

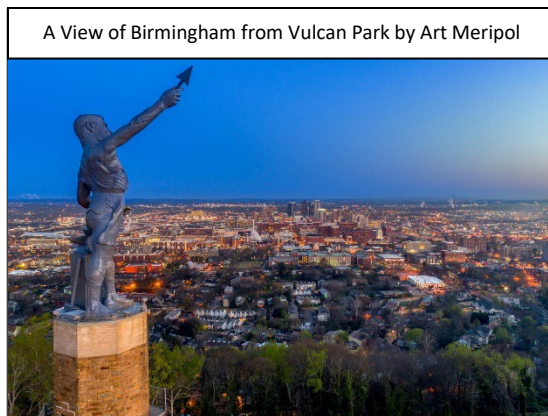
**Save the Date: April 4-6, 2024**

**Alpha Chi National Convention  
in Birmingham, Alabama**

## ***Leaders for Tumultuous Times***

**Featuring . . .**

- **Historic Birmingham**—a city with a globally important history
- **150+ student and alumni presentations in 25+ academic fields**
- **Keynote Speaker T. K. Thorne**—author of *Behind the Magic Curtain: Secrets, Spies, and Unsung White Allies of Birmingham's Civil Rights Days*
- **Address from Alpha Chi Distinguished Alumnus Dr. Zac Imel, Westminster College (Mo.)**
- **Student prizes, scholarships, and awards**
- **Academic and social networking**
- **Elections to regional and national leadership**



Built into every Alpha Chi convention is the opportunity to explore the history of the host city, and Birmingham has a unique and rich story to tell. Delegates will have the opportunity to visit sacred and sobering historic places to learn more about the history of civil rights in Birmingham and the country as a whole. Convention events will begin on Thursday afternoon and continue through Saturday evening. Registration will open in early January.

Explore [www.alphachihonor.org/axcon](http://www.alphachihonor.org/axcon) to discover all the opportunities of Alpha Chi's professional, national conference. Our travel and housing grants and room sharing options will help your chapter not break the bank to enjoy the ultimate Alpha Chi experience!

### **Registration Fees & Room Rate**

- \$99 Student Members & Advisors (badge access to all sessions and meal events)
- \$150 Alumni Members & Guests (badge access to all sessions and meal events)
- \$179 Conference Room Rate at the Sheraton Hotel at BJCC

### **Alpha Chi Member Presentations**

Student and alumni members may submit their own presentation information via an online method to be communicated by January. Qualified presentations will be judged during the convention and approximately thirty \$100 prizes will be given by academic category.

### **Important Dates – Deadlines Extended!**

- ~~Jan. 31~~ Conference Presentation Submissions Due – **Now Feb. 22!**
- ~~Feb. 15~~ Conference Registration Due – **Now Mar. 1!**
- ~~Feb. 15~~ Shared Doubles Housing Reservations Due – **Now Mar. 1!**
- ~~Feb. 15~~ All Fees Due – **Now Mar. 10!**
- ~~Mar. 1~~ Sheraton Deadline for Room Rate & Availability – **Now Mar. 11!**

## Alpha Chi Convention *Leaders for Tumultuous Times* and Birmingham, Alabama



***If the truth will set you free, then lies will enslave you.***

Alpha Chi believes that those who use their scholarship to learn the truth can better serve the community as leaders. We work to support, develop, facilitate, encourage, and celebrate our future leaders! We believe that those who use their scholarship to learn in their respective disciplines are best prepared to serve the community as leaders. Because these things are true, please join us for the 2024 Alpha Chi National Convention next spring in Birmingham, Alabama.

Birmingham, Alabama, known as *The Magic City*, has a history and a present that speak to truth and leadership in the area of social justice. As a municipality, it faced the tension between those who were unwilling to move beyond Jim Crow laws and those who courageously fought for justice and reform. Much of today's public rhetoric is similar to the public dialogue in the Birmingham of the past and the present. There are lessons to be learned from the Birmingham community's trajectory, and there are applications for today's tumultuous times. There are lessons for us all, though we may describe them differently. The Birmingham experience represents a microcosm of the unique challenges and struggles that we continue to face as a nation built on the reality of a multicultural society. The Magic City reflects the variety of people, processes, institutions, and behaviors implemented that stand for the promise of equity and social justice.

Those attending the Alpha Chi convention will have an incredible opportunity to consider the role of scholarship in meeting challenges and what it means to sit with the inevitable discomfort that comes with awareness, so that we may act with courage in developing the leadership our world and our communities need us to find. As leaders, we are obligated to elevate the safety, value, mental health, and well-being of all people.

From a Birmingham jail, a man wrote his reflection on justice. If you have a chance, read [Letter from Birmingham Jail](#) by Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. Many courageous People of Color lived and died for the truth, forcing society to confront the realities of racial inequity. Unsung and determined White Allies asserted the truth at great personal costs. Leadership requires an honest and courageous exploration of the sociopolitical realities our society faces, which are its "truths."

This Alpha Chi convention has the potential of being a life-changing, watershed moment for each member, advisor, and guest that attends. There will be sponsored events that challenge the understanding of history and its relationship to the present. Attendees will increase the depth of their understanding of the present social justice challenges both domestically and globally. We hope that everyone will consider questions like:

- What makes a leader, and how do they know what to do?
- Why should one become a leader? How does one become a leader?
- How can we use the truths and facts that we learn about the world to better the world for all?

- When does the “comfortable truth” serve to hide the actual truth and at what costs?
- What are the costs of the denial of truth for society at large?
- What is a convincing justification for social justice when a loss of privilege may be involved?

These questions will serve as the basis of the self-reflection for all attendees and are questions that should occur throughout the convention experience. These questions will provide a basis for many creative collaborative projects as well as a prism to challenge realities we thought we knew. To prepare for this place and this convention all participants are encouraged to read [\*Behind the Magic Curtain: Secrets, Spies, and Unsung White Allies of Birmingham’s Civil Rights Days\*](#) by T. K. Thorne who will be our keynote speaker in Birmingham.

On Friday afternoon when we break for lunch, attendees will be encouraged to spend a few hours visiting nearby historical sites such as the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, the 16<sup>th</sup> Street Baptist Church, and the Kelly-Ingram Park & Civil Rights Trail. Afterward, we will gather for a discussion and “debriefing,” if you will, so that our student delegates especially may process their experiences together.

Convention participants will consider the potential and necessity of leadership in the wide variety of areas related to our diverse society in such areas as immigration, disparate health care, the disparate impact of the criminal justice system, and environmental disparities. The primary point of consideration for the convention and the theme for the convention is: How does one lead in times as tumultuous as these?

***It is our hope and plan that Alpha Chi’s aspiring student leaders who attend the convention will be inspired and more capable of answering that question.***

If you or your chapter are interested in other materials relevant to allyship, we recommend reading or listening to the following books. The insights included in these texts provide information that will help especially prepare student delegates for this Birmingham experience.

[\*Blindspot: Hidden Biases of Good People\*](#) by Mahzarin R. Banaji & Anthony G. Greenwald

[\*White Fragility: Why It’s So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism\*](#) by Robin J. DiAngelo

[\*White Allies in the Struggle for Racial Justice\*](#) by Drick Boyd





# Hotel Reservations & Housing Details

## Room Rates & Reservations at The Sheraton Birmingham at BJCC

The AX room rate is \$179 (with tax about \$210) for 1-4 people per night for a king or double-queen room. To reserve rooms other than Shared Doubles, call The Sheraton at 888-627-7095 and mention you're with the Alpha Chi conference. Late cancellations/early departures will be handled according to hotel policy. Guestroom wi-fi and access to the fitness center are complimentary.

While Alpha Chi's room rate and block are available through March 1, don't wait to book rooms. Alpha Chi doesn't get unlimited access to a hotel's entire guestroom inventory, so it's always best practice to reserve a block of rooms as soon as you have an idea of what you'll need. You can call the hotel later to release a room or provide specific guest details.

## Hotel Address

Sheraton Birmingham Hotel, 2101 Richard Arrington Jr. Boulevard North, Birmingham, AL 35203

## Check-In/Out

Hotel check-in is at 4 p.m.; check-out is at 11 a.m.

## Vehicle Parking

The special self-parking rate is \$7 plus tax per car, per night.

## Ground Transportation to/from Airport

10-15-minute cab/Lyft ride in light traffic

**Questions? Call 800.477.4225**

*Tentative Schedule (updated 10/23/23)*

## 2024 Alpha Chi National Convention

### Thursday, April 4

- 3:00 p.m.** Chapter Delegation Check-in (in Convention Center)
- 7:00 p.m.** Convention Welcome (wear your college/chapter gear)
- 8:15 p.m.** All-Delegate Group Photo
- 8:30 p.m.** Judge/Moderator Meeting
- 9:00 p.m.** Social Event! (led by Regional Student Representatives)

### Friday, April 5

- 7:30 a.m.** Regional Meetings & Breakfast  
Officer Elections
- 8:40 a.m.** Member Presentations  
Presentations: 8:40-10 a.m.  
Presentations & Collab. Research Presentations: 10:20-11:30 a.m.
- 11:30 a.m.** Keynote Speaker **T. K. Thorne**  
*Author of Behind the Magic Curtain, Secrets, Spies, and Unsung White Allies of Birmingham's Civil Rights Days*
- 12:30 p.m.** Meaningful Experiences (lunch on your own)  
Choose to visit one or more of the following important historical sites: Civil Rights Institute, 16<sup>th</sup> Street Baptist Church, Bethel Baptist Church, Temple Beth-El, Kelly-Ingram Park & Civil Rights Trail
- 4:30 p.m.** Meaningful Experiences Debriefing Session
- 6:00 p.m.** Honors Banquet  
Advisor Honors  
Distinguished Alumni Award Presentation  
Lecture and Q&A—Dr. Zac Imel, Distinguished Alumnus
- 8:00 p.m.** Member Presentations/Collab. Research Presentations

### Saturday, April 6

- 7:30 a.m.** Breakfast at roundtables
- 8:30 a.m.** Member Presentations/Collabs (if needed)  
Presentations: 8:30-9:50 a.m.  
Presentations: 10:00-11:20 a.m.
- 11:30 a.m.** Break until 3:30 pm for more fun in Birmingham!
- 4:00 p.m.** Member Presentations
- 5:00 p.m.** New National Council Member Orientation
- 7:00 p.m.** Hors d'oeuvres Dinner & Awards Gala

# Member Presentations

Student presentations are a centerpiece of every Alpha Chi convention; in fact, this focus on students distinguishes us from other honor societies. We're also excited when our alumni members come to conventions and want to present as well. Here are a few benefits of presenting:

- Gain valuable presentation experience with a small, receptive audience of 20-30 people.
- Field questions from interested peers and faculty.
- Earn an excellent resume enhancement.



**Deadline for Registering a Presentation: *January 31***

## Alpha Chi's Professional Presenter Standards

- Wear business attire and behave professionally.
- Regardless of order, arrive before the start of the section to identify yourself to the Moderator.
- As a courtesy to your fellow presenters, we ask you remain present for your entire section.
- Be sure your presentation fits comfortably within the time limit. (*likely 12 minutes, followed by a mandatory 4-minute question/answer period*)
- These are presentations, not manuscript readings.
- Practice (preferably for an audience), so your presentation is smooth and audio-visuals well integrated. Most presentation rooms are small, and microphones aren't provided. Be prepared to speak clearly with good projection.
- Be prepared in case of technical problems; have a backup plan that will allow you to proceed if technology fails.

## Presenter Preparation

- Convention presentation is not a required element of the Sledge/Benedict, Gaston/Nolle, or Pryor/Freeman/Organ national scholarship competitions. However, *regional* scholarships and prizes may have similar sounding names but different rules. Consult your region for its requirements.
- The total number of presenters per chapter isn't limited, but each student is limited to one presentation. If you're presenting on a Student Collaborative Research Project team, you may make one other regular presentation, but it must be in a different field or cover different material than your part in the collaborative project.
- You won't submit your entire presentation when you register. You'll be asked for your presentation title and a description designed to help our program director verify your proper field and optimize your program placement; that description will not be included in the program. Your title, academic field, and college are usually all that are listed in the program to help people select what they wish to attend, so consider your title thoughtfully. Use proper title case and punctuation and select the most applicable discipline and presentation type.
- You'll also be asked for a 1-sentence "sales pitch" to advertise your presentation in an engaging way. If it is clear and concise, we hope to include those in the event app this year.
- The program director will contact you by phone or email if there are questions. **Please respond quickly to any communication from the national office regarding your program placement.**



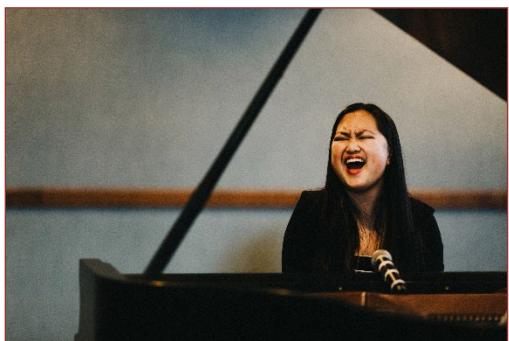
## Audio-Visual Equipment Provided by Alpha Chi

Each presentation room will be supplied with an LCD projector & screen package, a laptop, and an easel board for affixing a poster. A piano (or professional electronic piano/keyboard), music stand, and audio equipment will also be available in the room assigned for performing arts presentations.

Alpha Chi will contact registered presenters by email or phone 2-3 weeks before the convention with any last-minute details. Once the program is ready, an email notification will be sent to all delegates and the program posted on the conventions page at [AlphaChiHonor.org](http://AlphaChiHonor.org).

## Varieties of Presentations: Performance, Poster, PowerPoint

**Performances:** A good performance presentation should include a discussion of the academics and/or process behind the piece performed. Discussions of creative presentations should help non-specialists understand the craft present in the work. These presenters may use PowerPoint, if so desired. Upon check-in at AX Central on Thursday, musicians, dancers, or other presenters who may need to practice/warm-up may arrange a practice time and place.



**Posters:** Students wishing to present a poster will do so as part of an oral presentation in a regular, timed slot on Friday or Saturday. During the intermission interval before a presentation, your poster may be affixed using binder clips and removed from

the easel board immediately after your presentation. Poster presenters may invite the audience to assemble around their poster if that is their preference. Remember that a poster is a visual communications tool. Since you will be presenting it live, do not include a great amount of small text, as you will be able to present the material orally as well. Posters should be 4' x 3' (landscape). *Poster Tips:* [www.ncsu.edu/project/posters](http://www.ncsu.edu/project/posters)



**PowerPoint Presentations** should be compatible with the most recent version of Microsoft PowerPoint and brought on USB drive. ***You must bring your presentation to the convention yourself on a USB drive. The national office will not be collecting and loading presentations this year.*** Most of your audience will be at least 10 feet away from the screen, so plan your fonts accordingly. Due to the tightly timed presentation schedule, we suggest you bring an extra copy of your media and a printed copy of your slides for your own use in case technical issues arise during your session.

**Visual Art PowerPoints:** Visual art presenters are asked to prepare a PowerPoint for presentation during a regular, timed presentation section this year. Do not bring your original artwork. Include a description of each piece with its title, medium, dimensions (H" x W" x D"), and year created.

## Presentation Prizes

Each presenter is eligible for one of the endowed \$100 convention presentation prizes announced on the final day of the convention! See the list of prizes on the Convention Presentation Prize page along with the competition details.



## Convention Presentation Prizes

Student and alumni members are encouraged to make a presentation of the work they are doing in their academic major. Each presenter is eligible for a \$100 convention presentation prize announced on the final day of the convention! Alpha Chi has been graciously supported in recent years by many friends and colleagues. [Learn about the wonderful people for whom these prizes are named!](#)

Much of the programming of Alpha Chi conventions is student members and alumni presenting scholarly and creative work in their own academic fields to multidisciplinary audiences of their peers and faculty advisors. In the span of two days, anywhere from 200 to 300 members can present their work—many presenting on a national level for the first time. It's an invaluable experience and one that we're proud to claim sets Alpha Chi apart from many other honor societies. Having these prizes adds a buzz of excitement to the convention's closing gala!

Alumni members and graduate student members may present in one of the disciplines listed below, but they are not eligible to compete for the discipline-specific prizes. Alumni members will compete for the Dennis M. Organ Alumni Member Prize, and graduate student members will compete for the Suzanne and J.T. Pundt Graduate Student Member Prize. One of each prize will be given.

<b>American History</b>	<b>Exercise Science &amp; Nutrition</b>
<b>American Literature</b>	<b>Geology &amp; Earth Sciences</b>
<b>Anthropology &amp; Sociology</b>	<b>Health Sciences</b>
<b>Art/Music/Dance Research</b>	<b>Mathematics</b>
<b>British Literature</b>	<b>Molecular &amp; Cellular Biology</b>
<b>Business Management</b>	<b>Organismal &amp; Ecological Biology</b>
<b>Chemistry</b>	<b>Performing Arts</b>
<b>Communication</b>	<b>Philosophy &amp; Religion</b>
<b>Computer Science &amp; Engineering</b>	<b>Physics &amp; Astronomy</b>
<b>Contemporary Bioethical Issues</b>	<b>Political Science</b>
<b>Creative Writing (fiction/non-fiction)</b>	<b>Psychology</b>
<b>Creative Writing (poetry)</b>	<b>Shakespeare</b>
<b>Economics</b>	<b>Visual Art (original)</b>
<b>Education</b>	<b>World History</b>
<b>Environmental Science</b>	<b>World Literature</b>

If you need assistance knowing which category to select, feel free to contact the national office for guidance.



## Alpha Chi's 2023-24 National Service Initiative

# SOCK-IT-TO-ME SOCK DRIVE

## to sock it to

[Collins Dictionary](#)

**PHRASE** [VERB inflects, PHRASE noun]

If someone **socks it to** another person, they do or say something that makes a great impression on them.

[journalism, informal]

*Come on, lads. Sock it to 'em.*



All Alpha Chi chapters are invited to participate in this year's national service initiative. This year, chapters are asked to collect new socks and donate them to individuals in need. This can be on the local, regional, national, or even global scale. Your chapter does not need to be attending the national convention in order to participate in the service project.

## Why collect socks as a national service initiative?

For Alpha Chi, scholarship does not reflect a stand-alone value. Rather, it is a pathway toward leadership that makes a difference in the world. A difference that is needed and called for just as those in Birmingham saw a need and found ways to meet it. Among other things, social justice is recognizing unmet needs and disparate access to resources.

You might be asking, what does this have to do with socks? There are many reasons people experience homelessness around the world today—from poverty and violence to natural disasters. Something that is desperately needed, particularly by those adults and children who find themselves without homes, is socks. So Alpha Chi is going to gather and distribute socks globally, regionally, and locally in our first *Sock-It-To-Me Sock Drive*.

Doing any or all of the things listed in the attached criteria can put your chapter on the path to being a champion *Sock-It-To-Me Alpha Chi Chapter*! As a bonus, if your chapter wants to compete to win one of a few GIANT Alpha Chi socks, the rules of the competition are below.

***Participation in the competition is not required. Chapters are welcome to donate socks without entering the competition.***

### Sock Facts

[How can a clean pair of socks affect someone's life?](#)

[As winter arrives, socks become essential.](#)

[A better world begins with a pair of socks.](#)

## How do we collect sock donations?

- Host a campus new sock drive! Place boxes around campus in high-traffic areas with signage asking others to donate socks. Make an announcement in your campus message boards to let everyone know about the sock drive. Use our [poster template](#) to create signs for the collection on your campus.
- If you can pre-determine where your socks are going to be donated, check with that organization to see if they have helpful information on preferred sizing or sock styles.
- Host a fundraiser and use the funds to purchase socks that can be donated.

## Where can we donate our socks?

Choose one or more of the following areas of need. Regardless of which option you choose, get to know something about the organization you donate to and learn something about the circumstances of those who receive the socks.

1. Donate to an area of need abroad—a place where famine, natural disaster, or other catastrophic events have displaced people.
2. Donate to an area of need in your region or state.
3. Donate to an area of need in the community around your college/university—a marginalized community such as a homelessness shelter, a mental health organization, or a veterans' charity.
4. Send socks to an organization in Birmingham that assists individuals experiencing homelessness. We've located three great organizations:
  - a. [Firehouse Shelter](#) (serves men experiencing homelessness)
  - b. [YWCA My Sister's Closet](#) (serves women and girls experiencing homelessness & escaping domestic violence)
  - c. [Greater Birmingham Ministries \(provides emergency services while building an engaged community\)](#)

## Sock-It-To-Me Chapter Competition

All Alpha Chi chapters participating in this year's National Service Initiative are invited (but not required) to compete in the Sock-it-to-Me Chapter Competition, where we will award the top Sock-It-To-Me chapters. The winning chapters will each receive a prize! Chapters do not need to be present at the convention to win.

**Step One:** Write a narrative about your chapter's choice for donating their collected socks. The narrative should be no more than one page and should include:

1. Reasoning and rationale for why the chapter chose to donate where and how they did.
2. Explanation of how this sock drive is indicative of Alpha Chi's value and role.
3. Explanation of how this project ties in with the themes of allies, social justice, and leadership.
4. Bonus points will be awarded for the most fun or bizarre fact about socks.

**Step Two:** Submit your narrative to the Convention Committee [via this Google Form](#) no later than March 1, 2024, so the Convention Committee can review it ahead of the National Convention.

If you have any questions, contact [office@alphachihonor.org](mailto:office@alphachihonor.org).

***Happy Sock Drive!***