



A Parent's Guide to Theta Phi Alpha

History

Your daughter has pledged Theta Phi Alpha! Congratulations! She is one of over 20,000 women who have chosen Theta Phi Alpha since our founding at the University of Michigan in 1912.



Theta Phi Alpha was originally founded to offer Catholic women the experience of sorority life, as other sororities did not include Catholic women. In 1968, all restrictive membership clauses were removed from Theta Phi Alpha's National Constitution and Bylaws and Theta Phi Alpha opened up its membership to all women regardless of race, creed or religious belief.

Theta Phi Alpha has adopted Saint Catherine of Siena as its patroness. We have also adopted her motto as our own: "Nothing great is ever achieved without much enduring."

Mission Statement

The purpose of Theta Phi Alpha is to provide close comradeship; to advance educational, social, and philanthropic interests and leadership training; to encourage spiritual development and adherence to the highest moral standards; and to promote lifelong bonds of friendship. To fulfill this purpose, members are offered a variety of opportunities.

Educational Opportunities: Over \$10,000 in financial scholarships is awarded annually through the Theta Phi Alpha Foundation; additional scholarships are offered to attend the Undergraduate Interfraternity Institute. Theta Phi Alpha requires a 2.5 cumulative GPA for members and has even higher requirements for chapter executive officers. Each chapter has developed a Scholarship Program that includes study hours and limits attendance at social events for those sisters not meeting the GPA requirements.

Social Opportunities: In adherence with our national policies, we govern event planning and the use of alcohol. Chapters offer their members a variety of social opportunities – including White Rose Ball, Greek Week and sisterhood building activities.



Philanthropic Opportunities:

Through the Theta Phi Alpha Foundation, Theta Phi Alpha sponsors Glenmary Home Missioners, Camp Friendship and The House That Theta Phi Alpha Built. In addition, chapters may support their own local philanthropies, such as Ronald McDonald House or Habitat for Humanity.

Spiritual Development and High Moral Standards: Through the *My Sister, My Friend* education program, women are encouraged to examine their values and spirituality through discussion and journaling. Theta Phi Alpha sisters learn together about the rich history, songs, and traditions of Theta Phi Alpha in weekly meetings that help them develop leadership, parliamentary procedure and social networking skills.

Lifelong Bonds of Friendship: Theta Phi Alphas are members for life. There are a variety of ways for alumnae to stay involved – our award winning publication *The Compass*, twenty-four Alumnae Associations around the country, and volunteer opportunities from working with local chapters to working as a National Officer.

Values and Traditions

Theta Phi Alpha was founded on the values expressed in our Creed.

Justice to each fellow man
Wisdom in each deed and plan
Loyalty to every friend
Faith that sorrow can transcend
Truth to God and truth to self
Honor valued over wealth.
This is the creed that in us lies
The creed of loyal Theta Phis.

The white rose for its purity
The sapphire blue for loyalty
The compass for a needle sure
That holds our course firm and secure
The silver for a precious faith
That knows no end not even death
This is the creed that in us lies
The creed of loyal Theta Phis.

These values are further reflected in our traditions.

The Traditions of Theta Phi Alpha

In Theta Phi Alpha there is friendship and loyalty to Fraternity sisters.

Theta Phi Alpha observes its Founders' Day.

Theta Phi Alpha has a White Rose Recruitment party.

Theta Phi Alpha honors its graduating seniors.

Theta Phi Alpha honors sisters with outstanding grade point averages.

Theta Phi Alpha honors sisters on the twenty-fifth, fiftieth, and seventy-fifth anniversaries of their initiation.

Theta Phi Alpha presents its Baby Cup to its newest chapters.

Theta Phi Alpha is a singing Fraternity.

Theta Phi Alpha chapters observe the date of their installation as a chapter with parties or charter celebrations.

A Theta Phi Alpha realizes that all Fraternity affairs are both secret and private and that such matters are not discussed outside of meetings.

A Theta Phi Alpha understands that financial obligations are met promptly.

A Theta Phi Alpha cooperates in all affairs undertaken by the Fraternity.

A Theta Phi Alpha regards the Fraternity with sincerity and respect.

A Theta Phi Alpha labors with diligence to maintain her scholarship.

A Theta Phi Alpha is encouraged to practice actively in the religion of her choice.

A Theta Phi Alpha respects the religious heritage of the Fraternity.

A Theta Phi Alpha contributes a monetary donation in celebration of each year of membership to Theta Phi Alpha Foundation on Founders' Day.

A Theta Phi Alpha engages in philanthropic efforts to help those less fortunate than herself.

A Theta Phi Alpha tradition is cherished.

Hazing

Theta Phi Alpha does not support hazing practices of any kind. Along with the twenty-six member groups of National Panhellenic Conference (see below), we have adopted the NPC Resolution on Hazing, which states:

"Hazing is defined as any action taken or situation created, intentionally, whether on or off Fraternity premises, to produce mental or physical discomfort, embarrassment, harassment, or ridicule. Such activities or situations include creation of excessive

fatigue; physical and psychological shocks; wearing in public, apparel which is conspicuous and not normally in good taste; engaging in public stunts and jokes; morally degrading or humiliating games and activities; late night sessions which interfere with academic activity, and any other activities which are inconsistent with rituals of the Fraternity or regulations and policies of the educational institution."

Theta Phi Alpha teaches respect and expects its members to be respectful in all areas of their life. Click [here](#) for more information on Theta Phi Alpha's national policies.

Finances

Finances are always a concern for college students! Members of Theta Phi Alpha pay national dues in the amount of \$130 per year; pledge sisters pay \$260 (including badge). On average, members pay about \$100 per semester to their chapter to cover chapter expenses.

National Panhellenic Conference

Theta Phi Alpha is a member of [National Panhellenic Conference \(NPC\)](#). NPC is an organization established to foster interfraternal relationships, to assist collegiate chapters, and to work with colleges and universities in maintaining high social and scholastic standards.

NPC is a conference body consisting of twenty-six member groups. It adopts agreements and makes recommendations that are recognized by all groups. Each group maintains autonomy as a social, Greek-letter society of women, both undergraduate and alumnae.

Theta Phi Alpha's National Office
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