

# ETA SIGMA GAMMA

## Ritual and Administrative Guide for the Initiation of Candidates into Eta Sigma Gamma



Revised February 2006

Eta Sigma Gamma  
Professional Health Education Honor Society  
National Office  
2000 University Avenue  
Muncie, IN 47306

## Administrative Guidelines for the Preparation of the Initiation Ceremony

### *Meaning and Purpose*

The initiation ceremony should be a significant and meaningful experience in order to deepen the ideals of service, education, and research of Eta Sigma Gamma. The triad represents the guidepost for the organization and, therefore, be represented in an initiation ceremony which is impressive and inspiring. The image of the Health Education profession as well as sponsoring institutions should be reflected in this enriching event.

### *Composition of Initiation Team*

The ceremony for initiation of new members of Eta Sigma Gamma will be conducted by a team. Depending on the number of participating officers from the local chapter, the initiation team may vary in number from two (2) to seven (7) members. Depending on the circumstances, the team will be constructed in the following manner:

<i>Initiation Team</i>	<i>Team Member</i>	<i>Role(s) in Ceremony</i>
<b>Two Person</b>	# 1	President, Historian-Editor or Sergeant-At-Arms
	# 2	Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Guide
<b>Three Person</b>	# 1	President, Sergeant-At-Arms or Historian-Editor
	# 2	Vice-President,
	# 3	Secretary, Treasurer, Guide
<b>Four Person</b>	# 1	President, Sergeant-At-Arms
	# 2	Vice-President, Historian-Editor
	# 3	Secretary, Guide
	# 4	Treasurer
<b>Seven Person</b>	# 1	President
	# 2	Vice-President
	# 3	Secretary
	# 4	Treasurer
	# 5	Sergeant-At-Arms
	# 6	Historian-Editor
	# 7	Guide

In the event that a local chapter is being formed, representatives from the National Office would carry out this installation ritual, as there would be no local chapter officers under these circumstances. Local chapter officers as described above would carry out all subsequent initiations.

### *Materials Needed for Initiation*

To carry out the initiation ceremony, the following materials should be provided:

- a. Conference table with chairs for installation team
- b. The chapter roll book
- c. Small table for signing the roll book and charter, if applicable
- d. Drape of the honor society banner (green and gold) for table
- e. Honor society flower (bouquet or picture)
- f. Eta Sigma Gamma symbol
- g. Lamp of learning
- h. Candles (optional, or other lighting devices):
  1. One large green or gold candle to be placed in the lamp of learning
  2. One smaller green or gold candle for each candidate being initiated
- i. New initiates materials (certificates, pins, cards, journal issues)

- j. United States flag
- k. State flag (optional)
- l. Music (optional)

### ***Checklist for Organizing the Initiation Ceremony***

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Identification of initiation team members
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Preparation of materials needed
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Preparation of certificates, cards, and pins
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Preparation of the chapter's roll book
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Preparation of candidates prior to ceremony:
  - a. arrange alphabetically outside ceremony room
  - b. assign places after entering ceremony room
  - c. indicate that the Pledge of Allegiance will be recited
  - d. explain that there will be questions asked of them and that their answers will be prompted by the officer in charge (example: "I do")
  - e. explain the candle-lighting procedures (place candles as far to the rear of the candle board as possible to avoid others burning themselves) twist candle as you insert it into the board
  - f. explain that they will sign the roll book when receiving their certificates
  - g. distribute copies of pledge and explain that they will recite the pledge in unison with the presiding officer.

### ***Optional Items***

- Arrangements for a speaker
- Arrangements for a photographer
- Arrangements for remarks by chapter president/faculty sponsor
- Refreshments

## **Ritual for the Initiation of Candidates**

### ***Entrance***

The candidates for initiation into Eta Sigma Gamma will remain outside the room in which the initiation ceremony is to take place. It is here that they will be given any necessary instructions about the ceremony.

- When the initiation ceremony is to begin, the candidates will be led (alphabetically) into the room by the Sergeant-at-Arms. (The audience should stand when initiates enter the room.)
- The candidates will be seated in a semi-circle in front of the table, with the initiation team seated behind the table.
- The Lamp of Learning is illuminated in the center of the table.
- After the candidates are seated, begin the ceremony.

The chapter advisor/sponsor (or chief installing officer) shall speak about Eta Sigma Gamma and the local chapter. The following may serve as an outline for a 5 to 10 minute presentation:

- A. History and growth of the national honor society (sample national history):

*Eta Sigma Gamma was founded on August 14, 1967, on the campus of Ball State University located in Muncie, Indiana. The founding of Eta Sigma Gamma was intended to provide an organization that would further the professional competence and dedication of the individual members in and for the health education and health science discipline. In the spirit of Greek usage, the letters Eta, Sigma, and Gamma were chosen to represent the Greek equivalents for the letters H, S, and C, which is an acronym for health science.*

*The first local collegiate chapter, named Alpha Chapter, was installed on May 12, 1968 on the Ball State University campus. From 1968 to the present, Eta Sigma Gamma has grown tremendously, with more than 100 local chapters installed.*

B. History and growth of the local chapter (sample local history)

*Our own collegiate chapter, (name of local chapter), was installed as the # collegiate chapter in (year). This afternoon, we are pleased to initiate # new members into (name of local chapter) of Eta Sigma Gamma.*

### ***Opening Ceremony***

**PRESIDENT**: The Sergeant-At-Arms will lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**SERGEANT-AT-ARMS** (leads everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance):

Please stand as we say the Pledge of Allegiance.

“I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.”

You may be seated.

### ***Challenge***

**PRESIDENT**: Are you a member of Eta Sigma Gamma?

**VICE PRESIDENT**: I am.

**PRESIDENT**: What makes you a worthy member of Eta Sigma Gamma?

**VICE PRESIDENT**: By upholding the ideals and ethics of the health education profession individually and collectively through this professional honor society, I am a worthy member of Eta Sigma Gamma.

**PRESIDENT**: What is the mission of Eta Sigma Gamma?

**SECRETARY**: The mission is to elevate the standards, ideals, competencies, and ethics of professionally trained men and women in the discipline of health education.

**PRESIDENT**: How is this mission to be achieved?

**SECRETARY**: The mission of this honor society is achieved in several important ways:

- A. supporting the development, implementation, and evaluation of health education programs and resources;
- B. stimulating and disseminating scientific research;
- C. motivating and providing health education services;
- D. recognizing academic achievement;
- E. supporting health education advocacy initiatives;
- F. promoting professional standards and ethics; and
- G. promoting networking activities among health educators and related professionals.

**PRESIDENT**: What comprises the ideal concept of health?

**TREASURER**: It is the composite of dynamic interactions of heredity, personal behavior, and environment that an individual experiences throughout his or her life. These interactions are continuous and ever changing. It is not merely the absence of disease, but rather one’s ability to function effectively in one’s environment. Health involves knowing, believing, valuing, and practicing those skills that make one effective day to day, throughout life.

**PRESIDENT**: What comprises the health education discipline?

**TREASURER:** Health education is a discipline that draws from the biological, environmental, psychological, physical, and medical sciences to promote health and prevent disease, disability, and premature death through theory-based, education-driven, voluntary behavior change activities. It is characterized by a process with intellectual, emotional, spiritual, physical, and social dimensions. Health education enables people to make informed decisions affecting their personal, family, and community well-being. It is a process based on sound scientific principles that facilitate learning and changing behavior. Health education is more than the provision of information. While it includes acquiring knowledge about health matters, its purpose is the use of that knowledge. It addresses the formation of values, the acquisition of skills, and the adoption or reinforcement of desirable health behaviors. It honors the individual's right to privacy, a right to meaningful information, and his or her right to make healthy choices.

### **Initiation Ceremony**

**PRESIDENT TO PLEDGES:** On this table is the Eta Sigma Gamma symbol. The triangle in this symbol represents three specific contributions of Gammans, as well as of the profession: service, education, and research. The tri-dimensional concept is embodied in a triangle surrounded by three joined circles. The triangle is divided into four equilateral triangles, each containing a symbol. A lamp of learning is in the center triangle, surrounded by the others containing an open book representing education, a microscope signifying research, and an outstretched hand representing service. These three elements form the basic purposes of the organization and the words "teaching," "research" and "service" are recorded directly beneath each symbol. The lamp of learning symbolizes the unifying element of these basic purposes, as it is through the learning process that each purpose is achieved.

Also on the table, is a picture of a trillium, the official flower. The tri-dimensional concept of the organization is further emphasized in this wild flower, with three leaves, three white petals, and a gold center. Each of the three purposes of this honor society is distinct in its operations but unified in the ultimate goal of furthering competence and dedication among health education professionals and progress in the health education profession.

Do you wish to become a member of Eta Sigma Gamma?

If your answer is yes, say, "Yes I do."

**CANDIDATES:** Yes, I do.

**PRESIDENT:** Do you believe in the mission and goals of Eta Sigma Gamma as presented in the challenge before you and as stated in the constitution of this organization?

If so, you will answer, "I do."

**CANDIDATES:** I do.

**PRESIDENT:** Are you willing to strive for excellence in the ideals of service, education, and research as represented in the honor society's symbol?

If so you will answer, "I do."

**CANDIDATES:** I do.

**PRESIDENT:** As initiates of Eta Sigma Gamma, please join with all of the current members in reciting our pledge.

**ALL MEMBERS:** I (name of member), as a professional member of the Health Education discipline, hereby dedicate my abilities and talents to promoting a higher quality of life among people and communities through the ideals of Eta Sigma Gamma. As a member of this honor society, I dedicate myself to promoting excellence in service and advocacy, education, and research in the Health Education profession. I pledge to incorporate these ideals in my individual life and to continue this collectively through the professional honor society and our collegiate chapter.

**PRESIDENT:** Do you further pledge to:

- A. Exhibit cordiality and friendliness in individual and group relations,
- B. Encourage and tolerate opinions and philosophies of others,
- C. Maintain a sense of personal and professional responsibility, honor, and honesty,

- D. Respect persons of a different race, gender, religion, language, sexual identify, and social or economic position,
- E. Show respect for all members of the honor society,
- F. Attend all chapter meetings and support all chapter activities, and
- G. Cooperate with the university administration in promoting the realization of the standards of honesty, integrity, citizenship, and other campus goals.

If you accept this charge to pledge your commitment to and support of these Eta Sigma Gamma principles, you will answer "I do."

CANDIDATES: I do.

PRESIDENT: Having solemnly pledged yourself to Eta Sigma Gamma, and to signify your commitment to the mission and goals of the honor society, you will now come forward individually to receive your pin and certificate, and sign the chapter roll book as an outward demonstration of your pledge.

[(Optional) If using candles, have initiates light candles from the lamp of learning and place in the candle board around the lamp of learning.]

CANDIDATES: (One by one they come forward; light their candle and place it around the lamp of learning; receive their pin, certificate, and card; sign the roll book; and return to their places.)

PRESIDENT: (will read each candidate's name)

HISTORIAN-EDITOR: (will observe candidates signing the roll book)

VICE PRESIDENT: (will put the pin on the candidates)

SECRETARY: (will distribute membership certificates)

TREASURER: (will distribute membership cards)

PRESIDENT: We are now ready to present to you the formal charge of Eta Sigma Gamma.

### **Formal Charge**

HISTORIAN-EDITOR: Having solemnly pledged yourself to this worthy organization, you are now members of Eta Sigma Gamma. The full rights of membership in this honor society are now open to each one of you. You shall benefit from the collective design and achievement of our organization in the following ways:

First, your professional competence shall be enhanced because of your associations with other colleagues in health education.

Second, your communication with individuals, groups, and agencies shall be significantly aided by the dialogue made possible through Eta Sigma Gamma.

Third, your commitment to service shall be encouraged and recognized through our organization.

Fourth, your dedication to academic achievement shall be acknowledged,

Fifth, your scientific research aspirations shall be facilitated and promoted by the dictates of this honor society.

Sixth, your orientation to recent developments in the health education discipline will be greatly facilitated.

These are some of the benefits you will receive as members of Eta Sigma Gamma. You must remember that these benefits imply a responsibility on your part. As members of Eta Sigma Gamma, your responsibilities are as follows:

First, to uphold the high character of your chapter and ethical standards of the health education profession.

Second, to develop an effective collegiate chapter, which will be a source of pride to Eta Sigma Gamma and to (institution's name)?

Third, to elevate the standards, ideals, and competence of professionally trained men and women in the health education discipline.

Will you always continue to put forth your best efforts to fulfill these responsibilities?

If so, you will say, "I will."

CANDIDATES: I will.

### **Closing Ceremony**

PRESIDENT: As president of the (Greek name) Chapter of Eta Sigma Gamma, I hereby welcome you to membership in this national honor society. As a symbol of your membership, we have presented you with a recognition pin to wear on all professional occasions; and, as a reminder of the pledge you previously made, we presented you with a membership certificate and membership card.

Finally, fulfilling an old Eta Sigma Gamma tradition, I ask the family and friends of our new members to stand so that they may be applauded for their efforts and support of our newest Eta Sigma Gamma members.

APPLAUSE. . .

### **After Ceremony**

\*PRESIDENT, FACULTY SPONSOR, OR OTHER MEMBER:

The sponsor or one of the officers may inform new initiates about local chapter activities.

This portion of the ceremony should be developed by each chapter and contain information relative to the contributions and opportunities that membership in the honor society will facilitate. Examples of themes might be: (a) publications, (b) the awards & scholarships available; (c) grants available, and (d) past activities which are described in the annual chapter reports. This is an opportunity to encourage maximum involvement for the benefit of the individual members.

PRESIDENT: This meeting for the initiation of new candidates into Eta Sigma Gamma is now officially adjourned. Congratulations! This concludes our official ceremony.

SPEAKER: (If so desired.)

PRESIDENT: (Recognize University administrators, Department/Division Chair, and/or faculty who are supporting the initiates.)

\*In the event that a chapter installation follows the initiation ceremony, this portion will be deleted until the conclusion of the installation ceremony as indicated in the Administrative Guidelines for Chapter Installation.

### **Eta Sigma Gamma Initiate Pledge**

I, (name of member), as a professional member of the Health Education discipline, hereby dedicate my abilities and talents to promoting a higher quality of life among people and communities through the ideals of Eta Sigma Gamma. As a member of this honor society, I dedicate myself to promoting excellence in service and advocacy, education, and research in the Health Education profession. I pledge to incorporate these ideals in my individual life and to continue this collectively through the professional honor society and our collegiate chapter.

PRESIDENT: Do you further pledge to:

- A. Exhibit cordiality and friendliness in individual and group relations,
- B. Encourage and tolerate opinions and philosophies of others,
- C. Maintain a sense of personal and professional responsibility, honor, and honesty,

- D. Respect persons of a different race, gender, religion, language, sexual identify, and social or economic position,
- E. Show respect for all members of the honor society,
- F. Attend all chapter meetings and support all chapter activities, and
- G. Cooperate with the university administration in promoting the realization of the standards of honesty, integrity, citizenship, and other campus goals.

If you accept this charge to pledge your commitment to and support of these Eta Sigma Gamma principles, you will answer "I do."

CANDIDATES: I do.

## **HAVE YOU CONSIDERED A LIFE MEMBERSHIP?**

Eta Sigma Gamma offers a life membership for \$500.

### **Why?**

Because:

It pays for itself in just 10 years!

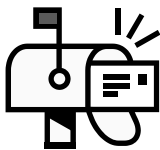
(based on yearly national professional membership dues)

You won't need to remember to renew your membership every year.

You'll receive every issue of *The Health Educator* and the *Monograph Series* without interruption.

You will enjoy the satisfaction of making a commitment to your National Health Education Honorary and your profession.

Send payment to:  
Secretary-Treasurer  
Eta Sigma Gamma  
2000 University Avenue, CL 325  
Muncie, IN 47306



### **Have you Graduated? Relocated? Moved?**

Let ESG know.

Send your new contact information to:  
[etasigmagam@bsu.edu](mailto:etasigmagam@bsu.edu)