

Beta Sigma Phi **ORDER OF THE ROSE**

Instructions: *Officiant stands in center back of table with two or four Torchbearers standing beside and slightly back of her, holding lighted candles to light her reading. Members and guests not assisting with Ritual stand in two rows facing each other, well to right and left of Ritual Table, so it may be clearly seen from all places.*

Occasionally the Order of the Rose is conferred on more than one candidate. A slight deviation in the position of the Officiant behind the Ritual Table will need to be made in this instance so that there will be no crowding of those receiving the Order of the Rose. It is recommended that after the Officiant has read the opening paragraph and indicates to the recipients of this honor, that they are to take their places beside her behind the Ritual Table — that she move as far to the left as necessary in order for the recipients to be centered in back of the table. If there are two torchbearers, one will move to the right so that she stands to the right of all the recipients and the other will move to the left so that she stands to the left of the Officiant. If there are four Torchbearers — then two will move to the right and two to the left. Since all other participants in ceremony face the candidates from the front side of the table there need be no change in their instructions regardless of how many are receiving the Order of the Rose.

In the opening paragraph of the ceremony for the Order of the Rose which is read by the Officiant, the wording will need to be changed slightly since as it now reads it refers to only one candidate. It is suggested that if you are conferring the degree on more than one you write lightly in pencil above these words that need to be changed to the plural.

Music preceding and during ceremony should be Beta Sigma Phi songs and other suitable "Rose" songs.

So that the ceremony may proceed smoothly, it should be carefully rehearsed.

Officiant reads: Dearly Beloved, we are gathered together to confer an honor on one who has highly honored us, to give evidence of our appreciation to one who has given generously of herself to our organization and to our way of life.

We are met here to confer the exalted Order of the Rose of Beta Sigma Phi on a cherished and devoted member whose thought, conduct, and purpose reflect the highest ideals of Beauty, Love, and Truth.

Officiant now steps to her left, gestures to the place she has vacated, and addresses honoree.

_____, will you please stand here beside me to receive from us this recognition and this honor.

When honoree is in the central place, the song of Beta Sigma Phi is sung. While the song is sung the First Assistant, Pledge Rose-Bearer, in black dress with black candle in left hand and yellow rose in right, advances slowly from the rear, pauses a few steps from Ritual Table, waits there until music ends, then steps forward, extends her candle and addresses honoree.

First Assistant (Pledge Rose-Bearer) reads:

As a pledge of Beta Sigma Phi I bear this Torch — a symbol of the light within my soul — a guide to lead me from the darkness of selfishness into the light of love and loving service to others.

But when my footsteps falter, when my light seems dim and my heart is faint, I am not alone and my Torch is not my only guide, for, in the Golden Circle of Friendship of Beta Sigma Phi there are those, like you, who from the wisdom of your mind and from the kindness of your heart inspire and guide me.

Places candle in holder at front left corner of table. Extends hand with rose, continues:

As a pledge of Beta Sigma Phi I present to you this token of gratitude for your inspiration and guidance; the yellow rose of our sorority signifying the purity and wholesomeness of our undertaking.

Places her rose in the vase, then takes her place beside her candle at the left of Ritual Table.

Music plays softly, Second Assistant with lighted red candle in left hand and yellow rose in right advances slowly from the rear, faces honoree and speaks.

Second Assistant reads: The Torch of Learning is many-colored though the flame is forever one. The white Light of Love comprises the whole spectrum of Beauty — as Love and Loveliness are both one and many hued.

The red of the flame is an ever-burning brand, a badge of the brave and the strong.

Places candle in holder.

I present this Torch as a symbol of your dauntless and undeviating pursuit of the principles of Beta Sigma Phi.

Extends rose.

In gratitude for the virtue of your courage, I give you the Rose of Beta Sigma Phi.

Places rose in the vase. Walks to place back of table corresponding with position of the candle she has placed in holder.

Music. Third Assistant advances with yellow candle in left hand and yellow rose in right, faces honoree and speaks.

Third Assistant reads: It is written: "WHERE THERE IS NO VISION THE PEOPLE PERISH." In Beta Sigma Phi we dream of noble things. We dedicate ourselves to the Good, the True, and the Beautiful. We open our hearts and minds in gratitude and growth to all avenues of love and loveliness. We follow the Torch. We are seekers of the Light.

Places candle in holder.

I present this Torch as a symbol of the high ideals of Beta Sigma Phi.

Extends the rose.

In gratitude for your vision I give to you the yellow rose of Beta Sigma Phi.

Places her rose in the vase, takes place to left of Second Assistant, corresponding the position of her candle.

Music. Fourth Assistant advances, blue candle in left hand and a rose in right, faces honoree and speaks.

Fourth Assistant reads: It is written: "BLESSED ARE THE MEEK." In Beta Sigma Phi we learn that the attirement of the Queenly Woman is not in flaunting garments of pride and personal aggrandizement, but in the gentler qualities which grace a life with consideration and courtesy, constructive action for the good of others, and service free from selfishness.

Places candle in holder.

I present this Torch as a symbol of that perspective which keeps us reverent before the miracle of being, and respectful toward our fellowman.

Extends the rose.

In gratitude for your humility I give to you the Rose of our Sisterhood.

Places rose in holder. Takes place to left of Third Assistant, corresponding to the position of her candle on table.

Music. Fifth Assistant with orange candle in left hand and rose in right advances and addresses honoree.

Fifth Assistant reads: Though we be tested many times, though we be sorely tried, yet have we promised to make every sacrifice and exert every effort in the fulfillment of the ideals of Beta Sigma Phi.

Though we journey to the end of the earth alone, with only the inner eye to see, yet have we promised to be steadfast in our obligation.

Places candle in holder.

I present this Torch as a symbol of our earnest and unswerving purpose.

Extends rose.

In gratitude for your unfailing loyalty I give to you the yellow Rose of our Sisterhood.

Places rose in vase, takes place to left of the Officiant, corresponding to position of her candle.

Music. Sixth Assistant with green candle in left hand and rose in right advances and addresses honoree.

Sixth Assistant reads: The full meaning of the friendship of Beta Sigma Phi can never be fully expressed in words. It lies deep in our hearts.

Like the Phi of our emblem, it is the golden circle embracing all other meanings and giving to us a union of unbroken strength.

It begins with the intimacy and enjoyment of our chapter sisters and extends in time to the ends of the earth and to all mankind.

Places candle in holder.

I present this Torch as a symbol of our love for one another and for our fellowship.

Extends rose.

In gratitude for the blessing of your friendship I give to you this yellow rose.

Places rose in vase, takes place to left of Fifth Assistant, corresponding to position of her candle.

Music. Seventh Assistant with violet candle in left hand and full blown rose in right, advances and addresses honoree.

Seventh Assistant: IN LOYAL AND LOVING SERVICE TO OTHERS THE LOVE OF SELF IS FORGOTTEN.

In the beginning we pledge ourselves to this goal. In the achievement of this goal we lighten the burden of one another. We further the purpose of our organization: Life,

Learning, and Friendship. We reach the realm of Beauty, Love, and Truth.

Places candle in holder.

I present this Torch as a symbol of our goal, our gift of our Self to Life.

Extends rose.

In gratitude for your unselfish service to others I give to you this rose whose heart, like yours, is opened in full-blown blessing to the world.

Places rose in vase, takes place to left of Sixth Assistant, corresponding to position of her candle.

No music, but the hush of silence as the Eighth and last Assistant advances slowly from the rear with white candle in left hand and in her right a perfect rose tied with a gold bow and with the ORDER OF THE ROSE pin attached to stem. She addresses honoree.

Eighth Assistant reads: As the sum of all colors is loveliness and the sum of all light is that perfect luminosity, the WHITE LIGHT OF LOVE, so, the sum of our purposes in Beta Sigma Phi is to translate into life this love and loveliness; to make life a masterpiece through renunciation of selfishness, and through appreciation and expression of the Good, the True, and the Beautiful.

As we go forward together we draw ever nearer to our ultimate desire, the PERFECT.

Places candle in holder.

I present this Torch as a symbol of the WHITE LIGHT OF LOVE.

Extends the rose.

It is my privilege to place in your hand and keeping this perfect flower, and with it to present the emblem of the ORDER OF THE ROSE OF BETA SIGMA PHI. May it be to you a permanent token and perpetual reminder of our love and gratitude.

Places rose in hand of honoree. Takes her place to right of the table beside her candle.

Officiant reads: In the time of Diotima, in the place of Mantinea, the rose was dedicated as the Queen of Flowers. Her sovereignty has never waned. Regal in form, enchanting in color, exquisitely fragrant, she lends her majesty as graciously to the humblest garden as to the stately acres.

It is fitting, therefore, that the rose, choicest among the many beautiful blossoms of this earth, should have been chosen as the flower of Beta Sigma Phi. It is fitting, also, that the yellow rose, joyous and sunny is its hue, should be the flower of our organization.

It is dear to us for its freshness and purity. In times of sorrow, and in times of gladness it is with us, always a reminder of the special love and understanding of our Sisterhood.

Such dearness, such all-encompassing grace, such special love and understanding as are symbolized to us by the yellow rose are the same qualities which cause us to nominate you for the exalted Order of the Rose of Beta Sigma Phi.

As you have honored us, so would we now honor you.

If the recipient(s) is to receive the Order of the Rose gold pin, which may be purchased in advance, then the following paragraph is to be read. Otherwise the ceremony is closed with the repeating of the Closing Ritual.

Accept from us this golden rose, the emblem of the exalted Order of the Rose of Beta Sigma Phi. Wear it as evidence of our recognition and appreciation, and as a reminder of our gratitude to you for exemplifying the highest aims and purposes of Beta Sigma Phi.

Let us repeat in unison our Closing Ritual.

Soft music as all present give the Closing Ritual.

At a convenient time following this ceremony, either after refreshments, if the affair is a party, or at a special meeting, or in others suitable manner, the honoree should be asked to speak to the members in acceptance of this honor.