

April 2021



Programs

National Virtual Initiation Ceremony

Omicron Delta Kappa scheduled five National Virtual Initiation Ceremonies this spring. To date, we have held two ceremonies (March 25 and April 15) for five circles and more than 240 initiates. These ceremonies can be viewed on the [ODK HQ YouTube Channel](#).

The ceremonies on April 29 and May 13 are full. We still have space for the May 27 ceremony. Circles that are considering being part of the May 27 ceremony should register no later than Monday, April 27, 2021. Detailed information about the National Virtual Initiation Ceremony can be [found here](#). Circle officers and initiates will be sent an email with instructions for the YouTube Live program and the virtual record book.

If you have any questions, please contact the ODK National Headquarters at odknhd@odk.org or call (540) 458-5336.

[2021 National Leadership Conference](#)

The 2021 National Leadership Conference (April 8-10) is one for the books. We had more than 300 members and sponsors registered, four keynote speakers, 21 concurrent session presentations, nine meet and greets, one yoga class, a special presentation by True Colors International, and a great deal of learning and networking. Videos of the keynote presentations are available to watch on the [ODK HQ YouTube Channel](#). For our first fully online conference, it was a great success!

Planning for the 2022 National Leadership Conference will begin in June. Look for announcements about applying for the planning team, presenting a session, and making sure your circle is well represented.

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Award Nominations

Omicron Delta Kappa believes in recognizing both individuals and circles that demonstrate exceptional leadership across the five phases of campus life and beyond.

We offer a series of awards that honor circles, both for their contributions to their campuses and for their dedication to supporting the national organization. At the individual level, we offer awards that honor students, circle advisors, dedicated members, friends of OΔK, and champions for diversity, equity, and inclusivity.

Links to each award with nomination information are below:

- [John D. "Jack" Morgan Award for Lifetime Service to Omicron Delta Kappa](#)
- [Eldridge W. Roark, Jr. Meritorious Service Award](#)
- [Cheryl M. Hogle Distinguished Service Award](#)
- [Robert L. Morlan – Robert Bishop Outstanding Circle Officer Award](#)
- [Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity Awards](#)

Deadline Extended to Friday, May 15, 2020

Circle Reminders

Circle Annual Report for FY 2020-21

The FY 2021 Circle Annual Report form is [now open](#).

The OΔK Policies and Procedures Handbook requires all circles to complete the Circle Annual Report. The Circle Annual Report is not just a formality to give circle advisors more work to do. It is a critical information-gathering tool for the Society.

In FY 2020, we had 127 (48%) of active circles submit an annual report. That was an improvement of 4% over FY2019, but we should have 100% since the annual report is required. Our goal for FY 2021 is at least 75%.

The deadline for Circle Annual Reports is Wednesday, June 30, 2021.

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Membership Order Reminders

Since implementing the practice of direct mailing certificates and pins to new initiates (Option 2 or Option 3 in the Membership Management System-MMS), Omicron Delta Kappa has seen a significant increase in the number of circles using this process. We thought it would be helpful to remind circle officers about important aspects of this program.

- We do not mail membership materials before the date of the ceremony listed on the order. We try to send them as soon as possible, but because of a backlog of orders and limited staffing, this may be up to 30 days after the ceremony.
- We do not mail membership materials until we have received payment of the membership fees for the entire order, whether through online payments or circle payment.
- Shipping is not included in the membership fees but is calculated into the order. You can check your order for the amount you will be invoiced by opening Past Certificate Orders in MMS.
- We cannot mail membership materials to individuals who have incomplete or incorrect mailing address information on their membership applications. Circle officers who request Option 2 or Option 3 must check the mailing addresses of their initiates to ensure we have a proper and complete address. (FYI - some initiates are placing their email address in the mailing address fields.) If we do not have a complete mailing address for an individual, their membership materials will be sent to the circle for distribution.

Finally, while we know last minute changes in membership orders are sometimes unavoidable, we have seen a dramatic increase in the number of circles submitting as many as four separate orders for the same ceremony. The time it takes to process each order, whether for 10 or 100 initiates, is roughly the same. If you submit four orders, it takes nearly four times as long to finalize your entire order. Please work to ensure you have all members accepted, paid, and approved before submitting your order. Submitting only once saves time for the National Headquarters staff and allows us to get all orders out in a timely manner.

Prepare for Commencement

We know that campuses are still determining when and if they will be able to hold commencement programs. Whether your campus has an in-person ceremony or a virtual program, we hope you will encourage your members to consider wearing OΔK regalia to demonstrate their commitment to your circle, the Society, and the principles of leadership.

OΔK offers a variety of ways for members to celebrate OΔK during and after commencement.

- Circles can bulk order cords or stoles and save shipping for members from <https://store.odk.org/>.
- Individual members can easily order cords, stoles, and spirit wear from <https://www.shopodk.com/>. Tell your members to use the code SAVE10 on or 10% off their entire order when they order a cord or stole.
- Check out all the options <https://odk.org/odk-store/>.

Let Us Help!

We know that the work of advisors and student officers has gotten even more complicated during the pandemic. We know that it is difficult to recruit, initiate, and develop programs when your members are scattered across platforms and even states.

Let us help! OΔK has the resources to help you with all facets of managing a circle. No, we cannot do the work for you, but we certainly can help make the process easier.

Give us a call - (540) 458-5336

Send us an email - odknhdg@odk.org

Bookmark the circle officers resource page - <https://odk.org/circle-officers/>

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Questions?

For questions or information on anything in the Officer Updates, contact Tim Reed, vice president for membership and operations, tim@odk.org, (540) 458-5345.

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