



PATRIOTISM FACILITATOR DISCUSSION GUIDE

Our ritual describes patriotism as the value “that makes heroes of men and makes national institutions a power for the up-building of the human race. It is the fire that warms the blood when the hearthstone is in danger. It is the mainstay of the citizen and soldier, the social force that preserves, for posterity, the glories of the past and the privileges of the present.”

When we think about Patriotism, we often jump quickly to associations of war. We might think about “rockets’ red glare” and the Stars & Stripes, flying on poles, hanging from porches or decorating the shoulders of people we know are heroes. We know that there are heroes in times of war and times of peace. Who are your heroes? What qualities do we commonly associate with heroes?

Our ritual specifically calls attention to “national institutions” and their role promoting the welfare of humanity. Is Patriotism a uniquely American value, specific to American institutions? Can you think of other examples of Patriotism from world history? Have the outcomes of patriotic actions always been positive? How does Patriotism help to support the cause to Better the World?

What does the metaphor, “when the hearthstone is in danger” mean? How does this relate to Patriotism for everyday people?

Why do you think that patriotism was, and continues to be, so important to the Brotherhood and Fraternity?

As members of a fraternity steeped in tradition and values, we have a responsibility to be leaders on campus. That means living out our values on a daily basis and being authentic in their presentation. There is no time like 2020 to renew our commitment to Patriotism. The following list of activities can help in that effort, but you should expand on these ideas. Whether you choose to support Home for Our Troops, or one of our other philanthropic partners, committing to that cause wholeheartedly is your patriotic duty.

- Register to vote
- Volunteer in your community, at your school, church, or local hospital
- Engage your peers, do not shy away from discussion for the sake of avoiding conflict
- Write letters to your local paper or elected officials on issues you believe are important
- Attend town hall meetings, school board meetings, civic association meetings
- Volunteer or support a political campaign, or run for office yourself!
- Choose an occupation that benefits others or makes a better world