

Pi Mu Epsilon Initiation Ceremony

Welcome to the _____ annual induction ceremony of the _____
Chapter of Pi Mu Epsilon, the National Mathematics Honor Society.

{Optional: **Introduce**—An Administrator to make a few welcoming remarks. }

--Information about Pi Mu Epsilon

We are assembled here for the purpose of initiating new members into Pi Mu Epsilon.

Pi Mu Epsilon is a national mathematics honor society. It was founded at Syracuse University and incorporated at Albany, New York on May 25, 1914. The purpose of Pi Mu Epsilon is the promotion and recognition of mathematical scholarship among students in postsecondary institutions. It aims to do this by electing members on an honorary basis according to their proficiency in mathematics and by engaging in activities designed to promote the mathematical and scholarly development of its members.

Pi Mu Epsilon is an academic society consisting of chapters located throughout the United States. Chapters of Pi Mu Epsilon may be chartered only at academic institutions whose standards are excellent in all the liberal arts and particularly so in mathematics. A careful probing investigation is made before a

charter is granted to an institution. {Optional: Data about other chapters in the state, total number of chapters, etc.}

{Insert information about the founding of the local chapter of PME, eg. year charter was granted, recognize faculty and/or students who applied for a chapter, typical date for annual initiation ceremony, display the charter at the initiation ceremony, etc.}

Today's candidates represent the classes of _____ through _____, {Optional: a faculty member, _____ and, as an honorary member of our chapter _____, our speaker today}. Their selection was based upon their outstanding scholastic records and their exceptional performance in mathematics. To be chosen a member of Pi Mu Epsilon is a very high honor.

It is necessary, before you are accepted into membership, that you take the Pi Mu Epsilon Scholarship Pledge. {Optional: It is printed in the program.}

Will the candidates please stand, and repeat the pledge in unison with me. (or after me).

"I solemnly promise / that I will exert my best efforts / to promote true scholarship, / particularly in mathematics; / and that I will support the objectives / of the Pi Mu Epsilon Honor Society."

Congratulations on your election to Pi Mu Epsilon, and welcome to this community of scholars.

--Induction of the Initiates:

Please be seated. I will now ask _____, {eg, President of local chapter}, to read the names of the new members who are present. As your name is read, please come forward to sign the Roll Book and to receive your Certificate of membership and key-pin, if you ordered one,

--Information about the symbols of Pi Mu Epsilon:

Now you will be given some additional information about the organization into which you were just inducted.

{The banner of Pi Mu Epsilon should be displayed.}

Violet, gold and lavender are Pi Mu Epsilon's colors.

The insignia of Pi Mu Epsilon are all represented on the crest. It appears on the banner {Optional: and on the cover of the program}. At the top, surrounded by fleur-de-lis, is the pin, which consists of a triangular rim upon which is a raised oblong. Raised still higher are the Greek letters, Pi, Mu, and Epsilon.

The center of the crest is a shield, divided into four sections. In the upper right hand corner is the design of the conventionalized violet, the symbol of beauty. This represents the beauty present in the development, study, and applications of mathematics. In the lower right-hand corner is the summation sign, symbolizing the discrete, and in the upper left hand corner the integral sign, symbolizing the continuous. In the lower left-hand corner are three stars, representing community, integrity, and truth. There must exist in mathematics the aspect of community--of sharing and of mutual inspiration. It is through

cooperation that greatness may be achieved. There is no place in science for deviation from intellectual honesty and integrity. Mathematics must be built on that firm foundation. It is a search for truths by means of logic, order, and precision, which yields powerful and useful results. The ultimate goal of every action of our society is based on the motto found below the shield in Greek, which translated means:

"To Promote Scholarship and Mathematics"

--**National Activities:** (Now I would like to relate information on the national activities of Pi Mu Epsilon.)

The *Pi Mu Epsilon Journal* {Optional: Show a sample copy.} was established in 1949 to encourage publication of students' mathematical research. It is published twice a year, in the spring and in the fall. Twenty dollars of your initiation fee is sent to the National Council to fund your one-year subscription to the *Pi Mu Epsilon Journal*. This *Journal* features articles for students, by students. Each year, the top three student papers to appear in the *PME Journal* receive cash awards.

Students are also encouraged to present papers both locally and at the national meetings of the Mathematical Association of America. Each year the National Office of Pi Mu Epsilon will pay up to \$600 of the expenses for one student from each chapter who presents a 15 minute paper at the summer mathematics meeting. If more than one speaker from a chapter attends, each additional speaker (up to

four) will be able to receive an allowance equaling up to 20% of what the first speaker receives. In case a chapter has no speakers, then the National Council will furnish one half the travel expenses up to \$300 for one delegate from each. In addition, the National Security Agency most years has provided a grant to Pi Mu Epsilon to provide money to student speakers to help pay for their expenses while at the national meeting. This money should be enough to cover a student speaker's registration fee, room in the dorm, and meals (including the Pi Mu Epsilon banquet). The American Mathematical Society usually provides money to award cash prizes for each outstanding student presentation during the summer meeting.

{Optional: Mention students from the local chapter who have given papers and titles of their papers} {Update with current information about the summer meetings: Last summer the meeting was in Pittsburgh, PA. This summer, Mathfest is August 4-6, 2011 in Lexington, KY.} I encourage you to consider a presentation this summer.

You might also consider presenting a paper at a regional mathematics meeting {Optional: include information about regional MAA meetings and/or local conferences at which students have the opportunity to present papers, mention any local financial support}

Besides supporting attendance at the national summer mathematics meetings the National Office of Pi Mu Epsilon also supplements book awards and other prizes given by individual mathematics departments to students in recognition of their excellent scholarship in mathematics.

--**Local Activities:** (at _____ College/University)

The members of the _____ Chapter of Pi Mu Epsilon at _____ College/University promote mathematics by sponsoring a few extracurricular activities each semester and organizing the initiation of new members.

For example, {Describe the local activities of Pi Mu Epsilon.}

The bulk of the work for this induction ceremony and the other activities for Pi Mu Epsilon has been handled by the outgoing president _____ {short bio/plans after graduation or for the summer}. The other outgoing officers are: _____, Vice President, {short bio/plans after graduation or for the summer}, _____, Secretary, {short bio/plans after graduation or for the summer}; and _____, Treasurer, {short bio/plans after graduation or for the summer}. **Please stand up in acknowledgment.**

The officers for the next academic year are _____.

{Optional: Can also be printed in the program.}

Please stand up in acknowledgment.

--**Closing Remarks:**

In closing, on behalf of the members of the _____ Chapter of Pi Mu Epsilon, I welcome you to membership in the society. You have been given this honor because of your interest, ability and accomplishments in the field of

mathematics. It is a true honor and we are confident that you will regard it as such.

{Optional: Applaud the families and friends who support you during your study of mathematics.}

{Optional: --**Invite/Introduce**: An Administrator to make a few concluding remarks.}

--**Followed by a few announcements:**

-Misspellings on the certificates; See _____

{Optional: -Gather for a traditional group photo. Parents and friends are also invited to take a photo of the group.}

Again we congratulate the new members of Pi Mu Epsilon, thank their families and friends for sharing this honor with them. We would now like to invite all of you enjoy some refreshments as you individually congratulate the new members of Pi Mu Epsilon.

{Optional: --**Refreshments** and .--**Group Photograph.**}

Paul Fishback, 2010