

A NATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF EAGLE SCOUTS

# EPSILON TAU PI

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COME SOAR WITH US: THE TRAIL TO A  
SUCCESSFUL COLONIZATION BEGINS HERE.



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## FOREWARD

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Epsilon Tau Pi expects excellence in all areas from each of its groups, chapters, and colonies alike. For this reason, Epsilon Tau Pi has set high standard for affiliation. This guidebook explains these standards and provides a “road map” of how a group of students interested in becoming an official chapter of Epsilon Tau Pi should proceed. Three major steps must be accomplished to become a recognized chapter of Epsilon Tau Pi.

First, an interest group (at least two men) must petition and obtain colony status from the Epsilon Tau Pi Fraternity. Second, the colony must fulfill all requirements for chartering. Third, the colony must petition the Fraternity for recognition as an operating chapter in good standing.

If this process is successfully followed and the petition is accepted and approved by the Fraternity, then a charter will be granted and the colony will become an official chapter of Epsilon Tau Pi with all privileges, rights and obligations thereof.



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## WHAT IS EPSILON TAU PI

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Epsilon Tau Pi is an honorary Eagle Scout Fraternity that was founded in 1999 by a group of Eagle Scouts at the University of Dayton in Dayton, Ohio. Epsilon Tau Pi was formed on the principles of Honor, Loyalty, Courage, and Service.

### THE HISTORY

Epsilon Tau Pi was formed on April 28, 1999, as the nation's first collegiate fraternity of Eagle Scouts. The fraternity is dedicated to the ideals of Scouting and of the Eagle Scout award, and strives to uphold those ideals.

In April 1999, eight Eagle Scouts came together at the University of Dayton and formed Epsilon Tau Pi. There were many social and service organizations on campus and around the area; however, there was no organization that held the ideals of scouting close to heart. These eight men decided that an organization should be formed that would uphold the principles of the Boy Scouts of America and bring together those whom have shown through dedication and hard work that they believe in those values.

Since then, over fifty men have become members of the Brotherhood. Brothers come from all parts of the country, including ten states and Puerto Rico. The Brotherhood is also diverse academically, with members studying engineering, liberal arts, business, and education. Many are involved with other extra-curricular activities, such as intramural sports, ROTC programs, music performance, and work-study.

In spite of these diverse interests and backgrounds, the common thread that draws these men together is the Eagle Scout award itself. The highest rank in Scouting, Eagle Scout is achieved by only 4 percent of all Boy Scouts. The requirements alone for the Eagle Scout rank demonstrate the leadership, initiative, and resolve required of those that achieve this high honor.

In Epsilon Tau Pi's short history, the initial chapter at the University of Dayton in Dayton, Ohio has already established a National Executive Board, reached out to Ohio State University, and created a new colony. Alumni members are also active within the fraternity; some serve as members of the National Executive Board, aid the new colony, and participate in fraternity functions.

Epsilon Tau Pi is governed by a National Executive Board, elected by all active members of the fraternity to two-year terms. The Executive Board is currently comprised of three officers and two delegates. The officers include a Chairman, Vice Chairman, and Secretary. Each Chapter elects two delegates, one active member to represent the active members of the chapter.

The principle purpose of the National Executive Board is to guide and oversee the expansion of the fraternity. The Executive Board also maintains the National Constitution and the General Regulations of the fraternity. All chapters and their colonies are permitted a large degree of autonomy, however the Executive Board addresses critical issues that affect the fraternity as a whole, as well as assist the various chapters with difficult issues. In all issues, the National Executive Board is the highest authority in the fraternity, and may overturn a decision made by any individual chapter.

Any male college student who has earned the Eagle Scout rank from the Boy Scouts of America, and is a student in good standing with the university or institution, of which he is a member, may rush Epsilon Tau Pi. The brothers, by vote, accept rush participants as candidates for membership. Upon completion of the candidacy, the Eagle Scout is initiated as a full member of Epsilon Tau Pi.

Eagle Scouts who attend a university or college with no active chapter or colony of Epsilon Tau Pi may become candidates for membership at an active chapter in the same city. If no such chapter or colony exists, interested students may apply to the National Executive Board for permission to form a colony.

Once an active brother graduates, he becomes an alumni member of Epsilon Tau Pi. Alumni members are eligible to participate in Chapter functions. In addition, Alumni members also serve as mentors for colonies.

### **SERVICE**

Epsilon Tau Pi is dedicated to helping Scouting and the community by volunteering our skills and assets to various groups and individuals.

We give back to Scouting in the way of service by providing help to repair and maintain council campgrounds as well as mentoring to those Scouts that are working towards the Eagle Scout rank.

### **SOCIAL LIFE**

Social life in college is just as important as service and academic endeavors. The brothers of Epsilon Tau Pi get together for a social activity at least once a month officially; however, often many of the brothers will get together once a week or more to socialize.

Social activities include barbeques, ski trips, bowling, movie nights, football or soccer games, etc. Along with these activities, there is also a semi-formal dance in the fall and a formal dance in the spring.

The official social activities are planned and coordinated by the Social Chair of the chapter. These activities are added to the calendar once they become official.

Epsilon Tau Pi is more than just a service fraternity; it is a group of like-minded individuals that come together under the banner of Brotherhood.

The word Brotherhood has been used a great deal, and you may be wondering what it means to us. To the brothers of Epsilon Tau Pi, Brotherhood is more than just a word used to describe us; it is something that we use to describe the bond that we have with each other. Many of us forge friendships with each other that last beyond our college careers. Along with these forged friendships, we know that as brothers, no matter the circumstances, no matter the distance, we will always be there for one another. That is the foundation and principle of the Brotherhood of Epsilon Tau Pi.

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## OBTAINING COLONY STATUS

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Obtaining colony status is the first step to becoming an Epsilon Tau Pi chapter. When a group of men want to become a colony of Epsilon Tau Pi on a campus where there is no Epsilon Tau Pi chapter in existence, they may achieve “colony status” by receiving permission to affiliate with Epsilon Tau Pi from the National Executive Board of the Fraternity.

Once a group of at least two members desire to achieve colony status, two supporting documents need to be supplied:

- 1) A Resolution letter signed by a minimum of two members from your group indicating their desire to become a colony of Epsilon Tau Pi (see Appendix A); and
- 2) An Approval letter from the appropriate college or university official granting permission for your group to associate with Epsilon Tau Pi (see Appendix B).

After both of these letters have been received by the National Executive Board, a Primary Inspection visit, if appropriate, will be conducted by a representative of the National Executive Board to:

- 1) Verify the number of men in the group; and
- 2) Review the material previously sent; and
- 3) Answer any questions.

Following the visit, the National Executive Board will vote whether or not to grant colony status. You will be notified of the outcome when the balloting has been completed. Once you have been granted colony status, a document recognizing the group as an official colony of Epsilon Tau Pi will be sent to you.

Once recognized as a colony of Epsilon Tau Pi, you are encouraged to use the purposes and principles of Epsilon Tau Pi in your day-to-day operations. Manual, brochures, and supplies may be ordered from the National Executive Board.

The National Executive Board will assist your group in meeting the requirements established by Epsilon Tau Pi.

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## **FULFILLING THE REQUIREMENTS FOR CHARTERING**

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Epsilon Tau Pi has developed the following requirements to be fulfilled by a colony in order to petition to become a chapter. We have set these standards in order to ensure the quality of our chapters. It is expected these requirements will be met within two years after recognition as a colony.

### **TIMEFRAME**

Before a colony is established, those interested in starting the colony must become a student organization of the sheltering institution, in accordance with the respective university's policies. The colony must also secure a faculty advisor. The faculty advisor does not necessarily have to be an alumnus of Epsilon Tau Pi. The National Executive Board must approve the formation or termination of any colony.

The colonization period shall begin with the candidacy of the founding members of the colony. They shall be the Alpha class of the colony. This shall be a regular candidate period in so far as the education of the prospective Brothers is concerned, but will also have the added responsibility of instituting a working executive board, bylaws, and satisfying other requirements set forth by the university for student and, or Greek organizations.

The Alpha class shall work with a brother assigned to them by the National Executive Board. This brother shall serve as a colony advisor. That brother shall oversee the candidate period, acting as Fraternal Education Officer. He will also communicate to the National Executive Board the progress of the chapter and ensure that a full ritual may be presented at the end of the first candidate period. This ritual may be composed of alumni, nearby chapter, or the National Executive Board itself if possible. All Brothers are welcome to attend this initiation, especially if a nearby chapter exists.

After the Alpha class has been initiated, they shall get to the business of operating a colony. The colony shall operate as a chapter would, but must complete a series of requirements. The colony has no time limit in completing these requirements, so long as progress continues. After each semester, the National Executive Board shall review the progress of each colony and vote to permit the colony to continue.

### **GENERAL REQUIREMENTS**

- 1) Commence recruitment activities, with the intent of reaching set membership goals. Goals must be set forth by the colony with the guidance of the colony advisor and approved by the Vice Chairman.
- 2) Each semester, ensure all active members fulfill the requirements for active membership, and none are delinquent in the payment of dues or fines.
- 3) Maintain a colony grade point average (GPA) or 2.5 for the entire colony period.
- 4) Have an active Faculty Advisor.
- 5) Have a functioning executive board.

- 6) Have written approval of the college or university prior to the date of installation as a chapter.
- 7) Hold a retreat prior to installation as a chapter. At the retreat, specific objectives are to be established and should be based upon the chapter's goals for the year following the actual installation. Copies of these goals are to be included in your petition.
- 8) Submit all Monthly Colony Progress Reports to the National Executive Board (these reports may be submitted to the National Executive Board along with your petition).
- 9) Commence fundraising beyond the member dues, with the goal of self-sufficiency.
- 10) In addition to candidate service projects, complete an approved colony-wide service project worthy of Eagles. Follow the guidelines set forth by the National Executive Board. The project may benefit scouting and/or the community, but may not directly benefit the fraternity.
- 11) Participate in a campus-wide event. This may be a service or charity event, or may be some project designed to benefit the campus itself. This project may be executed in concert with other organizations on campus.
- 12) Keep the assigned colony advisor and the National Executive Board informed about colony events and progress.
- 13) Contact the local Council of the Boy Scouts of America. Meet with Council officials and establish a working relationship with the Boy Scouts of America.
- 14) Comply with all Federal, State, Local laws, and University Rules and Regulations, particularly those regarding hazing, alcohol and illegal substances.
- 15) If a council of Greek organizations exists (non-social, or otherwise), the National Executive Board may recommend the colony become a member of such organization. If the colony should choose to do so, then a representative of the colony would be chosen who would attend meetings of this council. In this way, the colony becomes more involved in Greek life on campus.

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## PREPARING THE PETITION

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The petition is your statement about your group. Its purpose is to illustrate how you have met or exceeded the requirements for a charter. It is a “brag sheet,” so it is important you include everything you feel the chapters and/or the National Executive Board of Epsilon Tau Pi should know about you. It is on the information contained in the petition the chapters and/or National Executive Board will make a decision on whether or not you will be installed as a chapter.

The National Executive Board of Epsilon Tau Pi has adopted a standardized form for petitions, as well as a set procedure for petition distribution. You are required to provide three typewritten copies which are sent to the Vice Chairman of the National Executive Board at least 90 days before the anticipated installation date. The copies you provide must be accurate and neat. All petitions should be typed and neatly bound with a cover.

The following information is required in every petition.

- 1) Table of Contents.
- 2) Brief cover letter from the colony president stating the colony’s completion of all of the chartering requirements and the colony’s desire to become a Chapter of Epsilon Tau Pi. The president must also state the Colony is aware of and in compliance with the General Regulations and all other Fraternity polices.
- 3) Brief history (no more than one type-written page) of the university/college, including:
  - a. Current enrollment.
  - b. Accreditation.
  - c. Map of the campus (indicate Epsilon Tau Pi residence, if applicable).
- 4) Statement describing the most recent colony retreat, specifically listing goals to be accomplished during the first year after receiving the charter.
- 5) Letters from the Faculty Advisor stating his or her support of the chartering colony and their willingness to remain in their current position.
- 6) Detailed history of the Colony, including lists of campus and community activities and accomplishments.
- 7) Alumni
  - a. List of all alumni who have participated in any event held by the colony (include name, address, phone number, email address, and home chapter).
  - b. Description of recent alumni events.

- 8) Housing (if any):
  - a. Owned, rented, or university / college owned?
  - b. Description, including capacity and number of current residents.
  - c. 8" x 10" picture of the structure.
- 9) Officers
  - a. Chapter Officers.
  - b. Faculty Advisor: Address, email and phone number. (Are they a Brother?)
- 10) 8" x 10" group picture (not individual pictures) of all members of the colony.
- 11) List of initiated members to be initiated members, including:
  - a. Class status (Freshman, Sophomore, etc.)
  - b. Major.
  - c. Colony Office, if any.
  - d. Participation in campus activities and offices held.
  - e. Hometown.
  - f. Age.
  - g. Year and Council awarding the rank of Eagle Scout.
- 12) Copies of the local Constitution and Bylaws, and any and all other local rules.
- 13) Summary of petition (Maximum one page. See Appendix E).
  - a. University: Founding date, enrollment, and accreditation.
  - b. Local colony: Founding date and participation in campus activities.
  - c. Membership: Size and class-year breakdown.
  - d. Housing
  - e. Scholarship.

It is critical all of the above mentioned information is included in the petition and sent to the National Executive Board. Your petition can only be acted upon if all the information is available for distribution to the National Executive Board (all chapters of Epsilon Tau Pi and/or National Executive Board). Under no circumstance will any petition be distributed without all information included.

When you have completed your work on the petition, the following should be mailed to the attention of the Vice Chairman care of the National Executive Board.

- 1) Three copies of the petition. The original must contain professional-quality photographs. One must be a loose-leaf copy.
- 2) Check or money order to cover the cost of the following:
  - a. Charter fee to cover the cost of your charter and ritual equipment.
  - b. The membership fee for each non-initiated undergraduate member named in the petition.

In the event the petition should fail to pass the vote of the National Executive Board, the charter fee may be returned upon request of the Colony.

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## **RISK MANAGEMENT**

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### **ALCOHOL**

Under no circumstances will any fraternity sponsored activity/ event involve alcohol.

### **HAZING**

Hazing is defined by §2903.31 of the Ohio Revised Code as “any act or coercing of another to do any act of initiation ... causing or creating a substantial risk of causing or physical harm to any person.”

The Brotherhood of Epsilon Tau Pi stipulates hazing will not be tolerated. Individuals or colonies/chapters suspected of authorizing or tolerating the occurrence of a hazing incident will be subject to disciplinary action.

Hazing includes but is not limited to, whether in public or in private: paddling in any form, creation of excessive fatigue, physical and psychological shocks of harassment, morally embarrassing, degrading or humiliating games and activities, late or excessive work sessions which interfere with scholastic achievements, and all other activities which violate fraternal, state, local, federal laws or regulations and policies of the fraternity and the college or university at which the colony is located.

### **CODE OF CONDUCT**

All fraternity members shall adhere to the Scout Oath and the points of the Scout Law and live up to the Eagle Scout Charge.

Pledge periods shall last no shorter than 6 weeks and no more than 10 weeks due to scheduling classes. The Pledge period shall begin with Formal rushes and conclude with Ritual.

Under no circumstances shall probationary period activities conflict with academics.

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**ARE YOU READY TO SOAR WITH US?**

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By now, you should have a good understanding of our Fraternity, the principles, and the purposes of our organization. Should you desire to take the next step, and being the path of establishing a Colony on your campus we would ask for you to contact the National Executive Board and a formal application packet will be sent to you.

