

II. Founders Day

Honoring the Founding of Phi Theta Kappa

Phi Theta Kappa observes its birthday on Founders Day which is November 19. Phi Theta Kappa was founded in 1918 by presidents of two-year colleges in Missouri. The founders were seeking to recognize scholastic achievement by their students, and to establish a common purpose and standard for honors organizations on their respective campuses. The founders chose to model their new Society after the prestigious senior honor society, Phi Beta Kappa. The name "Phi Theta Kappa" was taken from the initial letters of the three Greek words meaning "wisdom," "aspiration" and "purity." By 1929, Phi Theta Kappa was officially recognized by the American Association of Junior Colleges; and November 19 is traditionally observed as the Society's Founders Day.

To be successful with this project:

- **Must document the who, what, where, when and how of the event**
- **Be creative and attach a photo on how Founders Day was celebrated on your campus**

Some ideas to get your chapter started:

You are not limited to these ideas by any means, but they can perhaps be used to jumpstart the brainstorming process. Also refer to ideas listed on <https://www.ptk.org/events/founders-day>, and select an activity that suits your chapter.

- **Happy Birthday to Phi Theta Kappa:** Stage a campus party! Your chapter might put up a display about the organization in a high traffic area and serve ice cream, cake, or popcorn to students passing by. The celebration encourages fellowship activities within the campus community.
- **Gift Basket:** Send a flower or fruit basket to your college president's office with a note explaining the special significance of Founders Day. This will draw attention to the organization and what it does for the campus.
- **Fashion Statement:** Declare November 19 "Phi Theta Kappa Day" on campus. Ask all members to wear their Phi Theta Kappa t-shirts, hats, pins, and other apparel to school.
- **High School Outreach:** Invite a local middle school or high school class to a special chapter meeting or campus event and speak to them about preparing for college. Be sure to explain how membership in Phi Theta Kappa could help them achieve transfer scholarships and give them an edge with prospective employers.

Send documentation to: [Sophie Huang](#)