

Ritual and Heritage Roadmap for Alumnae

Alpha Chi Omega is not just a four-year collegiate experience; it is a sisterhood for life. Our Ritual is what links each of us and what asks us to continue living the standards of Alpha Chi Omega even after graduation. The purpose of the Ritual and Heritage Roadmap is to give suggestions for incorporating Ritual into what you are already doing as an alumna or alumnae chapter, to encourage you to become more involved, and to reconnect through Ritual. Indeed, Ritual adds to your alumnae experience, engages members, and celebrates Alpha Chi Omega throughout the year.

The Ritual and Heritage Roadmap is divided by Alpha Chi Omega holidays, celebrations and extras. It is ordered chronologically from the beginning of the calendar year to the end, with extras listed last. Each of the suggestions is marked off for individual alumnae, traditional chapters, and/or virtual chapters. By no means does this mean you have to stick to suggestions marked for a particular type of member. Any and all activities are great but do what works for you and your chapter. Start small, find what interests you or your members, and adapt where needed. This is a living document, so please share with us any ideas to add.

Labels:

Trd - traditional alumnae chapters

Ind - individual alumnae

Vrt - virtual alumnae chapters

Other resources you need:

White Ritual binder

Green Ceremonies binder

Red Ritual Best Practices binder

You must order the white and green binders from Headquarters, and the red binder is available online. The order form for the first two is available and the red binder can be downloaded at alphachiomega.org → Resource Center → Ritual & Ceremonies.

Finally, this document can grow with your ideas. If you have an idea you want added to this roadmap, email the Lead for the Ritual Specialist Team: Alice Snedeker (alice.snedeker@gmail.com).

MacDowell Month (February)			
Inform and discuss what month means, read MacDowell Colony website	Trd	Ind	Vrt
Donate to the MacDowell Colony	Trd	Ind	Vrt
Share event ideas and opportunities with your members	Trd		Vrt
Go to art museums; see if your city offers a free museum day	Trd	Ind	Vrt
Attend free music nights, e.g., jazz nights at local museum	Trd	Ind	
Attend arts and craft shows to support local artists	Trd	Ind	Vrt
Encourage members to enter art/photography shows. Attend shows as a chapter (if applicable) to support member	Trd	Ind	Vrt
Attend art or culture festivals in your area	Trd	Ind	Vrt
Attend a music or theater performance on campus and invite collegiate chapter	Trd		
Collaborate on events with collegians or invite them (especially seniors to get them interested in alumnae chapters) to an event planned by alumnae chapter	Trd	Ind	
Decorate frames to hold copies of the Symphony for yourself, graduating members, or new alumnae members	Trd	Ind	Vrt
Volunteer at artistic venues, e.g., local theater, or events	Trd	Ind	Vrt
Learn a new craft or hobby and share with others	Trd	Ind	Vrt
Look at museum exhibits online	Trd	Ind	Vrt
Select book with artistic theme and plan book club event featuring book and author	Trd	Ind	Vrt
Plan event at local pottery, painting or photography studio	Trd	Ind	Vrt
Send emails to chapter or other Alpha Chi Omegas featuring artists, authors, musicians and their works throughout the month	Trd	Ind	Vrt
Share info about the month and artists, etc. via social media (FB, Twitter) and email lists	Trd	Ind	Vrt

Hera Day (March 1)			
Discuss what service means to you with chapter members or friends and coworkers	Trd	Ind	Vrt
Plan a philanthropy event: Volunteer at a women's shelter, gather gently used clothes for a shelter, hold a food drive for a food bank, serve food at a soup kitchen	Trd	Ind	Vrt
Enter charity races, e.g., 5Ks/walks/triathlons. Help members raise money or match donations.	Trd	Ind	Vrt
Raise money for Alpha Chi Omega Foundation	Trd	Ind	Vrt
Raise money and donate to a favorite cause or philanthropy	Trd	Ind	Vrt

Collaborate on a service project with collegians	Trd		Vrt
Brainstorm and plan service events for the year	Trd		Vrt
Have those who volunteer talk about their experiences	Trd		Vrt
Share info about the day via social media and email lists	Trd	Ind	Vrt
Read the Legend of the Red Carnation to learn why we have Hera Day (white binder)	Trd	Ind	Vrt

Annual Membership Meeting			
Perform formal opening and closing ceremonies (green binder)	Trd		
Have fraternity relations officer lead discussion reflecting on meaning of formal opening and closing ceremonies	Trd		
Read Rededication of The Bond ceremony	Trd		
Read a part of the Initiation ceremony for the opening ceremony	Trd		Vrt
Read <i>The Symphony</i> and discuss what different lines mean to you	Trd	Ind	Vrt
Discuss what Wisdom, Devotion and Achievement mean to you	Trd	Ind	Vrt
Perform the 25, 50, 60, 75 year anniversary-pin ceremony	Trd		
Plan year-round activities that celebrate, use and live our Ritual	Trd		Vrt
Read Alpha Chi Omega Ritual blog and 2010 red Ritual best practices binder on alphachiomega.org (Resource center → Ritual & Ceremonies)	Trd	Ind	Vrt
Collect donations for a local domestic violence shelter	Trd	Ind	Vrt
During virtual meeting, discuss your donations you made of your time and money to philanthropic endeavors the past year			Vrt
Have a Ritual and/or history moment on the agenda (red binder)	Trd		

Hall of Commitment (Spring, possibly Fall)			
Discuss at least 4 months in advance better resources and ideas for planning the event	Trd		
Select speakers as soon as possible and practice ceremony beforehand	Trd		
Contact nearby collegiate chapter(s) to schedule ceremony and inform of plans	Trd		
Contact collegiate chapter associated with to see if can assist with planning for their HOC			Vrt
Send save-the-date to graduating members as soon as day, time and location set	Trd		

Provide gifts for graduating members, e.g., goodie bags; framed copy of symphony; information on alumnae groups, Twitter page, Facebook page, LinkedIn, Life Loyal	Trd		Vrt
Send email or letter of congratulations to graduating members	Trd	Ind	Vrt
Collect donations and donate to a cause or the Foundation in the name of graduating members	Trd		Vrt
Post note of congratulations on social media, include in email to alumnae chapter	Trd	Ind	Vrt
Discuss with members the purpose and meaning of the ceremony	Trd		Vrt

AXΩ Founders' Day (October 15)			
Have brunch, lunch or dinner together as a chapter and invite collegians	Trd		
Send card or email to collegiate chapter celebrating the day	Trd	Ind	Vrt
Send carnations to collegiate chapter with a copy of <i>The Symphony</i> attached	Trd	Ind	Vrt
Perform Rededication of The Bond ceremony (green binder) at Founders' Day event	Trd		
Read about and share via email and social media information about the history and founders of Alpha Chi Omega	Trd	Ind	Vrt
Reread parts of Initiation and discuss at Founders' Day event (only if nonmembers are not present)	Trd		
Reflect on how you and your chapter personify Wisdom, Devotion and Achievement	Trd	Ind	Vrt
Reflect on how you and your chapter "Seek the Heights"	Trd	Ind	Vrt
Wear your pin and badge attire all day	Trd	Ind	Vrt
Make a donation to the Foundation in honor of the day	Trd	Ind	Vrt
Send email to members on day with info about history and founders	Trd		Vrt

Alumnae Chapter Founders' Day (various dates)			
Send card or email to alumnae members	Trd		Vrt
Email on date what chapter has accomplished and future goals	Trd		Vrt
Have brunch, lunch or dinner together as a chapter	Trd		
Hold bigger event for notable anniversaries for alumnae chapter, e.g., 25, 50, etc. Invite local collegiate chapter and Headquarters staff.	Trd		
Give each member at a celebration a carnation and a copy of <i>The Symphony</i> . Have everyone read a favorite line and discuss what it means to them.	Trd		

Perform Rededication of the Bond ceremony	Trd		
Talk about the history of alumnae chapter	Trd		Vrt
Wear your pin and badge attire	Trd	Ind	Vrt
Share info about the day and history of the chapter on social media and via email	Trd	Ind	Vrt

Collegiate Chapter Founders' Day (various dates)			
Send card or email to own chapter of Initiation, celebrating the day		Ind	
Send carnations to collegiate chapter with a copy of <i>The Symphony</i> attached and note congratulating on the day	Trd	Ind	Vrt
Send updates to collegians on alumnae events and projects	Trd	Ind	Vrt
Discuss the history of your collegiate chapter with other members	Trd	Ind	Vrt
Wear your pin and badge attire	Trd	Ind	Vrt
Contact collegiate chapter to see if you can provide birthday cake on the day or at the chapter meeting closest to the day	Trd		Vrt
Post note of congratulations on social media for collegiate chapters close to or connected with	Trd	Ind	Vrt

Ritual Week			
Read blogs on alphachiomega.org (Resource Center → Ritual & Ceremonies)	Trd	Ind	Vrt
Follow HQ Facebook page and Twitter (#CoffeewithCelia)	Trd	Ind	Vrt
Email HQ social media posts to members so everyone can follow even if they don't use social media	Trd		Vrt
Download Alpha Chi Omega phone app so that you can always follow HQ social media	Trd	Ind	Vrt
Hold your annual chapter meeting or an exec meeting during the week and perform the Rededication of the Bond ceremony at your meeting	Trd		
Wear badge on NPC's International Badge Day, reflect on what your badge symbolizes	Trd	Ind	Vrt

Extras

Anniversary Pins			
Contact Headquarters for list of alumnae in your area who can receive the pins (25, 50, 60, 75)	Trd		Vrt
Order pins from HQ	Trd	Ind	Vrt

Invite pin recipient's family and friends to attend ceremony	Trd		
Have a reception afterwards	Trd		
Combine ceremony with another chapter event to increase attendance by members (e.g., Hall of Commitment)	Trd		
Send brief biographies of pin recipients to members	Trd		
Celebrate the ceremony and recipients on social media	Trd		Vrt
Edit the applicable ceremony to fit on one piece of paper. Print it on nice card stock and give as a memento to the pin recipients.	Trd		Vrt

Alumna Initiation Ceremony			
Learn and use the ceremony to initiate potential alumna members	Trd		Vrt
Prior to the ceremony, read ceremony and discuss how it combines Initiation and Hall of Commitment	Trd	Ind	Vrt
Send save-the-date to PAM(s) as soon as day, time and location set	Trd		Vrt
Talk with the PAM beforehand about the ceremony, what to expect and how special it is	Trd		Vrt
Plan a celebration after the ceremony for the PAM and her family	Trd		Vrt
Send a note of congratulations to alumnae members after the ceremony	Trd		Vrt
Post a note of congratulations on social media	Trd		Vrt

The Symphony			
Reread <i>The Symphony</i> and reflect on how you already live those values every day and how to incorporate those values	Trd	Ind	Vrt
At annual chapter meeting or an exec meeting, discuss what <i>The Symphony</i> means to you with chapter	Trd		Vrt
Reflect on what <i>The Symphony</i> means to you individually; also discuss with family, friends or co-workers		Ind	
At each event, have someone (alumna, collegian, or guest) pick a line and discuss what it means to them	Trd		Vrt
Every month, have someone (alumna, collegian, or guest) pick a line and write a paragraph about what the line means to them; email out and post on social media the paragraph	Trd		Vrt
Create an award based on <i>The Symphony</i> , have members submit nominations (members or non-members) and give out award at annual chapter meeting or fundraising event (e.g., line of <i>The Symphony</i> taped to a Symphony candy bar); also post info about award-winner on chapter website, social media and newsletter	Trd		Vrt

Ritual workshops			
Hold a Ritual workshop at least once a year. Pick several Ritual topics to discuss and learn more about, e.g., such as the Bond, the Halls, the Coat of Arms, Lyre, our badge, our colors	Trd		Vrt
Use the Ritual presentations and materials on alphachiomega.org → Resource Center → Ritual & Ceremonies	Trd		Vrt
Invite collegians to attend the workshop	Trd		Vrt
Email summary of discussion to all members so everyone can reconnect with the Ritual	Trd		Vrt

Seasonal, Miscellaneous events			
Have tea at a tea room. Begin event with reading <i>The Symphony</i> and collect donations for charity, e.g., the local domestic violence shelter	Trd		
Hold a tea at a member's home and have everyone bring food. Review Ritual (e.g., a Ritual moment) and bring donations for charity	Trd		
Have a Thanksgiving potluck with collegiate chapter and have everyone bring their favorite food. Encourage members to bring canned food for a food bank, toys to donate, or items for a shelter	Trd		
Hold a Wine and Cheese event. Sponsor a family for the holidays and have members donate gifts or money to buy gifts	Trd		
Have a speaker event where you invite a member of National Council, staff, or Vicky (archivist/historian) to give an update on their work and the future of Alpha Chi Omega. Virtual chapters could ask the speaker to record their speech or talk over Skype.	Trd		Vrt
Host an Alpha Chi Omega trivia night where the questions teach members about our Ritual, chapter and Alpha Chi history, and each other.	Trd		Vrt