



SIGMA PI
RITUAL CONTINGENCY PLAN

REVISED ON SEPTEMBER 14, 2020

ABOUT THE RITUAL CONTINGENCY PLAN

Introduction

As we have no way to create a solution that will address the multitude of guidelines within each Chapter's county, we have created general guidelines based on various situations our brothers might encounter. In an effort to ensure health and safety of our members, the Grand Council requested the Ritual Committee to establish new guidelines. Thanks to the Ritual Committee, our chapters will be set up for success throughout their recruitment while also following proper health and safety guidelines.

General Operation

In gathering physically, temperature checks must be taken upon entering. Anyone above 101 degrees will be sent home and not be able to participate.

The concern with social distancing is to manage "droplets."

Wearing of masks and sanitizing hands before entering, wearing of gloves, and avoidance of touching gloves to eyes/face is required.

Alternative to gloves would be to sanitize in between stations and after contact has been made with another individual.

Anything that is to be ingested will need to be provided as individual servings prepared by a single individual or small team who has prepared the items into either ziploc bags or small cups with lids (ie. condiment containers / souffle cups with lids).

Those assisting the Neophytes, especially if in contact more than one, will need to sanitize in between each Neophyte or simply be assigned to a specific Neophyte throughout the ceremony.

RITUAL GUIDELINES

Outline of Ritual Contingency Plans

The following environments are from most ideal to least from a Ritual perspective.

1. **An indoor space large enough for the Chapter that would allow for social distancing and performance (a Masonic Lodge, Banquet room).**
2. If space allows, all neophytes can participate.
3. If moving in the space will be difficult, we can have a single representative with others watching as we do for Alumni initiates.
4. If space is limited, this may be reduced to the principal actors and Neophytes only based on local crowd limits indoors.

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1. **Outdoor crowd limits are typically higher as it allows for more airflow.** A private farm or campsite could serve as an initiation site as it did at Shadowood.
 2. If space allows, all neophytes can participate.
 3. If moving in the space will be difficult, we can have a single representative with others watching as we do for Alumni initiates.

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1. **Instructional Only - This can be done in-person or via Zoom.** Lists of those participating will need to be verified and we will need to utilize breakout rooms for managed entry of any initiated brothers. The thought behind this was to uphold the sanctity of our ritual but to still allow members to receive the secrets and minimize risk of exposure between members.

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2. **Via Zoom** - Suggestion would be to conduct the Golden Quest using the primary actors and a single neophyte to represent all neophytes. This will limit the number of individuals allowed to assemble together, but allow others to view via Zoom. To accomplish this, an account without a time limit will be needed as well as the ability to manage/add individuals to breakout rooms.

A Moderator is highly recommended who knows how to manage rooms and users within Zoom.

Use of breakout rooms would be used to match the rooms within the Golden Quest with the Moderator performing the proper checks with each individual before starting the ceremony.

Comments, Feedback, and Suggestions can be sent to “ritual@sigmapl.org” or discussed via cell at: 314-691-4674.



MASTER OF RITUAL

About the Program

Sigma Pi Fraternity's Master of Ritual program exists to enlighten our Brotherhood with a heightened understanding and appreciation for the secrets and mysteries to which every Sigma Pi holds sacred. By setting yourself along these trials, you will be paying homage to the over 100,000 Brothers who have joined our Fraternity to sculpt it into what it is today.

The Master of Ritual quest is comprised of a series of ten trials that make up four degrees. The trials of each degree are considered to be more difficult than those of its predecessor. Trials one through eight may be completed in any order. However, degrees must be earned in order, regardless of advance trials' completion. Mentors, once acquired, will act as the first source for answering questions.

Benefits

Personal Benefits

- Greater personal Ritual fluency and appreciation.
- Recognition of your efforts by way of special lapel pins and a Mastery Medallion.
- Build Mentor/Mentee relationships with other brothers participating.
- Make real the Fraternities Ideals.

Chapter Benefits

- Reduce potential for hazing and risky behavior by ensuring YOUR chapter is performing all of our ceremonies correctly. Be the local Ritual expert!
- Strengthen relationships with Alumni and Advisors by working through the program together.
- Provides training and new duties for Heralds who participate.

How To Sign Up

The first step is to visit the [Master of Ritual](#) page on the Sigma Pi website. Once there, click the "Application" link and complete the form. Once submitted, a member of the Grand Chapter Ritual Committee will confirm you are an initiated membership in good standing and send you a confirmation email welcoming you to your Master of Ritual quest.