**ΣΚΩ Induction Ceremony**

Each new member will walk in one at a time, arm and arm with an active. They will walk to the table and get a candle, and will stand where directed. The president and vice-president will light the candles of the actives, and then the actives will light the new member’s candles.

Repeat:
As a new member of Sigma Kappa Omega,
I promise to respect and uphold
the values of the sorority.
I promise to abide by the rules
of the constitution,
the by-laws
and the new member policy.
I promise to treat my sisters
With the highest of respect,
and to recognize the individuality
of each member,
and the values
they bring to the sorority.
As a new member of Sigma Kappa Omega,
I understand that the new member period
does not assure that I will become
an active member,
and that my actions will affect
my status in the sorority,
whether they be positive or negative.

*President and Vice President pin Pledges*

President: Pledges may blow out their candles. Congratulations you are now the _________ pledge class. We hope that Sigma Kappa Omega lives up to your expectations.
**ΣΚΩ Initiation Ceremony**

Each pledge will walk in one at a time, with their Big Sister. The Big Sis’ will be holding a candle for each pledge and they will take them to the center of the star. The pledges will stand side by side facing the outside of the star. The Big will then hand her little the candle and join the rest of the girls in the outer circle.

(President)
The person standing in front of the “S” will light her candle first. Then so on around the circle, spelling out SIGMA.

If there are fewer pledges than letters, the remaining letters are to be read without a name. If there are more pledges than letters, after all the letters have been read, the pledges will light their candles from whichever letter they are closest to.

__Name__, please step forward and light your candle from the “S”. The “S” stands for Sisterhood.

__Name__, please step forward and light your candle from the “I”. The “I” stands for Integrity.

__Name__, please step forward and light your candle from the “G”. The “G” stands for Growth.

__Name__, please step forward and light your candle from the “M”. The “M” stands for Magnanimity.

__Name__, please step forward and light your candle from the “A”. The “A” stands for Acceptance.

Sigma Kappa Omega Sorority is a social organization of collegiate women committed to promoting the ideals of life-long friendship, intellectual and spiritual fulfillment and service for the greater good.

Sigma Kappa Omega is honored to have you join, just as you are honored by our invitation. By becoming a member of our sorority, you are obligated to uphold the high standards and ideals.

Please repeat after me.
As sisters....
We are forever bonded....
By the ideals of Sigma Kappa Omega...
We promise to...
Be true to the meaning...
Of Sigma Kappa Omega...
And to hold our sorority...
And our sisters...
To the highest of respect.

(President)
You will now cross over to the outside of the star where you will join your sisters in learning the true meaning of Sigma. Please blow out your candles and place them at your feet as you will now leave your pledge-ship behind. Come forward to accept our hands in sisterhood.

The members of the circle will reach out a hand to the pledge in front of them. They will grab their hand and bring them into the outer circle.

(President)
After all the pledges have joined the outer circle, the President will read the following:

Each letter represents something of importance to our sisterhood. You have already learned what each letter of SIGMA stands for. Now you will learn what it represents to us.

The “S” is Sisterhood, which is the close bond that you share with one another. We nurture that bond so it can last forever.

The “I” is Integrity, which is no easy chore to develop. Your sisters are here to help nurture your budding integrity and to foster your growing character.

The “G” is Growth, which promotes the growth in your everyday life as well as growth among our sisterhood. During this period in our lives, we will grow because of ourselves and because of one another.

The “M” is Magnanimity. You have probably never heard of it before, but it expresses the ideals that Sigma was founded on. It’s about improving your soul and sharing your mind with those around you.
The “A” is Acceptance. The idea of acceptance is about learning to accept the people around you, learning to accept your sister and most of all, learning to accept yourself.

The President will then point out the crest to the new members and read the following:

During your pledge-ship, you learned what the symbols for Sigma Kappa Omega are. Now that you are members, you are privileged to learn what the symbols of our sorority stand for.

Our symbol is the star, because it can always guide your way home. We use three stars to represent Sigma Kappa Omega because of our three founders.

Our first color is purple, for pride in our school.

Our second color is silver, for unity and spirit.

Our mascot is the butterfly, representing everlasting change.

Our gem is the pearl, for beauty in its rarest form.

Our flower is the purple rose, for pride in our sorority.

Our motto is “Carpe Diem”, or “Seize the Day”, in honor of the steps our founders took to create Sigma Kappa Omega.

Tonight you are wearing white to signify purity. From now on, at all ceremonies, you will wear purple and black to represent that you have encompassed all of the beliefs and ideals of the sorority.

From this point on, you are all sisters of Sigma Kappa Omega. You have made a vow to the sorority, and to each other, to be sisters and friends.

Like any family, for all the good times we share, there will also be times of trial. And as with any new beginning, it offers us a chance to grow. That’s why the last symbol on our crest is the bumblebee.

According to the theory of aerodynamics, the bumblebee is unable to fly. This is because the size, weight, and shape of its body in comparison to total wing span make flying impossible. The bumblebee, ignorant of these scientific truths, goes ahead and flies away and makes a little honey on the side each day.

After reading the Bumblebee story, the President will move behind the table and call the new member up one by one to sign the book.

If you are ready to truly accept the bond of Sigma Kappa Omega, then join the sisters before you, who have pledged their loyalty to the sisterhood.
Name, please come to the table.
After they get to the table, continue reading.

Name, if you are ready to become an active member of Sigma Kappa Omega, then please sign your name.
After they have signed their names, continue reading.

Please take a purple rose to signify your active status.
After they signed the book and taken their rose, they will return to the circle until all the new members have signed the book.

Now that you are all official members of Sigma Kappa Omega, I will read a poem to celebrate our new sisters. While I read this poem, please join hands and think about what our sisterhood means to you.

My Sister, My Friend
She knows the things I dream of, the places that I've been, she accepts the person I've become, she's a very special friend. She's always been there for me no matter where I roam, and whenever we're together, it's just like being home.

For happy times shared through the years, for the loyalty, love, laughter and tears, For the special things only you can do, for all these things, I thank you! Time and space may separate us, but heartstrings no know end. I'm proud to call you my sister, happier still to call you my friend.

Congratulations! On behalf of the sisters of Sigma Kappa Omega, I would like to welcome you to our sisterhood.
ΣΚΩ Alumni Ceremony

Each future alumnus will walk in one at a time with an active member. The active member will be holding a candle for the alumni and will take them to the center of the star. The alumni will stand back to back facing the outside of the star. The active will then hand the alumni the candle and will join the rest of the girls in the outer circle.

The person standing in front of the “O” will light their candle first. Then so on around the circle spelling out OMEGA. If there are fewer alumni then letters the remaining letters are just to be read with out a name. If there are more alumni then letters, after all the letters have been read the alumni will light their candles from which ever letter they are closest too.

(Name) Please step forward and light your candle from the “O.”
The “O” stands for opportunity.

(Name) Please step forward and light your candle from the “M.”
The “M” stands for memorable.

(Name) Please step forward and light your candle from the “E.”
The “E” stands for endless.

(Name) Please step forward and light your candle from the “G.”
The “G” stands for guidance.

(Name) Please step forward and light your candle from the “A.”
The “A” stands for alpha.

At initiation, you pledged yourself to promoting the ideals of life-long friendship, intellectual and spiritual fulfillment, and service for the greater good of the sorority and community. As your sisters we have watched you grow and fulfill this promise. We hope that all the lessons you’ve learned in Sigma will help you in your future endeavors.

Please repeat after me.
As sisters...
We are forever bonded...
By the ideals of Sigma Kappa Omega...
We promise to...
Remember the meaning of Sigma Kappa Omega...
And keep it close to our heart...
Throughout our life.
At initiation you came into the sorority on Sigma and now you will leave us on Omega. Omega is the end of your college experience at Stephen F. Austin State University and the beginning of your new life.

The letters around the star represent the times you spent in Sigma and the new life ahead of you.

“O” stands for the opportunities that will present themselves in life. We hope that you will make the most of them as you did with your time in Sigma.

“M” stands for all the memorable occasions we shared as sisters and all the memories you are about to make.

“E” stands for the endless love that you have for Sigma and the love that your sisters will always have for you.

“G” stands for guidance. As you have offered your guidance in Sigma, let the star guide your way throughout life.

“A” stands for alpha, for the beginning of your new life.

As you once did at Initiation, you will now cross over to the outside of the star leaving behind your active status of Sigma Kappa Omega, and becoming our new alumni.

*The members of the circle reach out a hand to the alumnus in front of them and will grab their hand and bring them into the outer circle. After the alumni have joined the outer circle, the President will move behind the table and will call up the alumni one at a time to sign the Alumni Book.*

As you sign the book, please leave any words of wisdom for your fellow sisters.

___Name___ Please come to table. After they get to the table continue reading.

As you leave the table, please take a silver rose to signify your alumni status.

*If the President is becoming an alumnus, then the Vice President will lead the ceremony, and so forth down the line.*

Now that you are all official alumni of Sigma Kappa Omega, we will read a poem to celebrate your new status. While I read this poem, please join hands and think about what our sisterhood has meant to you.

*Read the Poem “Sigmas”*