



GAMMA THETA UPSILON

Initiation Ritual

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The sponsor will, after having checked the academic records of the proposed candidates, send them a letter of invitation. This letter of invitation should precede the date of initiation by at least ten days. The candidate should report to the sponsor either in person or in writing of his willingness to accept membership at least three days prior to the date of initiation.

Suggested Equipment and Materials:

1. Two classrooms. (These should be appropriately decorated for geographic atmosphere, as with globes, maps, etc.)
2. A sufficient length of safety rope to tie candidates together.
3. Copies of the ritual for:
 - a. President
 - b. Faculty Sponsor
 - c. Geographicus
 - d. Gamma
 - e. Theta
 - f. Upsilon
 - g. Polaris
4. Names of candidates arranged in alphabetical order.
5. Small flashlights for guiding and reading.
6. Some chapters may wish to vary the setting of the ritual by using slides or pictures at the stations. For example: Four slides preferably in color, depicting:
 - a. Polaris, a slide showing the heavens at night.
 - b. Gamma, any suitable slide showing a mountain and plains area.
 - c. Theta, a slide showing an expanse of the ocean, preferably during a storm.
 - d. Upsilon, a slide showing towering cumulus clouds or other cloud types which dominate any given area of the sky.

Procedure:

Room A will be used for the regular meeting place of the chapter, and the members will congregate in this room. At the time of the meeting the President of the chapter will call the meeting to order, and the regular business meeting preceding the initiation will take place.

Room B will be reserved for the candidates. As the candidates arrive, they will be escorted by a designated chapter member to the room and seated. After all candidates have arrived, the sponsor will talk to the assembled candidates on the following: 1) Read the roll and be certain to check with each candidate the spelling of his name and how he would prefer it to appear on his certificate of membership. 2) A short talk on the history and growth of Gamma Theta Upsilon as a national organization. 3) The history and growth of the local chapter and an announcement of the local chapter officers. 4) Some indication of the work and aims of the local chapter and a charge to the candidates as to what is expected of them as members of the local chapter. 5) An explanation of the G. T. U. graduate loan fund and an invitation to the initiates to avail themselves of it.

The treasurer will announce the assessment fee, being careful to explain that the bulk of the fee (\$4.50*) is sent to the national office and that this fee represents the last assessment by the national office. The remainder of the fee (\$.50*) is retained by the local chapter to carry forward its program. Each candidate will be given a receipt by the treasurer for the money obtained.

The candidates will be lined up in reverse alphabetical order, and at a signal from the President that the business meeting is over and that the chapter is now ready for the candidates, the sponsor will lead the candidates into Room A and will walk with them to the back of the room where the candidates will remain standing. The last candidate into the room will now be the first to be introduced and will then be in alphabetical order.

(* Please check the current fee structure)

THE INITIATION CEREMONY

President: "The meeting of Gamma Theta Upsilon will now come to order. The purpose of this meeting is to initiate members into the Chapter of Gamma Theta Upsilon. Who suggests such persons for admission?"

Sponsor: "Mr. President, I take pleasure in presenting to _____ Chapter of G.T.U., the following named persons:"....." (The sponsor reads each name and as the name is read, the candidate advances to the front of the room and stands near the wall facing the assembled chapter members. Each candidate must be in place facing the chapter before the next name is read. The next name is called, etc.....). Each has signified his or her desire to become a member of Chapter, Gamma Theta Upsilon, and has met the professional requirements prerequisite to membership in our fraternity. Each of the candidates has been accepted by the Membership Committee, and is hereby presented for Chapter consideration.

President: "I am glad to accept the petitions of this group for membership in Gamma Theta Upsilon. Like men of old who went into the great unknown to roll back the curtain of darkness from the surface of the earth, it is necessary for you to take an obligation to service in Geography, before you proceed farther in our fraternity. If you are willing to take upon yourself this responsibility, repeat after me our pledge."

All members repeat pledge with candidates, thus repledging themselves.

"I (--name--) do hereby · pledge myself to continue the study of geography throughout my lifetime. Moreover, I obligate myself to keep informed-on current developments in geography -by subscribing to and reading one or more of the geographical journals; -and by attending lectures and conferences devoted to things geographical. -Furthermore, if teaching-I shall try to enliven the subject of geography - in the schools of the United States of America - and to arouse community interest in geography. -To fulfill all these I pledge my honor- as a student, a teacher, or a friend of geography."

"Having taken this obligation, it is now essential that you undergo our fraternal initiation ceremonies. These are so designed as to teach a lesson to students, teachers, and friends of geography. If you be willing to submit yourself to entering upon these ceremonies you will reply, "I am"."

"Having given your assent, I will now turn you over to **Geographicus**, the Master of Ceremonies, who will conduct the initiation."

Geographicus: "As in the days of old, when the world's geography was hidden in the blackness of the unknown, you must, like travellers of that time, advance into geographical knowledge through darkness. It is necessary, therefore, that we advance through darkness. (Lights off.)

Furthermore, the item of safety was one of great concern in exploration, particularly in rocky and rugged areas. Hence, we shall find it necessary to join you in a band by means of a safety-rope, such as is used by those intrepid spirits who have explored the dangerous mountain areas of the world. We shall now bind you together with the safety-rope, in preparation for your arduous journey of exploration. (The candidates are bound together as a group with the safety-rope. During this part of the ritual, those members of the chapter not assisting the President and **Geographicus** will leave the room and will go to Room **B**, where they will seat themselves around the room awaiting the candidates. As the candidates approach, being led by **Geographicus**, the lights will be switched off. The candidates will be led to the points of the compass. **Polaris**, **Gamma**, **Theta**, and **Upsilon**, who are stationed there, will then proceed with the ritual. At a given signal from Geographicus (3 taps on the floor), Polaris will begin his speech.

Geographicus: (As group is ready to proceed to Room **B**), "My friends, you now stand in that unknown spot from which man began his earthly travels. Somewhere, sometime, man began to wander, and thus to unfold for himself the mysteries of the earth's geography. I am **Geographicus**, the Spirit of Exploration and Inquiry. I have gone with men unto the ends of the earth, and likewise I shall go with you. I have taught men many lessons as they have rolled back the curtain of the unknown that over-spread the world. I shall now take you with me as world travellers. Together we shall survey the discoveries which the geographer has made and see what yet remains for him to explore. Follow me carefully and stay close to me; we may encounter difficulties and obstacles such as men have met as they travelled the face of the earth. (Leads candidates from Room A to Room B. Way may be strewn with impedimenta-, boxes, excelsior, hanging ropes, etc. Group is led to **Polaris**).

Geographicus: "In the beginning, man was confronted with the problem of devising a scheme by which he could venture into the unknown parts of the world, and return in safety to his homeland. The power of vision was man's greatest asset. Searching both the horizon and the dome of the sky for assistance, man settled his vision on the sun by day, and by night on Polaris that magnificent star, pointed out by the markers of the Great Dipper. Let us begin our wanderings by consulting this great guide star and asking what there is left for men to do in making known the Geography of the earth." (Knocks on the floor three times.)

Polaris: Who rudely awakens me from the sleep of the long Arctic night? Who dares the rigor of our northern lands to seek conference with the mighty **Polaris**? Speak!

Geographicus: O mighty sovereign of the northern skies, it is **Geographicus** who awakens you. I bring you seekers after geographical truth, novices who would learn of the tasks left in the field of geography. O mighty guide-star of the northern heavens tell us what needs to be done, and where we shall find our duties waiting.

Polaris: I am **Polaris**, the guide-star of the northern heavens. Situated in the heavens, half way between the rise and set of the sun and across the zenith from the sun at meridian height, I have been and am, man's greatest guide. Coldly I looked down on him as he learned to navigate the seas, and as he opened up new areas for his usage. Smilingly I watched him imitate the birds of the air as he endeavored to speed his progress. Silently I guided him as he crept nearer and nearer the ends of the earth. But exploration is nearly finished and other tasks await the geographer. These are not of my province. I am man's guidepost, nothing more. I control only the movements of the northern hemisphere, and only part of earth tasks lie in my kingdom. Travel you to the other points of the compass. Seek there the answer to your query. I am only the guide-star and must be about my business. Fare thee well, and may success attend you.

Geographicus: Come, friends, let us take the advice of **Polaris** and go to the other compass points to ask what geographic tasks lie before man. Let us turn westward into the sunset and there ask about our problem. (Knocks three times)

Gamma: Who knocks at the sunset gate of the heavens and braves the shadows of the night?

Geographicus: Great **Gamma**, it is I, **Geographicus**, with my neophytes. **Polaris** has directed us to have conference with you. We would ask what is known of the world's geography, and what yet remains unknown.

Gamma: I am **Gamma**, significant of all that is in and on the earth. Man has sought out, mapped, and utilized my resources. He has mined my minerals, harnessed my fuels, hunted my fauna, and utilized my flora and waters. He has cultivated my soils, and adjusted himself to the features of my relief and to my characteristics of position, situation, location, size, and regional form. From man's study of my resources have grown the physical, biological, and social sciences. All these serve as sources of knowledge for the geographer. Dig deeply into them, constantly searching out their inter-dependence, for this is your special contribution.

Geographicus: Is there nothing yet remaining to be discovered, O **Gamma**?

Gamma: Vast labors are yet uncompleted. There is still much hidden wealth to prospect. Plant and animal breeding require further improvement to enlarge and enrich the produce of the earth. Broad expanses of tropical forest, tundra, mountain area, and other types of land not now used await development. Natural resources of all kinds demand immediate and continuing restoration and protection. Human communities must be planned and improved. As geographers your duties include the mapping and interpretation of land use, the description and analysis of patterns of human living in the various environments, and the teaching of conservation of all resources. However, not all of the province of geography lies in my domain. Take counsel with **Theta** who rules an even broader realm. Be off with you; I must soon begin another night.

Geographicus: Come, Candidates, we will journey to the South and put our queries to **Theta** of the sea. (Knocks three times.)

Theta: Who pauses beneath the sun at meridian height to seek conference with the ruler of the deep? Speak!

Geographicus: It is I, **Geographicus**, together with seekers after problems concerning the waters of the great seas. Even in the heat of the noon-day sun, we would confer with thee. Tell us what great problems you would have us solve. Give us the challenge of the World Ocean.

Theta: I am **Theta** significant of all there is in and on the sea. Almost three fourths of the earth's surface is under my dominion. I have been the greatest challenge to man in the past. I held them off my bosom for centuries, and in turn I have taken them to the far comers of the earth. It is I who furnish the moisture for rain and snow. It is I who bring food to famine-laden shores. I thus keep man alive in times of earth distress. Yet little do men really know about me. I am the great deep, the holder of a vast unknown. What are my resources? Who can harness my tides? Who can free the shores I bind with ice? These are my challenges, O seekers after geographical tasks. Out of the great **Theta**, symbol of the seas, they are given you. Widen your horizons to include oceanography. Include my problems in your plans for study. I am, indeed, the great unfathomed. I must do my work. Speed thee onward.

Geographicus: Come seekers after geographical tasks, we must away to the land of the east, where dwells **Upsilon**, ruler of all that is in and under the sky. Thither we must turn our steps, hoping to learn what else is left for man to accomplish in geography. (Knocks three times.)

Upsilon: Who braves the dawn and invades the east at daybreak to consult the great **Upsilon**?

Geographicus: It is I, **Geographicus**, great **Upsilon**, together with earnest seekers after the problems of geography. We have come into the blaze of the morning sky to have conference with thee. We would learn of the problems of the dominion over which you rule, that we may go about the task of helping to solve them. Give us hearing, O great one, for we have travelled far, and our journey has been arduous.

Upsilon: I am **Upsilon**, significant of all there is in and under the sky. I hold dominion over the gases of the atmosphere and over all that comes to Mother Earth through it. I am the ever-present, yet the great unseen. I take the gifts of **Theta**, ruler of the seas, and spread them over the vastness of the earth, the dominion of **Gamma**. I bring earthward the sunlight and the moonlight. I show man the unlimited field of the heavens. **Polaris** is my watch-dog in the northern skies. In the southern hemisphere I have set a Cross as man's guide-post. I hold the earth, the province of **Gamma**, and mastered the seas, **Theta**'s dominion, I am ready to receive him as a fledgling into my domain. Equally ready am I to give him problems of geographical kind. How may he learn to forecast accurately and for a long period, the weather conditions I bring to him? How conquer the dryness I spread as a handicap over great areas? How defeat my distribution of powerful cold, and enervating heat? How conquer the fury of the storms with which I threaten man's efforts at aerial navigation? These are the problems of **Upsilon**. Take them, **Geographicus**, and set your novices in the field of geography to work. Away with you. I must be about my daily tasks.

Geographicus: Come candidates, we must prepare for the problems of Geography. We have taken the advice of **Polaris**, watch-dog of the northern heavens. He has sent us to the other points of the mariner's compass; to **Gamma** of the West; **Theta** of the South and **Upsilon** of the East, from whom we have heard the challenges of the **Earth**, the **Sea**, and the **Sky**. We thus have set before us the great tasks ahead in Geography-tasks in which each of you may help in solution by your interest in things geographical. All great works start with humble beginnings. Now that I have acquainted you with what the future holds, I may go no further with you. (In conducting the candidates about the room, **Geographicus** should now have them drawn up in a line before the president of the fraternity.) Success attend you in all of your geographical undertakings.

President: My friends, you have travelled over a long and arduous journey that you might receive the challenge which the science of Geography holds for the beginner in that field.

Gamma, Theta, and Upsilon have told you what yet remains to be done in their domains. We shall now bring you forth from darkness into the light,-light so necessary to research in Geography.

(Turns on lights.)

The symbolic journey through which you have been conducted was to impress you with the historic past by which men have handed down to you and me the Geography of today, and to set the challenges of the Geography of tomorrow. That you may bear the mark of one trained in undertaking the solution of its problems, we shall now invest you with the privilege of wearing the badge of Gamma Theta Upsilon, and explain its heraldry to you.

President: (or some other member designated by him) The colors of Gamma Theta Upsilon me symbolic of the three domains of Geography: brown for the Earth, light blue for the Sea, and gold for the sunlight or the Sky.

The badge of Gamma Theta Upsilon is a key, significant of achievement of quality in a field of science. The symbolism of the key is as follows:

The base or body of the key is a seven sided shield, the bevel of which carries on each side the initial of one of the great land masses of the earth. Beginning with Europe at the top, to the right is Asia, Africa and Australia, the great land masses of the Old or Eastern world. To the left on the key is North America, South America, and Antarctica, the three great land masses brought into geographical knowledge as man expanded westward from Europe, -the so-called New World.

Spread across the base of the key are five wavy blue lines, significant of the five great bodies of water which have carried man out from Europe to the lands of the earth,-the Atlantic, the Indian, the Pacific, the Arctic, and the Antarctic or great Southern Ocean.

Above the waves significant of the oceans is placed a white star, symbolic of Polaris, the great guide to man as he pushed out from Europe over the uncharted vastness of the ocean.

At the top of the key stand the Greek-letters, Gamma, Theta, and Upsilon, the initials of the three greek words, (Gé), (Thalatta), and (Hypáithrios), meaning earth, sea, and atmosphere-placed there to remind you of the three great environmental domains with which geography deals.

Gamma Theta Upsilon, therefore, is a professional fraternity in the field of Geography. We have no secret signs, words, or grips, except that we wear the badge of our fraternity as a sign to the world of our interest in Geography, and our determination to support and promote that subject.

As president (or a representative) of Chapter, I welcome you into full membership in Gamma Theta Upsilon, with all the rights and privileges which such membership entails. I hope your years in our organization will be ones that will bring you much professional pleasure and happiness.

(Members congratulate the new members).