

Sample Induction Ceremony for Honors Membership in Lambda Pi Eta

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.

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 describe each of these Greek letters. Lambda Pi Eta was initiated by the students of the Department of Communication at the University of Arkansas and was then endorsed by the faculty and founder, Dr. Stephen A. Smith in 1985. The Speech Communication Association established Lambda Pi Eta as an affiliate organization and as the official national communication honor society for undergraduates in 1994. In February 1996, Lambda Pi Eta was inducted in the Association of College Honor Societies. There are currently 344 active chapters worldwide. 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. *(Light third candle)*

Chapter Officer #4: The purposes of the Honor Society, according to our constitution are:

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 credit courses; have a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0; have completed the equivalent of 12 semester hours (18 quarter hours) in courses in communication; have a grade point average of at least 3.25 in these courses; be in the upper

35% of their graduating class; 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 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 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 purposes and goals as set down by the national organization of Lambda Pi Eta? If so, please answer "I do." (*To audience*) I now present to you the newly inducted members of the (***your chapter***) of Lambda Pi Eta for the (***academic year***). Welcome! Will the faculty, administration, family, and friends please join the chapter officers in welcoming these new members. Now, I would like to invite you to join the new members for refreshments and thank you for attending our ceremony.