

Join us!

THE ALPHA CHI

National Convention

Alpha Chi's signature event is a three-day multidisciplinary conference that brings together the best student scholars from across the country to share their original work, often for the first time.



#AXRocks! — April 4-6, 2019

Alpha Chi National Convention in Cleveland, Ohio

Hilton Cleveland Downtown, 100 Lakeside Avenue East, Cleveland, OH 44114

Alpha Chi's 2019 convention will feature up to 300 student presentations, inspirational talks from two very successful medical professionals, Dr. U. Shivraj Sohur and Dr. Raymond P. Onders, ideas for chapter life, and a plethora of exciting awards. In the middle of that, there's an afternoon free for sightseeing on your own. Events begin on Thursday afternoon and wrap up on Saturday night with the closing gala and awards ceremony.

Chapter Registration: Starting mid-January, each chapter can pre-register its delegation via the Registration tab on the Conventions page online. All convention registration fees can be paid by credit card or check. Once pre-registered, all changes to your delegation will need to be made by phone or email to the National Office. (This registration includes registering students in Shared Doubles.)

Registration Fees: \$83.83 per Alpha Chi student and/or sponsor delegate for badge access to all sessions and meal events; \$159 for an all-access guest badge; \$67 each for an opening dinner or closing dinner guest pass. Guest passes may still be available for purchase after March 15, but please call the office for availability.

Hilton Information: The AX room rate is \$169 (with tax about \$197) for 1-4 people per night for a king or double-queen room. To reserve rooms (other than Shared Doubles), call the Hilton Cleveland Downtown at 216-413-5000 and mention you're with the Alpha Chi conference. Hilton check-in is at 3 p.m.; check-out at noon. Guestroom wi-fi, indoor pool, and fitness center are complimentary. The special valet parking rate is \$25 per car, per night. Late cancellations/early departures will be handled according to hotel policy.

While Alpha Chi's room rate and block are available through March 1, don't wait until March to book your rooms. Alpha Chi does not get unlimited access to a hotel's entire guestroom inventory, so it's always a 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 and/or provide guest details.

Shared Doubles Program: The national office will gladly arrange housing for undergrads who would otherwise have to stay in a room to themselves. The Shared Doubles Program will pair one female and/or one male undergrad from your chapter with another to share a double room for \$98.44 per night (where each gets his/her own bed). Shared Double requests must be received and pre-paid to the national office by Feb. 15. Due to the nature of this program, these arrangements are nonrefundable after Mar. 1.

Student Presentations: From mid-January to February 15, **students must submit their own presentation information** via an online method we'll communicate in January. Prizes of \$100 will be given in at least 28 academic categories (details on separate pages).

Deadlines: Feb. 15 is the deadline for convention pre-registration and fee payments, student presentation entries, and Shared Doubles reservations. The deadline to request a registration fee refund is Mar. 15. (Shared Doubles nonrefundable after Mar. 1)

Ground Transportation: On a recent trip, it was a 15-minute cab ride in light traffic. There are about five taxi companies, and both Lyft and Uber operate in Cleveland. Our Hilton is on Lakeside Avenue; be sure your driver is taking you to the correct Hilton. You can also look into Cleveland's Rapid Transit Authority at <http://www.riderta.com> for bus info.

Questions? Call 800.477.4225

Tentative 2019 Convention Schedule



This tentative schedule provides an overview of the 2019 national convention. Ideally, your delegation will check in at the Hilton between 3 and 5 p.m., Thursday, staying until the closing gala is over on Saturday evening. Notice where you'll have free time for outings and meals with other delegates. A final, detailed program will be released online in March.

As you read through this packet, you may notice we're non-specific about the exact timing of student presentations on Friday and Saturday. Be aware that our presentation intervals are fluid, based on room space and the number of presentations we receive. The exact number of minutes each presenter will be given has not been finalized and could be anywhere from 12 to 15 minutes. Below we've based our schedule on a 20-minute presentation interval, but this could change for the factors above.

Thursday, April 4

- 3:00 p.m. Cleveland Hilton Downtown guestroom check-in
- 3:00-6:00 p.m. AX Central for chapter delegation check-in
- 3:00-6:00 p.m. Poster forum presenters hang posters
- 6:00-7:15 p.m. **#AXRocks Cleveland: An Opening Celebration**
All delegate dinner (open seating) with address by 2019 Alpha Chi Distinguished Alumnus U. Shivraj Sohur, MD, PhD, with introduction by the Texas Alpha Iota chapter at Angelo State University
- 7:15 p.m. Mandatory session for section moderators & presentation judges
- 8:00-10:00 p.m. Research & Creativity Forum

Friday, April 5

- 6:30-7:15 a.m. Beginners' yoga or guided meditation session (BYO gear)
- 8:00-9:20 a.m. **Student Presentations**
Up to 14 concurrent sections of student presentations grouped into rooms by academic discipline.
- 9:30-10:30 a.m. **Regional Meetings with light breakfast & coffee** (odd-numbered regions elect new student reps)
- 10:40-11:15 a.m. **All-Delegate Session: National & Regional Election Results** (and run-offs, if needed)
- 11:30-12:30 p.m. **Student Presentations**
Up to 14 concurrent sections of student presentations grouped into rooms by academic discipline.
- 12:30 p.m. Own Your Own Lunch & Independent Sightseeing
Reading Is Fundamental Service Event
CityAsText Excursion Groups
- 10:00-11:00 p.m. Open Mic Night

Saturday, April 6

- 6:30-7:10 a.m. **Beginners' yoga or guided meditation session** (BYO gear)
- 7:45-8:50 a.m. **Regional Meetings with light breakfast & coffee**
- 9:00-10:20 a.m. **Student Presentations**
Up to 14 concurrent sections of student presentations grouped into rooms by academic discipline.
- 10:30-11:20 a.m. **Chapter-Strengthening Sessions**
All delegates are asked to attend one of the several chapter workshops offered. It's suggested that chapter with multiple delegates should split up to attend as many sessions as possible. If your chapter might be interested in leading a session, contact the national office before winter break.
- 11:30-12:30 p.m. **Student Presentations**
Up to 14 concurrent sections of student presentations grouped into rooms by academic discipline.
- 12:30 p.m. **Lunch Break** (delegates on their own)
- 2:00-3:20 p.m. **Student Presentations**
Up to 14 concurrent sections of student presentations grouped into rooms by academic discipline.
- 3:30-4:50 p.m. **Student Presentations**
Up to 14 concurrent sections of student presentations grouped into rooms by academic discipline.
- 5:30-7:30 p.m. **2019 Alpha Chi Hall of Fame Gala**
The convention will culminate with a dinner banquet and address from Raymond P. Onders, MD, FACS, of University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center. Following a brief Q&A session with Dr. Onders, Alpha Chi will announce a trove of chapter and member awards, scholarships, and prizes, with the President's Cup for Outstanding Chapter of the Year being the grand finale! (Winners of prizes will most likely be photographed during the awarding session or immediately after.)

If checking out of the hotel on Saturday, remember the Hilton's check-out time is at noon.

Travel & Housing Grants for 2019 Convention Participation



We want you and your students to attend the National Convention in Cleveland—here are the ways Alpha Chi financially supports your delegation's participation!

National Travel Grants

\$500 or \$1,000 chap. max.

For one sponsor delegate, one student delegate (presenting or not presenting on the program), and up to three additional student presenters*, chapters will receive grants as follows:

For chapters driving to the convention, the travel grant per delegate listed above will be \$100.

For chapters flying to the convention, the travel grant per delegate listed above will be \$200.

**A travel-granted student presenter must present his or her own poster or timed presentation. If your chapter sends 3 students to make 1 regular, timed presentation, only one of those students can receive the travel grant. The only exception to this is for presenters on a Collaborative Research Competition team.*

National Housing Grants

\$300 chap. max.

\$50 each per night (for up to three nights) for the voting sponsor delegate and the voting student delegate. The only subsidized nights are Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights.

To be eligible for these grants, a delegate must:

- be an official chapter sponsor or a current AX member still enrolled at the institution requesting the grant and be registered for the convention by the deadline;
- lodge at the convention hotel (Hilton Cleveland Downtown)**;
- participate in a chapter-strengthening session on Saturday; and
- attend the entire convention.

**The use of online reservation services such as Expedia will exclude you from Alpha Chi's contracted room block. Hotel reservations should be made directly with the hotel or, in case of the Shared Doubles, directly with Alpha Chi. If you have questions about housing, please contact the national office at office@alphachihonor.org.

To receive this grant money, the chapter must complete and return the official grant request form that will be in its registration packet at convention check-in. Completed forms may be returned to AX Central no sooner than Saturday at 5 p.m. (Forms will be verified and checks mailed within 30 days of the convention.)

Additional Grants by Region

Alpha Chi is divided into seven geographic regions. Delegates will need to attend the two regional meetings held during the convention to pick up regional grant request forms. For questions about these, please contact your Secretary-Treasurer. [Note: The national office will handle grant disbursement for Regions IV and VII which have closed out their regional treasuries.]

- Region I** \$500 for the first two delegates (sponsor or student), and \$250 per delegate for up to 3 more delegates (\$1,750 chapter max.)
- Region II** \$200 each for the chapter sponsor, \$250 for the voting student delegate, and \$100 each for up to three additional student presenters (\$750 chapter max.)
- Region III** \$500 each for one chapter sponsor and one voting student delegate, and \$150 for each additional student making a presentation (\$2,350 chapter max.)
- Region IV** \$225 each for one chapter sponsor and one student presenter; \$100 for any other presenting student or \$50 each for any student not presenting (\$750 chapter max.)
- Region V** \$200 each for one chapter sponsor and one presenting student, and \$100 each for each additional delegate (sponsor or student, presenting or not) (\$800 max.)
- Region VI** \$750 each for one chapter sponsor and one student delegate (\$1,500 chapter max.)
- Region VII** \$300 each for one chapter sponsor and one student presenter; \$150 for any other presenting student or \$75 for any student not presenting (\$1,040 chapter max.) Chapters from Hawaii can request up to \$200 each for one sponsor and one student presenter, based on remaining, documented expenses.



Guaranteed Shared Doubles Housing Program

Convention housing is more cost-effective when you can fill hotel rooms. If your delegation can't fill a room with 2-4 undergrads on its own, let the national office help with its room-sharing program.

The national office will facilitate shared doubles again this year.

Suppose your chapter is bringing 5 male undergraduates to the convention. Whether you fill 1 room with 4 males or 2 rooms with 2 males each, you'd still have 1 male without housing. If so, you can register him in a Shared Double during online registration by pre-paying his 1/2 of the room rate when you pay your convention registration fees. The national office will assign him to a room with another male undergrad from another college.

A Shared Double differs from a room reservation you make yourself because the national office works directly with the Hilton on these. Having them pre-paid allows Alpha Chi to guarantee your chapter pays for only one-half of the room—even if we don't find another student to share/pay for the other half of the room or if the assigned roommate fails to attend the convention. At the hotel, these students will check in with their photo ID and confirmation number and should not have to provide a credit card for incidentals, as Alpha Chi is guaranteeing these rooms, in trust, for the convenience of your chapter.

Do NOT register a student for a Shared Double before getting his or her consent to the following parameters:

- 1) The national office will assign two undergraduates of the same gender to one non-smoking room with two full-sized beds and reserves the right to make changes.
- 2) Incidentals such as phone calls, laundry service, in-room dining, movies, or games, etc., may NOT be charged to these rooms. If a charge appears, the student's chapter will be held responsible for reimbursing the national office (which may be handled by reducing the convention attendance grants awarded to the chapter).
- 3) When checking in at the hotel, please remind the reservations agent that your reservation is for a "double-double" room. You should also ask whether or not your roommate has checked in, and be sure that you get your own room key.
- 4) Room swapping is not allowed unless an Alpha Chi meeting planner (via AX Central) is notified in advance.
- 5) Be courteous and accommodating. Do not invite anyone to your room unless you have permission from your roommate in advance.

Hilton check-in time is at 3 p.m., and check-out is at 12 p.m. Once a student is sure that no incidentals have been mistakenly charged to the room, they're ready to go. If for some reason there is a billing dispute or issue at check-in or check-out, ask the hotel staff to phone an AX meeting planner.

Graduate students may not be placed in the Shared Doubles program.

Requests for refunds or changes to Shared Doubles will be accommodated through Mar. 1.

Student Presentations

Student presentations are the centerpiece of every Alpha Chi convention; in fact, this focus on students distinguishes us from other honor societies. Here are a few benefits of presenting:

- Gain valuable presentation experience with a small, receptive audience of 20-40 people.
- Field questions from interested peers and faculty.
- Be eligible for a presentation prize.
- Add an excellent resume enhancement.



Please uphold Alpha Chi's high standards of scholarship:

- Dress and behave professionally; follow the convention guidelines.
- Be sure your presentation fits comfortably within the time limit. (*most likely 12 minutes, followed by a mandatory 3-minute question/answer period*)
- Remember this is a presentation, not just a manuscript reading.
- Practice (preferably before an audience), so your presentation is smooth and audio-visuals well integrated.

Vital Information for Student Presenters

- 1) **The deadline for registering your presentation online is February 15.** Whether for a timed session or as a poster in the Research & Creativity Forum, students will submit their presentation entries online directly to the national office. You will not submit your entire presentation when you register—just a title and a brief description (to aid in proper field and program placement). **Consider your title thoughtfully, as your title and academic field are all that other delegates will see when deciding which presentations to attend.** Use proper grammar and punctuation, and select the most applicable discipline and presentation type.
- 2) **You may either participate in the Research & Creativity Forum OR give a timed presentation.** The total number of presenters per chapter is unlimited, but each student is limited to **one** regular presentation. If you are presenting as part of 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, and you will be ineligible for a \$100 student presentation prize in that field.
- 3) Each presenter may select **one** of the audio-visual options displayed on the entry form. Please do not request other accommodations.
- 4) **PowerPoint Presentations:** All presentations should be compatible with the most recent version of Microsoft PowerPoint. Alpha Chi will contact you by email two weeks before the convention with a method for getting your presentation to the National Office electronically. 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.
- 5) **Music/Drama Presentations:** Most musical and dramatic performance presentations will be grouped together in a room with a piano, music stand, and audio equipment. At check-in musicians may check with someone at AX Central to arrange a practice time and place.
- 6) **Posters:** An academic research poster and creativity forum will be held on Thursday evening. This forum will be a poster session format (with only informal oral presentation). See the separate, detailed guidelines for these submissions. Students wishing to include a poster as part of an oral presentation in a regular, timed slot on Friday or Saturday must display the poster via PowerPoint slides instead of bringing a physical poster.
- 7) **Visual Art Presentations:** Each artist may submit printed images of up to five works for exhibition. Each art presenter will be provided with a 4' x 4' section of poster display wall on which to arrange their images. See the separate, detailed guidelines for these submissions. Do not bring original artwork.
- 8) **Presentation is not a required element of the Sledge/Benedict or Gaston/Nolle national scholarship competitions. Regional scholarships are distinct from national scholarships and presentation prizes; contact a regional officer for questions regarding their scholarships.**
- 9) Once the program has gone to press, an email notification will be sent to all delegates and the program posted on the conventions page at www.AlphaChiHonor.org.

Alpha Chi Research & Creativity Forum



Alpha Chi looks forward to displaying the academic and creative work of its members! On Thursday evening as the convention gets underway, delegates will attend the Research & Creativity Forum, where they can peruse the displays and engage in discussion with the presenters of academic posters and exhibitors in the visual arts.

Academic Poster Guidelines

The poster format allows you to visually present the findings of your research. *You may present in the Research & Creativity Forum OR give a timed presentation. You may not do both.*

1. Via the link on the Conventions page at www.alphachihonor.org, submit your presentation information to the National Office no later than February 15. The online form will ask for an original title and a brief description of your poster.
2. To make certain your poster communicates most effectively to all viewers, including the convention presentation prize judges, follow the criteria below:
 - Your poster must match the title and description you already submitted online.
 - Your poster must fit within a 4' x 4' square of poster wall space.
 - Your poster must hang by 4 push-pins that will be provided (no glue, nails, staples, or tape will be allowed on the walls). The area will not be equipped with tables or easels for displaying posters, nor will AV be available. Please do not ask for exceptions to these accommodations.
3. Hang your poster on Thursday by no later than 6:00 p.m.
4. Plan to stand by your poster for the entirety of Thursday evening's forum to answer questions and meet with the judges. If we're able to assign specific judging times this year, you will be contacted by email before the convention begins.
5. If you wish, bring handouts of your research findings, including your contact information, to distribute to interested viewers.
6. It may be possible for your poster to remain on display through Friday. We will let you know about this by email closer to the convention dates. Alpha Chi doesn't guarantee the security or return of posters or poster tubes left after the closing ceremonies.

Tips: An effective poster

- includes a banner identifying title, author(s), and institutional affiliation;
- is composed in a font viewable from a distance of several feet;
- guides viewers from top left to bottom right, providing at least overview, introduction, methods, results, conclusion, and funding source; and
- balances high-quality images, succinct text, and white space for visual appeal.

For those wanting additional preparation assistance, this site will walk you through the process, including step-by-step instructions for preparing a slide in PowerPoint for printing: <http://www.ncsu.edu/project/posters>.

Visual Art Exhibit Guidelines

Your exhibit of images and information must be able to hang from push pins on a 4' x 4' square of poster display-wall space on which to arrange your items. The area will not be equipped with tables or easels, nor will electricity or AV be available; requests for these items will not be accommodated. Only students attending the convention may submit artwork. Do not bring original artwork.

1. Via the link on the Conventions page at www.alphachihonor.org, submit your presentation information to the National Office no later than February 15. The online form will ask for an original title and a 2-sentence description of your exhibit.
2. To make certain your exhibit communicates most effectively to all viewers, including the convention presentation prize judges, your exhibit should include:
 - a) A header banner of some sort that lists your name, college/university, your classification as an undergraduate or graduate student, and the overall title of your presentation (as submitted for the program).
 - b) High-quality, printed images of up to five (5) original works. Three-dimensional works (and only 3D works) may have two (2) views.
 - c) One 3" x 5" card per submitted piece that lists the following information:
 - Title
 - Medium
 - Dimensions (H" x W" x D")
 - Year Created
3. Hang your exhibit on Thursday by no later than 6:00 p.m. (push-pins only; no glue, nails, staples, or tape will be allowed on the walls).
4. Plan to stand by your poster for the majority of Thursday evening's forum to answer questions and meet with the judges. If we're able to assign specific judging times this year, you will be contacted by email before the convention begins.
5. It may be possible for your exhibit to remain on display through Friday. We will let you know about this by email closer to the convention dates. Alpha Chi doesn't guarantee the security or return of exhibits left after the closing ceremonies.

If you have questions regarding either set of instructions, please contact Alpha Chi's national office at 800-477-4225 or office@alphachihonor.org.

Guidelines for Timed Student Presentation Sessions

To enhance everyone's convention experience, Alpha Chi encourages all attendees to observe the following rules of meeting etiquette, especially during student presentations. Remember, most of the students you'll meet this week are on the program.

All Attendees:

- Please refrain from interrupting a student presentation already in progress. Enter and leave a presentation room only during the brief break between presentations. You may quietly leave at that time to get to a presentation in another room.
- Even though the doors should be closed during each presentation, while waiting outside a room for the next presentation or walking past a session in progress, please be as quiet as possible.
- Be a patient and pleasant audience member. If given the chance to offer feedback or ask a question, do so in a respectful and constructive manner.

Section Moderators:

- Make sure you know how many sections you're moderating. For each section, arrive at your room early enough to meet those student presenters to confirm their presence.
- Make sure the judges are present with their personalized judging forms. If a judge fails to appear, please note that on the envelope used for your presenter certificates, and bring it to AX Central after the section ends.
- Moderators, presenters should be asked to identify themselves to begin their presentation.
- Use a timepiece such as a watch or cell phone to keep the program on its timed schedule. Each presentation will end with a mandatory three (3) minutes of audience/judge questions.
- If there's a gap in the program because of a no-show, wait until the next scheduled presentation. We must keep to the schedule in the program.
- Present each student with his or her certificate of appreciation immediately after his or her presentation; do not hold them until the end of the entire section.
- If there are no-shows leaving unclaimed presenter certificates, missing certificates, or certificates that need to be reprinted due to error, return them in the envelope to AX Central, noting the nature of the error. Reprints will be mailed directly to the presenter after the convention.

Student Presenters:

- Please wear business professional attire.
- Regardless of your order in the section, arrive before the start of the section and identify yourself to the Section Moderator.
- As a courtesy to your fellow presenters in your section, we ask you to remain present for your entire section.
- You must stay within the posted time limit for your presentation, or the moderator will stop you. Your presentation will end with a final three (3) minutes of mandatory Q&A.
- Be prepared in case of technical problems with equipment; have a backup plan that will allow you to proceed if the technology fails.



Student Presentation Prizes

Don't forget to tell your students about this feature of the convention! Encourage them to make a great presentation so they'll be eligible for one of the \$100 convention presentation prizes announced on the final day of the convention!

When students complete the online presentation entry form, they will be asked to specify the academic field that best suits their presentation. The exact title and a description of the actual presentation are what we need to organize the presentations into their most appropriate place on the program. Please advise your delegates to give careful thought to their presentation description as this is all we'll have to go on. (Students will need to respond quickly to communication from the national office regarding program placement.)

A prize will be awarded in each category where there are 3 or more presentations to ensure the quality of competition. Encourage students to present a poster or make a presentation that matches a discipline below; they may need assistance knowing which category to select from the drop-down menu. Feel free to have them contact the national office for guidance.

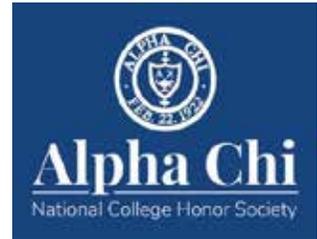
Students must be undergraduates this school year to be eligible for the prizes above. However, we welcome and encourage presentations by graduate students and alumni members, and at least one overall prize will be given for a presentation from this group, regardless of academic field.

American History
American Literature
Anthropology and Sociology
Art/Music/Dance Research
British Literature
Business Administration
Chemistry
Communication
Computer Science/Engineering
Contemporary Bioethical Issues
Creative Writing
Economics
Education
Environmental Science
Exercise Science and Nutrition

Geology/Earth Sciences
Health Sciences
Mathematics
Molecular/Cellular Biology
Organismal/Ecological Biology
Performing Arts
Physics/Astronomy
Political Science
Psychology
Religion & Philosophy
Shakespeare
Visual Art (original)
World History
World Literature

NOTE: Students presenting as part of a Student Collaborative Research Project team may also make a regular presentation of their own, but it must be in a different field or cover different material than their part in the collaborative project, and they will not be eligible for one of these \$100 student presentation prizes.

Sponsors, we'll need you and hope you're ready to be called upon as a session judge or moderator.



2019 National Service Emphasis

Alpha Chi strives to work with different organizations annually to reach local communities. This year we're proud to partner with Reading is Fundamental (RIF) for a national literacy drive leading up to the 2019 National Convention in Cleveland, Ohio, April 4-6. We're excited to work together to donate, collect, and distribute age-appropriate books (grades K-3) to selected high-need elementary school(s) in our host convention city. Expanding the desire to read and acquire knowledge are visions of both Alpha Chi and RIF. Together, we can make a local literacy impact in communities nationwide!

While you don't have to attend the convention to participate, those arriving in Cleveland on April 4 can visit the Alpha Chi welcome table in the Cleveland Hilton Downtown to drop off books, chapter-raised funds, or to make individual donations. As an incentive for donating at least 2 new, age-appropriate books or at least \$15 per person, those supporting the service project will receive a one-of-a-kind "scholarship and service" t-shirt.

Another awesome opportunity will be on Friday, April 5, when Alpha Chi members and a representative of RIF make a trip to visit the selected school to present the books and host a reading session with the kids. Spots are limited and on a first-come, first-served basis; sign up in advance of the convention by contacting the national office.

Get your chapter involved to help Alpha Chi raise \$2,500 by April 1 with these easy resources:

Use this special URL, www.rif.org/alpha-chi, to ask for donations in support of RIF's mission. Be sure to ask your donors to select the "yes" box to dedicate their gift and list your Alpha Chi chapter name (i.e. Iowa Beta) on the "tribute" line. At the end of March, Alpha Chi will get a report of the donations made in each chapter's name. The first chapter to raise \$500 will win up to 20 Alpha Chi swag bags for chapter members.

Ways to Be Involved All Year

- Donate new books to the RIF/Alpha Chi national literacy drive (grade levels K to 3rd). Your chapter might plan and host a local book donation station each semester. If you're coming to the convention, send or bring the books to Cleveland! If you're unable to get to the convention, find a RIF school or other deserving group near you.
- Spread the word about Alpha Chi and RIF's partnership to address the nation's alarming literacy crisis. Leverage your social media channels to support the RIF-Alpha Chi book drive, generate greater awareness of the RIF mission, and grow exposure of our partnership and impact together.
- "Adopt" a Local School: You can impact children's literacy in your community as well by partnering with a local school. Supporting literacy can take many forms including: [reading aloud](#) to students, [incorporating fun and engaging activities](#) from RIF's [Literacy Central](#), and sharing RIF resources with your partner school.
- Look for opportunities to call on your partners to join you to give and explore arranging a local fundraising event to benefit RIF. You can check out RIF's tip sheet [here](#).

Sample Social Media Messages #AX4RIF

"Join us as we raise \$2,500 to support Reading Is Fundamental by April 1. With your support, RIF will be able to help fill home libraries with books that will set students on a path toward a love of reading and a lifetime of opportunity. Give at www.rif.org/alpha-chi."

"Join us for Back to School/the Holiday Season/the New Year/National Reading Month (*customize the occasion*). We're calling on our friends to help us as we work with RIF to build the home libraries of students and help them open doors to life through literacy. Every \$100 raised will help support RIF's efforts to put books into the hands and homes of children. Give at www.rif.org/alpha-chi."

"34% of children entering kindergarten lack the basic skills needed to learn how to read. Join Alpha Chi as we support RIF to address the nation's literacy crisis. Give at www.rif.org/alpha-chi."

"Did you know 64% of fourth-graders do not read proficiently? Alpha Chi and RIF are joining forces to support children in communities nationwide. Give at www.rif.org/alpha-chi."

Cleveland: City as Text™ Exploration

Participants will receive a map and further instructions at the City as Text™ meeting on Friday afternoon during the Alpha Chi National Convention in Cleveland, April 4-6, 2019. This activity is being planned and led by Dr. Teddi DeKa, a member of the National Council's convention committee. Following the convention registration deadline, there will be a call for interest to help us get a tentative head count.



City as Text™ is a program developed in the 1970s by Bernice Braid to explore a city. The exploration involves four strategies of Mapping, Observing, Listening, and Reflecting. You will choose one of four visit sites to explore in small groups, using public transportation, grabbing lunch along the way, and talking to the people who live or work there. You will reconvene at the hotel afterward to discuss your findings with others who went on your exploration, as well as those who went to the other sites. We will come together to discuss the “vibe” of the city, including its people, triumphs, difficulties, and mood.

Mapping: Look at buildings, activity, and transportation. Create a mental map of the area. How are buildings used? What is traffic like? How do people use the space? How do they get there?

Observing: Look for the expected and unexpected. What is old, new? How do people dress? Who seems to belong there? Who talks to whom? How do the people feel in the area?

Listening: Talk to as many people as you can. What matters to them? What do they enjoy? Who works there? Who lives there? How do people find jobs there? What does it cost to live there? Where do they eat? What languages do they speak?

Reflecting: The people, buildings recreation, and transportation are important components of the city. What do the people here see? How do they use these resources? You will be reflecting personally, with your small group, and within the larger group.

[These descriptions were developed from Long, A. (2014). *Writing on your feet: Reflective practices in City as Text™*. Lincoln, NE: National Collegiate Honors Council.]

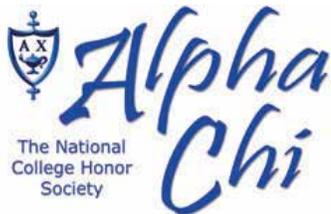
Neighborhoods to choose from:

The Warehouse District is best described as transforming. Once a residential area, it became a hub of business activity in the early 20th century. In the 1980s it fell to disrepair and is now receiving its due as a hip and lively place to spend the day and evenings. Classic buildings and warehouse rehabs fill the neighborhood.

The Arcades are indoor shopping spaces. Cleveland is the home to the oldest arcade in the U.S., completed in the 1890s and funded by John Rockefeller. There are two other hidden arcades that house new growth including local retailers along with a hoppin' social scene nearby. If you enjoy local wares, this exploration is for you!

Public Square, founded as a public park uninterrupted by intersecting streets in 1796 by Moses Cleveland's surveying party, underwent a \$50 million renovation. The area contains monuments, public spaces, fountains, and also voices of protest, a historic church, the Terminal Tower, and a casino using the old massive department store spaces. This square was used in the Christmas shopping scene from “A Christmas Story.” Have fun exploring!

The West Side Market opened in 1912 and still highlights the ethnic diversity of the city's many immigrants. Food abounds and locals and tourists alike flock to the market. Food Network Magazine named it as America's best food lover's market in 2010. It has been featured on the Food Network and Travel Channel. See this great market for yourself!



Student Collaborative Research Project 2019 Competition

Lines of Identity, Polarizing Perspectives, and Civil Discourse

Each year Alpha Chi invites collaborative research projects from student researchers, and this year's topic invites an endless number of ideas. Each campus team will develop a focused topic, depending on the majors and research interests of the team members, which allows for both secondary and original research. The best projects are those with clearly divergent disciplines that integrate around a common goal rather than tacking several different projects together—collaborative rather than segmented—with the work effort shared in a balanced way across the team's membership. The paper needs to be scholarly and delivered in a common voice. During the presentation, extemporaneous speaking is preferred, as the judges and audience will have the opportunity to make comments and ask questions.

Here are just a few possibilities illustrating the diversity of topics that could emerge:

- A study of how the use of classical rhetoric during a political struggle in the 1st century matches (or doesn't match) rhetorical strategies during political conflict in a 21st-century controversy—combining history, literature, and political science majors.
- A project combining sociological insights about what triggers violence with a study of marketing and advertising campaigns that may or may not overlap with those triggers.
- A political science project that combines game theory from mathematics and computer science publications to determine the likelihood that online polarization in a country is "home grown" or a result of external manipulation.
- A financial study looking at the projected costs to deal with various environmental disasters affecting a minority ethnic group—along with the likely economic sacrifices of doing so for a particular nation-state or an impoverished region.
- A project that combines nursing, statistical analysis, and urban planning to determine the most likely types of injuries to occur when a civil protest turns violent, and the most likely locations in a particular city where medical resources would need to be deployed.
- A study of artistic reactions as a form of discourse in response to polarizing politics and identity conflicts in a particular society at a particular moment in history. Besides students from the various arts (music, graphic arts, drama, dance) this project could include business, history, and social science majors.
- A health science study of the effects on the body of the stress caused by polarization, identity conflicts, and contentious discourse. Disciplines involved might include psychology, sociology, anthropology, nursing, pre-medical studies, biology, and chemistry.
- The literature of polarizing identity politics could be a collaborative project of language and literature students, history students, and the education majors who will teach this literature.
- A study of the effect of polarizing politics and discourse on environmental science and conservation. In addition to social and environmental science majors, this project could attract psychology majors, business majors, and language students.

Overview

Each team will identify a problem or formulate a hypothesis and conduct the necessary research. A research report of no more than ten pages (including title page and citations) will be submitted prior to the convention. The title page must identify the team members and their disciplines as well as a research overview describing how the team planned, divided, and conducted its collaborative project. Findings will be displayed at the convention on a printed poster to be hung in a 4x4 ft. area of poster wall during the Research & Creativity Forum. A panel of judges will evaluate a 10-minute oral presentation on Friday or Saturday morning of the convention.

**The winning team will receive a \$5,000 prize. (Sponsored by Alpha Chi's partner, Nationwide Insurance®)
A \$2,500 second prize may be given if the number and quality of the projects justify such.**

Guidelines

- Each chapter may submit one project to the competition. The project should be mentored by a faculty member committed to its success. The team should also communicate regularly with its chapter sponsor.
- Each team must consist of 3-5 Alpha Chi student members, representing at least 3 different departments on the campus. The team composition must be at least 2/3 undergraduates during the fall semester. As long as student members serve as principal researchers, one faculty member may serve as part of the research team. Each member's part in the research project should be carefully documented.
- **To enter the competition, a team representative must email the formal project title and an abstract to office@alphachihonor.org by Nov. 1. This email must name the faculty mentor and the Alpha Chi members on the team, their classifications, email addresses, and the academic fields they represent.**
- Each team will send at least one student team member to the national convention in Cleveland to present the project results to a panel of judges. Each team will be contacted with its presentation time.
- **The competition consists of three elements: (1)** a written research report (double-spaced) of no more than 10 pages to be emailed by Mar. 1 to office@alphachihonor.org; **(2)** a printed poster to be brought to Cleveland and hung by 5 p.m., Apr. 4; and **(3)** a 10-minute oral presentation on Apr. 5 or 6. For visibility and ease of reference only, a single PowerPoint slide of the poster can be brought on USB and a 1-page printed copy of the poster provided to each judge.
- The paper, poster, and presentation must conform to the rubric posted online by which all projects will be judged.

2019 National Convention Budgeting Guide

Use this worksheet to calculate your delegation's registration and hotel costs for the convention. By estimating the travel and housing grants that you expect to receive, both national and regional, your chapter can have a good idea of the budget you need to attend the convention.

Estimated Housing Expenses:

Regular Rooms

..... # of rooms booked directly with hotel
 x # of nights staying in convention hotel

..... (This is your # of "room-nights")
 x \$197.00 (approx. room rate w/tax)

..... **A. Regular Room Expense**

Shared Doubles Program (if applicable)

\$98.44 (1/2 of approx. nightly room rate)
 x # of your undergrads that national will
 assign to Shared Doubles

.....
 x # of nights staying in hotel

..... **B. Shared Doubles Expense**

Convention Registration Fees:

\$84.00 x # of delegates = **C. Registration Fees**

Estimated Travel & Meals:

These need to be budgeted but will vary so widely by chapter, so estimate as best you can.

..... **D. Chapter Travel Allowance**

..... **E. Chapter Meal Allowance (Th. dinner, Fr/Sa coffee, Sa. dinner included in registration)**

Estimated Chapter Expenses (A+B+C+D+E) =

Then review the most current information packet for details, and mark out any grants your chapter isn't qualified to receive.

National Travel Grants:

Chapters Traveling by Ground:

\$100 Voting Sponsor Delegate
 \$100 Voting Student Delegate
 \$100 Additional Student Presenter #1
 \$100 Additional Student Presenter #2
 + \$100 Additional Student Presenter #3

OR

Chapters Traveling by Air:

\$200 Voting Sponsor Delegate
 \$200 Voting Student Delegate
 \$200 Additional Student Presenter #1
 \$200 Additional Student Presenter #2
 + \$200 Additional Student Presenter #3

..... **F. National Travel Grants**

..... **G. National Travel Grants**

National Housing Grants:

\$50 Housing Grant
 x # of voting delegates (1-2 max.)

.....
 x # of nights stayed in the conference hotel (up to 3)

..... **H. National Housing Grants**

Additional National Grants:

\$50 Voting Sponsor Delegate “Come Back Grant” (for chapters that haven’t attended since 2014)

\$50 Voting Student Delegate “Come Back Grant” (for chapters that haven’t attended since 2014)

\$100 Chapter-Strengthening Session Grant (for chapters leading a session)

\$100 Voting Sponsor Delegate “New Chapter Grant” (for the 1st convention after a chapter’s inauguration)

+ \$100 Voting Student Delegate “New Chapter Grant” (for the 1st convention after a chapter’s inauguration)

..... I. Additional National Grants

Regional Grants:

For example, this would be the amount given to a chapter in Region I, as seen in the grants section of the convention information packet. Make sure to estimate the grant from your correct region.

Region I Example

\$500 One Sponsor Delegate

\$500 One Student Delegate

+ \$250 Additional Student Delegate

\$1,250 **Region I Grant**

Region Locator: <https://alphachihonor.org/chapters/find-chapter/>

Do the math for your region:

..... J. Regional Grants

Estimated National & Regional Grants (F+G+H+I+J) =