

The Initiation Ceremony
of
Kappa Mu Epsilon
Mathematics Honor Society
Revised August 8, 1996

(The initiates are arranged in alphabetical order and either seated in the initiation room or located in an outer room or hallway.)

President, addressing assembled members:

(Use if initiates are outside.) I request that the initiates be brought before us by the faculty sponsor / moderator. *(All initiates are then brought in as a group in alphabetical order and seated.)*

You who are to be initiated at this meeting have satisfied the requirements for membership in Kappa Mu Epsilon. During this ceremony it is our purpose to acquaint you with the traditions of Kappa Mu Epsilon, including its history and ideals. With your initiation, the total membership of the _____ Chapter will be _____.

Would each initiate please rise as you are presented by the faculty sponsor / moderator?

Faculty Sponsor / Moderator, addressing the president:

I have the pleasure of presenting these initiates for membership in Kappa Mu Epsilon.

(The faculty sponsor / moderator then reads the names. As each is read, the initiate rises and remains in place until instructed to be seated.)

President, addressing the initiates:

We are assembled here for the purpose of initiating you into Kappa Mu Epsilon, National Mathematics Honor Society. You may be seated while the officers instruct you in the history and ideals of the organization. *(Initiates seat themselves.)*

Kappa Mu Epsilon is a national organization founded in 1931 to promote the interest of mathematics among undergraduate students. We, the members, recognize the great service of mathematics in the development of civilization. Advancements continue to be made in the physical universe and in the sciences of human relationships by the application of mathematical knowledge. Mathematics as a pure science and art represents the height of intellectual endeavor.

From the time of the Pythagoreans, mathematicians have derived inspiration and strength from working together. History records the activities of many scholarly societies devoted to mathematical research and discussion. Most of these groups have limited their

memberships to students possessing advanced training in mathematics. Kappa Mu Epsilon, however, is a society for undergraduate students, as well as beginning graduate students and faculty, who have a strong commitment to mathematics. It is our belief that the advancement of mathematics depends upon individuals such as you who are being initiated here today.

I now present _____, our vice-president, who will instruct you in the purposes of Kappa Mu Epsilon.

Vice-President, addressing the initiates:

All civilizations have depended upon mathematics. Philosophers and logicians have recognized and used its power to develop systems of logic and thought. In addition to the natural sciences, mathematics has had an impact on art, economics, political science, religion, and other social sciences. Mathematics also has aesthetic beauty; the geometer and applied mathematician study and appreciate the harmonious relationships which exist between mathematics and the world around us. Because those interested in other fields of knowledge have recognized its worth, mathematics is often called "The Queen of The Sciences."

The primary purposes of being a member of Kappa Mu Epsilon include the following:
to further interest in mathematics,
to emphasize the role of mathematics in the development of civilization,
to develop an appreciation of the power and the beauty of mathematics,
to recognize the outstanding mathematical achievement of its members,
and
to familiarize members with the advancements being made in mathematics.

Furthermore, Kappa Mu Epsilon strives to maintain a spirit of collegiality among men and women interested in mathematics. Friendship, cooperative enterprise, and willing service are essential in this relationship.

In brief, Kappa Mu Epsilon aspires to help you, as you will help others, to maintain a lasting interest in mathematics and its many contributions to society.

President, addressing the initiates:

You have heard the purposes of Kappa Mu Epsilon. Is it your desire to join with us in the pursuit of the ideals expressed in these purposes?

If so, answer: It is. (*Pause for initiates to respond.*)

Do you agree to participate actively in the chapter affairs and abide by the constitution and bylaws?

If so, answer: I do. (*Pause for initiates to respond.*)

We now invite you to sign our chapter roll.

(The president calls each initiate forward by name. After signing the chapter roll and receiving from the president the membership card, the initiate is reseated. If available at initiation time, keypins can be distributed as well.)

President, continues:

I now introduce _____, our secretary, who will describe the insignia of Kappa Mu Epsilon.

(An option at this point is the projection of the slides provided to each chapter by the national office.)

Secretary, addressing the initiates:

The name of this organization is Kappa Mu Epsilon, National Mathematics Honor Society. The seal is a five pointed star, enclosing the five-leaf rose, and encircled by the legend, "Kappa Mu Epsilon, Founded 1931." The flower is the wild rose; the colors are rose-pink and silver.

The badge of the Society is a pentagon with the sides slightly concave. In the upper half is the five-leaf rose; in the lower half are the Greek letters Kappa Mu Epsilon.

The crest is a shield enclosing the five-pointed star. In the star is the graph of the rose, $\rho = a \sin 5\theta$, which represents pure mathematics. Around the star are symbols indicative of the many areas using and influencing mathematics. At the upper right is a butterfly, for the life sciences; at the lower right is a moon with three stars, for the physical sciences; at the bottom is the symbol "S angle n", for business and economics; at the lower left is a shamrock beneath a slide rule, for engineering; at the upper left is the book of knowledge for the many other areas that rely on recorded mathematical truths. Above the shield is the design of the badge of the society. Below the shield is a streamer upon which is printed in Greek the Kappa Mu Epsilon motto, which may be translated:

"Develop an appreciation for the beauty in mathematics." *(You may wish to use the phrase in Greek: A-na-ptus-se-te tan ek-te-ma-sin too kal-loos ton matha-ma-ti-kon.)*

President, addressing the initiates:

Now that you are members of the Kappa Mu Epsilon National Mathematics Honor Society, I affirm your right to bear the name of the society and to wear its badge. I congratulate you and welcome you into the _____ Chapter of Kappa Mu Epsilon.

President, addressing the audience:

Please join me in welcoming these new members. *(All applaud. President and other members proceed to offer personal congratulations.)*