



Becoming a Pi Phi Alumna Initiate

Many women aren't aware that the opportunity to join Pi Beta Phi doesn't end in college! Pi Beta Phi's alumna initiate program is a meaningful way to experience Sincere Friendship and personal development outside of college.

Alumnae initiates aren't "honorary" Pi Phis. They are Fraternity members, just at a different stage of life when the same friendships, service and commitment can be enjoyed with Pi Phi sisters.

WHO ARE PI BETA PHI ALUMNA INITIATES?

Potential alumnae initiates are all around us. They might be personal friends, family members, co-workers, volunteers, university faculty or staff, or leaders in your community. They could be women who never had the opportunity to join a sorority in college. Perhaps someone has a connection to a local club, knows other Pi Phis or has close relationships with a campus or chapter that would make being part of that chapter a special experience!

Any Pi Phi member can recommend someone for alumna initiation if they meet the qualifications. Ideal women for sharing our sisterhood are:

- At least 26 years old, have attended an accredited four-year college or university, are no longer an undergraduate student nor a member of another National Panhellenic Conference sorority.
- Active in their local communities and have values that would complement the Fraternity.
- Interested in the work of the Fraternity and have a desire to participate in alumnae life.
- Able to meet the financial obligations of membership by paying the New Member initiation fees and alumnae dues (\$230).

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I didn't know there were alumnae initiates until a Pi Phi friend asked if I would be interested ... My response? "Oh, honey, that ship sailed." I was 52, and I assumed that she had intended to call someone a generation younger. When the alumna initiate program was explained to me, though, I was pleased by the thought of being part of something that had been meaningful to my mother and grandmother. Being asked to join was very flattering. I hadn't thought of myself as a potential Pi Phi, but someone had.

—HEATHER PAXTON,
KANSAS ALPHA

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Since I went to a women’s college that did not have sororities, I did not have that honor of belonging until I was well into my adult years. As a longtime member of two other large women’s service organizations, I was more than anxious and flattered to be asked to become a part of Pi Beta Phi. I didn’t realize just what a strong believer I am in the power of women until I had lived awhile. Because of women’s organizations in general and Pi Phi in particular, we mentor our future generations of women to carry on the values of education, integrity and generosity begun in 1867.

—BARBARA BUTLER, KANSAS ALPHA

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My mom grew up in a college town and always wanted to join a sorority, but her family didn’t have the money she needed to join. She had friends in the Pi Phi chapter and always thought that would have been where she would have joined had it been an option. When my sister and I told mom we were initiating her as an alumna, she burst out crying, “You mean I finally get to be a Pi Phi?”

—JUDY KLOTE, KANSAS BETA



BENEFITS OF BECOMING AN ALUMNA INITIATE OF PI BETA PHI

- A network of sisters and friends who support you in achieving personal and professional goals throughout life.
- The opportunity to make a difference in your community and in the lives of others through literacy service.
- Scholarships for graduate study and for continuing education through Pi Beta Phi Foundation.
- Leadership and professional development.
- The opportunity to give back, whether through volunteering your time and talents or financial resources.
- Fulfillment from an organization deeply rooted in core values: Integrity; Lifelong Commitment; Honor and Respect; Personal and Intellectual Growth; Philanthropic Service to Others; and Sincere Friendship.
- The opportunity to continue the legacy established by the first women’s fraternity and to make an impact on generations of young women to come.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

The alumna initiate process is a collaborative effort between a collegiate chapter and an alumnae club. Typically, the Pi Phi who recommends a prospective alumna initiate reaches out to her personally to explain the benefits, obligations and process. If she accepts, she completes a [simple form](#) with contact information, education history, community service experience and any personal or professional background she’d like to include.

The application goes to the local alumnae club and chapter for approval, then the Alumnae Engagement Director. Once approved and after New Member fees have been paid, the alumna initiate can plan to attend the chapter’s regular Initiation ceremony, typically held on a weekend during the academic year.

In the meantime, she can enjoy meeting new Pi Phi friends at club activities. Alumnae initiates are provided with an overview of the Pi Beta Phi Constitution and Statutes and encouraged to explore Pi Phi’s history and traditions on the website, but no education or test is required.

For more info or questions, contact alumnae@pibetaphi.org

