



## Ritual Advisor Orientation

### Position Impact

As Beta Theta Pi's standards increase, so does its need for talented and involved individuals to provide support at the local level. The ritual advisor (RIA) enters into a collaborative relationship with the chapter ritual chair; providing guidance aimed at the designing and implementation of strategies to increase the awareness of the ritual of Beta Theta Pi.

### Qualifications of a ritual advisor

- *Must be initiated* as a Beta and fully embraces the Mission and Vision of Beta Theta Pi
- Demonstrates a desire to continue learning how to support the organizational direction
- Demonstrates an ability to convey Beta Theta Pi's lofty purpose as an organization to others
- Demonstrates an ability to provide mentoring and coaching to undergraduate leadership
- Understands the importance of how the ritual of Beta Theta Pi relates to its members' everyday actions
- Serve a two-year term (renewable on annual basis thereafter)

### Primary Constituencies

It is necessary to build strong relationships with the following individuals in order to challenge the status quo and implement effective improvement strategies toward aligning members' actions to the ritual.

- All appointed advisory team members
- Chapter membership (ritual chair in particular)
- District chief / assistant district chief
- Ritual book of Beta Theta Pi
- Chapter leadership consultant

### Benefits and Return on Personal Investment

Beta Theta Pi is a not for profit organization. Resources are limited and are always utilized with the membership's experience in mind. However, Beta Theta Pi relies heavily on volunteer leadership to advance its purpose and volunteers realize compensation in many intangible ways.

- Practical leadership experience
  - Responsibility for assessing organizational culture and developing change initiatives
  - Responsibility for motivating and organizing volunteers to impact the development of young men
- Personal development
  - Development of personal relationships through the mentoring and coaching process
  - Service-learning is an inseparable part of volunteering for Beta Theta Pi
  - Available training programs involve a high level of self-discovery and values training / discussions
- Professional development
  - Networking with alumni and community members as an official representative
  - Professional training programs focused on developing the tangible, operational volunteer skill-set

*Exemplary Leadership in action.  
Understand the Vision, Believe the Mission and Act with integrity.*

**Commitment Required**

The ritual advisor can expect to spend between 5 and 8 hours a month working with key constituencies. The following operational elements should be expected regularly.

- Maintain weekly contact with the ritual chair to provide counsel on his leadership abilities
- Work consistently with the ritual chair to improve the chapter's understanding of the ritual & purpose of Beta Theta Pi.
- Maintain communication with the chapter counselor and district chief (as each determine necessary)
- Attend at least one chapter meeting per month and ritual ceremonies
- Attend quarterly advisory team meetings (scheduled by the chapter counselor)
- Attend the *Keystone Regional Leadership Conference* annually
- Maintain awareness of chapter wide priorities

**Indicators of Success**

Since the ritual advisor focuses on developing systems and protocols that ensure a strengthened awareness of the ritual, the following indicators can be used to determine the effectiveness of his support.

- The ritual chair demonstrates knowledge of his responsibilities and an ability to effectively lead.
- The ritual chair demonstrates an ability to incorporate discussion of the ritual into chapter meetings
- Chapter membership has a deep understanding of how the ritual applies to their everyday life and actions
- Chapter membership realizes that "living the ritual" means aligning their actions to the purpose of the organization and not just performing the initiation ceremony well.
- The chapter membership schedules ritual ceremony practices prior to the actual ceremony being held.

**Necessary chapter ritual policies and protocols**

Each chapter of Beta Theta Pi demonstrates different strengths and weaknesses operationally. The list below will help provide a framework for where improvements can be made. In general, instituting the following items will help ensure greater awareness of the organization's purpose and ritual:

- Proactive inclusion of the ritual by means of chapter discussion, conduct on campus and interactions with constituents.
- Incorporation of a ritual review immediately following the initiation ceremony for chapter membership
- Procedural compliance of all General Fraternity sponsored ritual ceremonies and formal chapter meetings

*\*Tip: Take time to understand the culture of the advisory team and of the chapter. It is necessary to understand that relationships are key when influencing change. Challenge should always be balanced with support and it is important to understand the reality of what can be accomplished in a given time frame. Some items are urgent and important; others are important but not urgent. Prioritize accordingly.*

**GETTING STARTED**

1. Review this orientation with the district chief or leadership consultant and ask questions as necessary.
2. Establish a clear communication plan with the chapter counselor.
3. Become familiar with the resources available to all advisors on <http://www.betathetapi.org/resources/volunteer-resources>.
4. Become familiar with the content in the Ritual of Beta Theta Pi, the Objects of Beta Theta Pi, and the Men of Principle mission & vision statement
5. Meet with the chapter ritual chair to assess overall chapter understanding of the ritual of Beta Theta Pi
6. Attend the next quarterly advisory meeting.
7. Make plans to attend *The Keystone Regional Leadership Conference* (spring semester).

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