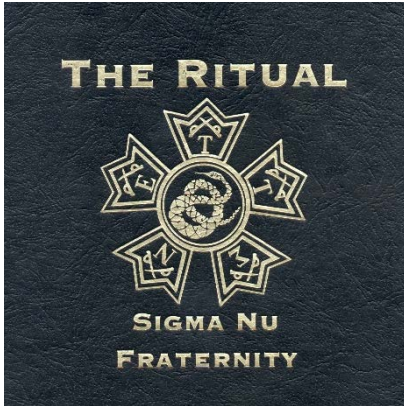




## NATIONAL RITUAL CELEBRATION WEEK



*The Ritual* of Sigma Nu Fraternity is unique. The spoken words, stated values, and lifetime promises made, are all distinctly Sigma Nu's ... and Sigma Nu's alone. It is *The Ritual* that can embody the ultimate fraternal experience that so often escapes explanation: brotherhood. Participation in *The Ritual* and subscription to the values of our organization define the very essence of brotherhood. Proper and successful use of *The Ritual* is what creates excellent chapters – chapters who go about their daily lives with a firm commitment to the values of the organization and a desire to promulgate those values on a daily basis.

Each year, Sigma Nu Fraternity participates in National Ritual Celebration Week (NRCW) hosted by Phi Mu Fraternity. During this week, fraternity and sorority chapters, campus communities, and international organizations across North America raise awareness of the importance of fraternal rituals. During this time, members of fraternal organizations are encouraged to reflect on their own ritual while embracing and learning about the rituals of other interfraternal organizations.

Sigma Nu chapters should plan to participate in National Ritual Celebration Week by joining the conversation on social media and hosting discussions about what it means to “live Sigma Nu’s Ritual.”

To do this, the General Fraternity and other interfraternal partners have made several resources available to collegiate leaders to help facilitate their chapter’s participation in National Ritual Celebration Week. Chapter leaders are encouraged to introduce NRCW at chapter meetings leading up to the NRCW and to have a conversation within the local interfraternal community about supporting this effort.

This year’s National Ritual Celebration Week will take place on:

**March 2-6, 2020**

Brothers are also encouraged to participate in International Badge Day. The date for this event is:

**March 2, 2020**

For more information on National Ritual Celebration Week, including the history of the initiative and how to participate, please visit the official webpage for the [National Ritual Celebration Week hosted by Phi Mu Fraternity](#). Additionally, Phi Mu has made available a wealth of general resources you can use to raise awareness for the week within your chapter or that you can share with the available fraternity and sorority councils on your campus.



## BEST PRACTICES FOR PARTICIPATING IN NRCW

Good practice of *The Ritual* should not just be celebrated for a week each year. While NRCW raises awareness for the importance of the sacred traditions that provide definition for what it means to be a Sigma Nu, the General Fraternity encourages you to use this time to reflect on how you can take some of these practices and implement them year-round.

### 1. ENGAGE IN THE SOCIAL MEDIA CONVERSATION

Throughout NRCW, the Fraternity will be sharing content through our social media platforms to spread a message about the importance of *The Ritual*. Both the chapter and individual members are encouraged to follow the Fraternity's official account - @SigmaNuHQ – on Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter to join in on the conversation. Each day we will share a quote, image, article, or question to spark reflection and deeper thought. Please “Like,” “Share,” “Comment,” and “Retweet” to help spread the message.

### 2. HOST A RITUAL REFLECTION ACTIVITY OR PROGRAM

How often is *The Ritual* used in your chapter? Daily? Weekly? Do the only interaction members have with *The Ritual* take place during candidate and initiation ceremonies each semester? How often does the chapter engage members in conversation about *The Ritual* beyond [LEAD Phase I: Session 10: Ritual: The End...The Beginning](#)? Whether we like to admit it or not, as brothers, we often do a poor job of holding ourselves accountable to reflection on what *The Ritual* means to us as brothers and who it calls us to be. Chapters are encouraged to create a space where brothers can have an open conversation about how to be better in our observance of *The Ritual*.



#### Secret Thoughts of a Ritual

A well-known essay to serve as a tool to assist in more critical thought and deep discussion regarding *The Ritual*.

### 3. MAINTAIN AND KEEP INVENTORY OF RITUAL MATERIALS

Instilling a high level of respect for *The Ritual* within your chapter first requires promoting an appreciation and respect for *The Ritual* materials. The maintenance of these materials is of the utmost importance. Conducting an Initiation Ceremony with torn robes, for instance, does not show the ceremony, or the participating brothers, due respect. Any necessary repairs and general maintenance of robes should be done through local vendors and merchants. Robes should be dry-cleaned on a regular basis and taken to tailors for necessary adjustments and repairs as needed.

All ritual materials should be kept in a secure – preferably locked – closet, to which only the appropriate officers have a key.

Finally, the chapter should ensure that its inventory of materials includes the following:

**BOOKS** - Each chapter should have FIVE (5) *Ritual* books – one for each officer who participates in the appropriate ceremonies. The *Ritual* books are acquired from the General Fraternity and may not be copied for any purpose. Chapters with more or less than five copies should contact the General Fraternity to either return or request additional copies.



**ROBES** - Each chapter should have an inventory of six (6) robes to be worn during appropriate ceremonies. The Commander, Lieutenant Commander, Chaplain, Marshal, and Sentinel are the five officers for whom robes are available. The sixth robe is designated for the Honor Candidate and is traditionally worn by the candidate who best exemplified the values of the Fraternity during his candidacy period.

**BIBLE and SWORD** - The Bible and Sword are two integral pieces of the *Ritual* ceremonies. A chapter may use any standard Bible though it should be of large size. The sword should possess a straight blade and have a cross hilt. The blade should be brightly polished and should be housed in a sheath.

**CHEST** - Though only used for the Initiation Ceremony, the chapter should have on hand a strongly constructed wood or metal box. Outside of the ceremony, the box should be of a size to contain the *Ritual* books which should be stored in it.

**CANDLES, SUPPLIES, and PICTURES** - Each chapter should have five candles – one black, one large gold, one small gold, one large white, and one small white – available for use during the appropriate ceremonies. The candles can be purchased through any vendor. In addition, the chapter should have an adequate supply of blue, black, white, and gold ribbon, also available from any vendor. Each chapter should also have a picture of both the badge and coat of arms. Large illustrations of both are available for purchase from the General Fraternity Headquarters.

#### **4. USE AVAILABLE RESOURCES**

In addition to the ideas referenced above, the General Fraternity and Phi Mu Fraternity have made resources available through the Chaplain's Officer Resource Page, Chaplain's Manual, Best Practices Library, and National Ritual Celebration Week webpage. If you are interested in participating in the NRCW or are looking to grow the chapter practice of *The Ritual* and have questions, contact Christopher Brenton, Director of Chapter Services, by phone at (540) 319-3141 or by email at [christopher.brenton@sigmanu.org](mailto:christopher.brenton@sigmanu.org).



**National Ritual Celebration Week [Webpage](#)**

This landing page is the official homepage for the National Ritual Celebration Week



**Chaplain's Officer Resource [Webpage](#)**

This link connects you to the Chaplain's Officer Resource webpage which includes the officer's manual and related resources.



**Best Practices Library – Brother Development [Webpage](#)**

This landing page links to the Brother Development section of the Best Practices Library. While the resources here are not exclusive to *The Ritual* there are several good resources for addressing and improving brotherhood in the chapter.