology on campus, and adopt the role of loyal alumni in the years ahead.

You have heard the aims and ideals of Psi Chi. Do you, as students in the field of psychology, accept its standards and purposes as your own? If so, say, "I do."

Candidates: I do.

Vice-President: Mr./Madam President, I recommend these candidates to you because I believe they possess a vital interest in the science of psychology and show promise by their academic records and by the pledges just made.

President: You have signified your acceptance of the conditions of membership offered to you. Will you, to the best of your ability, elevate and advance the science of psychology, add to its share of knowledge, and assist in its search for truth? If so, say, "I will."

Candidates: I will.

President: You will then sign the

chapter roll as the Secretary reads your name. Your signature will be evidence of your pledge.

[As each name is read, the candidate comes forward, receives a membership certificate and card and signs the chapter registration book. The candlelight ceremony, may be inserted at this time.]

President: We welcome you to Psi Chi's fellowship of common interest, mutual assistance, and high endeavor.

[The Chapter President may read the Platonic Myth at this time or above, after the reading of the explanation of symbols, "Psyche" and "Cheires."]

Informal Ritual for the Induction of New Members

President: Members of Psi Chi, our purpose in meeting here is to induct into Psi Chi, the International Honor Society in Psychology, [number: _____] persons who are dedicated students in the field of psychology. Secretary, have these persons met the qualifications for membership in this Society?

Secretary: The qualifications of these candidates have been carefully reviewed and we believe they have demonstrated an active interest in the science of psychology and show promise as indicated by their academic records.

President: You are about to be inducted into an organization which is international in scope, international in interests, and international in opportunities. Active members are invited to participate not only in the activities of the local chapter, but also in those of the regional and Society organization. Before accepting membership in Psi Chi, we invite you to hear its standards and ideals. The purpose of Psi Chi is to encourage, stimulate, and maintain excellence in scholarship and to advance the science of psychology. The name of our organization, Psi Chi, represents the two Greek words, "Psyche" [Psy-key] and "Cheires" [Ky-race]. "Psyche" [Psy-key] suggests scholarship and enrichment of our minds; therefore, we have chosen as members those whose academic records are outstanding. "Cheires" [Ky-race] stands for fellowship and research. By joining this organization, we work together for

through observation, logical thinking, and critical—yet tolerant—open-mindedness. We accept that a fundamental teaching of psychology is the fact that individuals differ. This means that they have varying interests and motives, and that they may strive for different goals. We look upon our science as a developing effort to understand human nature.

With respect to your association with our chapter of Psi Chi, we as members have a right to expect you to attend our meetings, participate in our programs, further the cause of psychology on campus, and adopt the role of loyal alumni in the years ahead.

You have heard the aims and ideals of Psi Chi. Do you, as students in the field of psychology, accept its goals and purposes as your own? If so, say "I do."

Candidates: I do.

President: You have signified your acceptance of the conditions of membership offered to you. We invite you to sign the chapter roll as the Secretary reads your name. Your signature will be evidence of your pledge.

[As each name is read, the candidate comes forward and receives a membership certificate and card and signs the chapter registration book. The candlelight ceremony, found on the back cover of this booklet, may be inserted at this time.]

President: We welcome you to our chapter and look forward to our fellowship.

Formal Ritual for the Installation of Officers

[The installation officer may be a Psi Chi member of the chapter's choosing; e.g., an outgoing officer.]

Installation Officer: Members of the [name of school:]

Chapter of Psi Chi, we are about to install in office those members of the group whom you have chosen to represent and lead you. The position of leadership is an honor, and along with any honor goes responsibility. Only the person who accepts the responsibility together with the honor is truly happy and effective as a leader.

[Turning to the faculty advisor:]

Installation Officer: Faculty advisor, has the group selected a Treasurer?

Faculty Advisor: It has.

Installation Officer: I ask the Treasurer of the chapter to come forward to be installed in office.

[The faculty advisor reads the name of the elected Treasurer who comes forward and stands by the side of the installation officer.]

Installation Officer: As Treasurer, you are to pay out funds only on the order of the chapter. You are required to present to the chapter an annual report showing the amount on hand at the beginning of the year, the amount collected during the year, and the amount expended during the year on order of the chapter; to keep accurate records of these several items so that an accurate check can be made at any time by the chapter; to see that the induction fees are sent to the Central Office before induction takes place; and to send to the Central Office an annual financial report before the close of the chapter's fiscal year. Are you prepared to assume and to discharge these responsibilities?

Treasurer: I am.

Installation Officer: The faculty advisor will now deliver to you the equipment of your office.

[The faculty advisor hands the Treasurer the Treasurer's Notebook and a permanent-bound book to keep a record of the chapter's income and expenses..]

Installation Officer: I now declare you duly installed as the Treasurer of the [name of school:]

Chapter of Psi Chi.

[The Treasurer is assigned a chair at the installation table. Installation officer turns back to faculty advisor:]

Installation Officer: Faculty advisor, has the group selected a Secretary?

Faculty Advisor: It has.

Installation Officer: I ask the Secretary of the chapter to come forward to be installed in office.

[The advisor reads the name of the elected Secretary who comes forward and stands by the side of the installation officer.]

Installation Officer: As Secretary, you are required to keep an accurate record of the proceedings or minutes of each meeting in the form prescribed in *Robert's Rules of Order*, to have them ready for inspection by any member of the chapter at any time, and to read them at meetings of the chapter or circulate them to the members; to prepare an order of business for the President of the chapter; to keep a list of all committees of the chapter; to have custody of all papers of the chapter not in the custody of other officers or the faculty advisor; to sign the chapter's order to the Treasurer for the disbursement of any of the chapter's funds; to see that registration cards are properly filled out and sent to the Central Office before an induction takes place; to see that key order blanks are properly filled out, signed, and sent to the Central Office for approval; to send news of the chapter activities regularly as they take place to the Central Office for publication in the Psi Chi newsletter; to receive and distribute all materials from the Central Office; and to report to the Central Office election of officers as they take place. Are you prepared to assume and discharge these responsibilities?

Secretary: I am.

Installation Officer: The faculty advisor will now deliver to you the equipment of your office.

[The faculty advisor hands the Secretary the Secretary's Notebook.]

Installation Officer: I now declare you duly installed as the Secretary of the [name of school:]

Chapter of Psi Chi.

[The Secretary is assigned a chair at the installation table. Installation officer turns back to the faculty advisor:]

Installation Officer: Faculty advisor, has the group selected a Vice-President?

Faculty Advisor: It has.

Installation Officer: I ask the Vice-

President of the chapter to come forward to be installed in office.

[The faculty advisor reads the name of the elected Vice-President who comes forward and stands by the side of the installation officer.]

Installation Officer: As Vice-President, you are required to be ready to assume duties of the regularly elected President in the absence of that officer. You are also to serve as program chair person. As go the meetings, so goes the interest in the meetings. You are responsible for introducing speakers at meetings and for obtaining facilities for meetings. Are you prepared to assume and discharge these responsibilities?

Vice-President: I am.

Installation Officer: The faculty advisor will now deliver to you the equipment of your office.

[The faculty advisor hands the Vice-President the Vice-President's Notebook.]

Installation Officer: I now declare you duly installed as the Vice-President of the [name of school:]

Chapter of Psi Chi.

[The Vice-President is assigned a chair at the installation table. Installation officer turns back to the faculty advisor.]

Installation Officer: Faculty advisor, has the group selected a President?

Faculty Advisor: It has.

Installation Officer: I ask the President of the chapter to come forward to be installed in office.

[The faculty advisor reads the name of the elected President who comes forward and stands by the side of the installation officer.]

Installation Officer: As President, you will find a detailed statement of your duties in *Robert's Rules of Order*. In general, you are expected to call the meetings to order, to preside at all meetings, to announce the business before the chapter, to preserve order and decorum, and to be familiar with parliamentary procedure. The conduct, value, and contribution to [name of school:]

exhibited by this chapter rest upon your shoulders more than upon those of any other officer or member of the chapter. Are you prepared to assume and discharge these responsibilities?

President: I am.

Installation Officer: The faculty advisor will now deliver to you the equipment of your office.

[The faculty advisor hands the President the gavel, the President's Notebook, and other paraphernalia, if any.]

Installation Officer: I now declare you duly installed as the President of the [name of school:]

Chapter of Psi Chi.

Installation Officer: You are now officers of the [name of school:]

Chapter of Psi Chi. In assuming the privileges and responsibilities of your offices, you are responsible for this chapter.

[To the President:]

Installation Officer: To you is entrusted the care of this chapter. When your term of office expires, you will entrust it to your successor, and so on down the line as long as the chapter exists. May the chapter always be guided by capable leaders.

[The President is seated at an appropriate place at the table with the other officers.]

Installation Officer: Since the officers have been invested with their duties of office, I put the meeting into the hands of the President.

[Installation officer leaves the table and takes a seat with the remainder of the audience.]

Important note concerning equipment of chapter offices:

One of the greatest challenges faced by Psi Chi chapters is ensuring a successful transition of leadership from one year to the next. As stated in the *Chapter Officer Guidelines* (see Chapter Notebook) each chapter officer should have a notebook to keep in one place all materials necessary for effectively carrying out that office. (Chapters should purchase permanent notebooks for use by each officer.) In other words, the chapter president should have (and pass on to the new president) a President's Notebook, the vice-president a Vice-President's Notebook, etc. All officer notebooks should include a copy of the Psi Chi Constitution. Refer to the *Chapter Officer Guidelines* section for more information concerning the types of materials that should be kept in each notebook.

Informal Ritual for the Installation of Officers

[The installation officer may be a Psi Chi member of the chapter's choosing; e.g., an outgoing officer.]

Installation Officer: Members of the [name of school:]

Chapter of Psi Chi, we are about to install as officers those members of the group you have chosen to represent and lead you. The officers who are elected include:

Treasurer, [name:];

Secretary, [name:];

Vice-President, [name:];

and President, [name:].

Will these persons please come forward?

[The officers present themselves before the installation officer.]

Installation Officer: You have read

the duties of your office as outlined in the formal ritual for the induction of officers. Are you prepared to assume and discharge these responsibilities? If so, answer "I am."

Candidates: I am.

Installation Officer: Receive the equipment of your office.

[The installation officer hands to each officer, beginning with the Treasurer, the equipment of each respective office.]

Installation Officer: You are now

duly elected officers of the [name of school:] Chapter of Psi Chi.

In assuming the privileges and responsibilities of your office, you are responsible for this chapter.

[To the President:]

Installation Officer: To you is entrusted the care of this chapter.

[To the members:]

Installation Officer: I put this meeting into the hands of the President.

Platonic Myth

Many years ago, Plato told the following story to his students:

You, as all mortals, come into this world barren of knowledge and innocent of all truth. Of reality you know nothing. Like prisoners in a dark and cavernous chamber, arms shackled and weights about their necks, permitting them to see only the wall in front of them, you are chained in the dungeon of ignorance. People walk behind the prisoners carrying with them statues of men and images of animals wrought in wood and stone, but they see them not. Only the shadows of these images fall within their ken. The people speak. Their voices the prisoners impute to the shadows.

In the course of nature, the prisoners are released from their fetters. For the first time they move, stand erect, turn and face the light. A new world confronts them. The newness of the vision blinds them. Unseen people are still passing by carrying with them the statues of men and images of animals. With pain and difficulty the prisoners discern these statues as the source of the shadows. The people speak again. Their voices the prisoners now impute to the statues.

The prisoners are now dragged into the open light. Their vision slowly becomes clear. Instead of phantoms and shadows, in place of statues and models, they perceive the real. People and objects are distinguished from their images and shadows. Their adaptation continues and they see ever more clearly until in the distance they discern the source of the light. Now they may understand what has given rise to their vision.

Bewilderment is the lot of us all. Often we perceive only models of the truth. But we must go yet farther and find the very source of things with which we are dealing. We strive to free ourselves from the shackles of imperfect knowledge and attempt to come closer to a clear understanding of human thought and activity.

Psi Chi invites you to share these strivings with those who share your interests.

Candlelight Ceremony for Inducting Members

"Honor is the reward of merit." — Cicero

Items needed:

1. Candles (with holders, if available) for each inductee
2. Psi Chi jewelry or buttons¹ (optional)
3. Certificates of membership and membership cards

Faculty Advisor(s), faculty members of Psi Chi, Chapter President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Induction Officer (if you have a special person to serve as induction officer) are to be lined up behind head table for the ceremony.

Lights in room are either turned off or dimmed.

Inductees are called by name to the head table either singly or in a group by the Faculty Advisor, Chapter President, or Induction Officer.

¹Psi Chi jewelry and buttons are available through the Psi Chi Central Office.

Ceremony

[This ceremony may be added to the formal ceremony on page or the informal ceremony on page 10]

1. "Inductee [full name], come forward to receive the congratulations of your peers."
2. "Honor is the reward of merit." [Light candle and pass it through the hands of Psi Chi members present at head table.]
3. "Because of your merit, you have earned the reward of honor. May this candle light your pathway as you seek your goal of academic excellence." [Hand candle to inductee/s.]
4. "Congratulations and welcome to Psi Chi." [Jewelry or buttons can be given together with the membership certificate and card at this time.]

*The description of Psi Chi entitled "What is Psi Chi?"; found on the cover, and the "Platonic Myth" may be used with any of the above rituals.