

Founders' Day Ceremony

Sigma Kappa Past, Present and Future

Time: 10 minutes

This ceremony reflects on the past, present and future of the Sorority in a candlelit ceremony.

Advance preparation:

- Obtain one lavender, one maroon and one white flameless candle
 - Maroon candle ideas
 - [Idea 1](#) | [Idea 2](#)
 - Lavender candle ideas
 - [Idea 1](#) | [Idea 2](#)
 - White candle ideas
 - [Idea 1](#) | [Idea 2](#)
- Obtain enough white flameless candles for each person present for the ceremony.
- Assign speaking parts
 - The speaking parts should be practiced in advance
 - For collegiate chapters
 - Vice president of alumnae relations (VPAR) acts as the presiding officer
 - One alumna or senior member for the maroon candle speaking part
 - One sophomore or junior member for the lavender candle speaking part
 - One new member or new initiate for the white candle speaking part
 - For alumnae chapters
 - Alumnae chapter president or person planning the ceremony acts as the presiding officer
 - The speaking parts for each color of candle could be given to alumnae chapter members who wish to participate in more events, alumnae chapter leaders, or collegiate members that are co-hosting the event
- Set-up:
 - On a small table in the center of the room, set the maroon, lavender and white candle in a triangle nestled in a setting of violets and/or greenery.

- o Ensure each person in the room has a white flameless candle. If your group is larger, break the participants up into small groups and give each group a candle.

Ceremony

Presiding officer recites

"_____ years have passed since five young women enrolled in Colby College in 1874 were given permission by college officials to start a literary and social society. As the only women enrolled on that campus at the time, they frequently found themselves together. Sigma Kappas enjoy remembering the Founders, Mary, Louise, Frances, Ida, and Elizabeth, as the bright and enthusiastic young women they were, who were so earnest in creating a society that would impact the lives of women for generations to come. In tribute to their memory, we now light this maroon candle."

Speaker one recites:

Light maroon candle:

"May this candle represent the youthful efforts of those five young women and their dedication to creating a strong sorority that would soon spread across the nation. Today, our members continue to rejoice in their Sigma Kappa friendships that were started long ago by our founders. Now, in gratitude for this gift, we light a lavender candle."

Speaker two recites:

Light lavender candle

"May we ever strive towards those virtues that our Founders considered essential to a life well lived. In our quest for social, intellectual, and spiritual development, may we remember to hold dear our sisters here and now."

Speaker three recites:

Light white candle.

"With confidence and pride, we light these candles for the Sigma Kappa of the future. As I light my candle, I will pass the flame to sisters [and guests] around the room. Please continue to pass the light of Sigma Kappa as you receive it, until it fills this room with the glow of over one hundred years of sisterhood."

Presiding officer recites:

"Let the glow of these candles stay with you as a reminder of the strength of Sigma Kappa and the brightness it gives to all its members. Cherish the opportunity the founders of Sigma Kappa created for women to impact the world around them."