

House Dedication Ceremony

The dedication of a new home is an exciting occasion, one to be joyfully shared with your campus and local community. This guide is prepared to assist you in making your House Dedication a memorable one. You, or an appointed alumnae committee, will be planning this affair with the collegiate chapter President and the Vice President Membership Development or one of her committee members.

SETTING:

It is recommended that the Dedication Program be held on a Sunday afternoon. Have plenty of parking spaces available for guests, and be sure to plan for coats and personal belongings. Do not make the program too long, 35-40 minutes is suggested. **Note: for the Invocation, be mindful of the audience; modify words if necessary.*

SPEAKERS:

Chapter President
Housing Project Chair (or Province Collegiate Chair or Province Alumnae Chair or Chapter Advisor)
National Council Representative
University Representative
House Corporation Board President
Selected collegiate speaker

EQUIPMENT CHECKLIST:

Guest book
Photographer
Ribbon and scissors
Printed invitations (drawing or photo of house)
Proclamation (optional)
Memento for guests, program on reverse side (Suitable for framing)
Microphone, dais, and lectern
Serving table centerpiece
Corsages for ceremony participants
Refreshments: coffee, tea or punch, canapés, cookies, or small cakes
Keys for ceremonial presentation
Carnations
Hostess name tags

Be sure to specify the exact time of the dedication ceremony with a reception to follow. Invitations (or proclamations) may be used as special recognition gifts for selected dignitaries. The number should be determined in advance so that they may be framed and wrapped.

The Ceremony

Mistress of Ceremonies: (It is recommended that the Chapter President assume this role.)

“I am _____ President of _____ Chapter of Alpha Chi Omega. It is my great pleasure to welcome all of you who have come to share this happy occasion—the dedication of our new home.”

“_____, Housing Project Chair for Alpha Chi Omega will now give the invocation.” (If Housing Project Chair is not present, have invocation given by Province Collegiate Chair or Province Alumnae Chair or Chapter Advisor.)

Invocation:

We ask Thy blessings on this house,
Not for the richness of material nor beauty of design,
Not for grace of furnishings nor for loveliness of site.
For all these we are grateful, but especially bless this house because here is to be a home
away from home for a daughter in the springtime of her life—
A castle behind whose walls all may rest, to go out refreshed to new and exciting
achievement.
Let these doors be wide enough to welcome all friendly spirits.
And may this home be kindling and kind to every neighbor.
Here, let all gossip cease, all unworthy blame be left unspoken,
Here may fun and seriousness alternate to meet the total needs of life.
We give thanks for this community of friendship and learning, and for opportunities to
serve one another and our neighbors.
We are grateful for the generation of women who have sustained and advanced the work
of this sorority.
Please remember today our sisters in other chapters.
Let thy beauty be upon this new dwelling which we dedicate today.
Let all hindrances to living our ritual be driven from it, and may truth and compassion
find fruition under its shelter.

Song: *Alpha Chi* or other appropriate song

Mistress of Ceremonies: “The dedication of this house stirs our imagination and vision. We will encourage knowledge and scholarship, altruistic giving to our campus and community, and good friendships within and outside our chapter. We will continue to enunciate the ideals of Alpha Chi Omega.”

“It is with great pleasure that I introduce, (National Council member or representative).”

National Council Representative: (Speaks on behalf of the National Council and the Fraternity as a whole. Brings greetings. Tells when/how the chapter was founded. Talks about the future of Alpha Chi Omega and the chapter's place in the life of this campus. Suggestions: mention our motto, "Together let us seek the heights"; use all or a portion of the Symphony.)

University Official: (Gives greetings and best wishes from the University. Suggest that he/she talk on the values of sorority life on this particular campus.)

Mistress of Ceremonies: (Thanks university official.) (Introduce President of House Corporation and add thanks from the chapter for all the work done by the House Corporation.)

President of House Corporation: "We are deeply indebted to all who have given their gifts of time, talent, and resources so that this structure might be erected. This is more than a building—it is a home for the collegiate members now in school on this great campus and for those who will take their places in the years ahead.

College offers the opportunity to learn;
Sorority life provides the motivation.
College life offers a wide range of activities;
Sorority life provides involvement in them.
College life offers social events;
Sorority life offers a social experience.
College life offers a room;
Sorority life offers a home."

(HCP presents a large replica of a door key-tied with red and green ribbons-to the chapter President.)

"Keep this a happy home. Be gracious hostesses and congenial sisters."

Note: If other gifts are to be given, do so at this point; keep any talking to a minimum.

Mistress of Ceremonies: (Thank you recognition for the above who participated). "This dedication service would not be complete without expressing our heartfelt thanks to all the wonderful people who have done so much for _____ chapter.

(Introduce by title and name, the Chapter Advisor, Advisory Board members, House Director, Mothers' Club President, honored guests such as the PCC, PAC, etc. Mention the names of the architect, builder, decorator, etc. present. Try to have all those being introduced in one location. They do not have to speak, but can nod when recognized.

Group Singing by the Chapter:

(Have chapter members grouped in one area. Choose one Alpha Chi Omega song which the chapter particularly likes. End with the *Alpha Chi Toast*.)

Mistress of Ceremonies: “This concludes our dedication program. Thank you all for joining with us on this important and happy occasion. Now please join us for refreshments and house tours given by our members.”

HOSTESSES:

Collegiate chapter members and new members provide tours. Alumnae chapter members pour and assist in serving.

SUGGESTED GUEST LIST:

Chapter Advisory Board

All alumnae in the area

Nearby Alpha Chi Omega chapters

Parents of chapter members/new members

Province Collegiate Chair and Province Alumnae Chair

Chapter House Corporation Board

All alumnae of the chapter

Mothers’/Parents’ Club members

National Council

Director of Alumnae and Director of Collegians for your area

Director of Finance and Director of Housing for your area

Chapter Presidents, Chapter Advisors, House Corporations and House Directors of other sororities and fraternities on the campus.

University Officials: President, Dean of Students, Panhellenic Advisor, IFC Advisor, Student Government President, any special faculty friend or advisor, Panhellenic and IFC Presidents

Persons involved in the project: architect, contractor/builder, decorator, banker, lawyer, and any special project “angel”

Community personnel: Local newspaper, campus newspaper, Board of Supervisors member and Mayor

PUBLICITY:

Local and campus newspapers

Article one week prior to the dedication

Story immediately following event

Local and campus radio station

RECOGNITION GIFTS:

Keys (suggest 5): Chapter President, House Corporation Board President, National Council representative, University President and community official (banker, lawyer,) framed invitations, proclamations or carnations