

Non-candle Induction Ceremony

Presenter may read the following text to induct new student members, or may adapt this text to meet the Quill and Scroll chapter's needs.

We are here tonight to initiate new members into Quill and Scroll, the International Honorary Society for High School Journalists.

Quill and Scroll chapters include in their membership students who have excelled in such areas as the editorial, literary, business, art and graphics departments of their high school news media, and whose scholarship places them among the best of their schools.

Journalism is far-reaching in its aims. So tonight we honor the principal of TRUTH, which journalism seeks ultimately; it is the goal of our aims and aspirations for the world in which we live, and that finer world of tomorrow towards which we strive.

Individuals should place TRUTH and the search for TRUTH above all other ideals, especially journalists and members of Quill and Scroll.

It is the duty of Quill and Scroll members to take an active part in the search for TRUTH by maintaining a high standard of journalistic ethics. Quill and Scroll desires to make membership an honor that will stand everywhere for the highest type of journalistic achievement.

Quill and Scroll first took its ideals in 1926 when it was organized by a group of high school journalism advisers and George Gallup. Its ideals have now spread to more than 14,200 chapters located in every state and in 44 foreign countries.

To become a member of the Society, a student must meet five qualifications: He or she must be of at least sophomore classification; must be scholastically in the upper third of his or her class or have the equivalent of at least a B grade point average cumulative; must have done superior work in high school journalism; must have been recommended by the journalism adviser or by the committee governing the high school's media; and be approved for membership by the Quill and Scroll executive director.

Tonight, we are receiving into membership # candidates from High School in an encouraging forum.

You students are part of your schools' histories – and important to us, part of their journalism histories – and now part of Quill and Scroll's history. It's a membership bond shared by journalists and leaders around the world. You will be in great company as a Quill and Scroll member.

You have been called here today because you have demonstrated your worthiness for membership in Quill and Scroll. The ability that you have displayed in your work promises much for you, whether or not you choose to enter the profession of journalism. Talent means little if it is not accompanied by hard work and productivity, as you have shown.

Membership in Quill and Scroll involves responsibilities, which you must not

forget – the duty to devote yourself to the welfare of the school, and to any other group or community to which you may belong. Remember that to be a leader in a real sense, you must acquire a background for assessing and interpreting the events of the day – a major journalistic trait. And to act ethically, as you have learned.

The badge of Quill and Scroll Society that you are being presented tonight is symbolic of the painstaking efforts of the scribes of old to record the events of their time in permanent form. Even in today’s technology-driven society, we need to accomplish that same goal. Let the Quill represent in your minds the meticulous care that must be put forth to turn thoughts into proper language; let the Scroll represent the permanent quality of good writing.

Would our candidates for membership please come forward?

Before being declared members of Quill and Scroll, and before receiving your membership pin, I ask that you take this pledge to uphold the aims of the Society.

Please hold up your right hand while I read all of the responsibilities of membership, and if you agree to take them on, please say **“I do”** at the conclusion.

Do you pledge in the presence of all your colleagues, faculty, family and friends in attendance that you will be true to the ideals of Quill and Scroll Society? In whatever field you choose to enter, you will always painstakingly seek the truth?

Will you strive to aide the best interests of the community? Will you be a responsible and reliable worker? And do you pledge to do all in your power to aide in the cause of better journalism?

If you assume these responsibilities, please answer “I do.”

I hereby declare you members of Quill and Scroll Society, with all of the rights, privileges and responsibilities that pertain to membership in the Society. May you ever prove worthy of the faith that the Society has shown in you today. I congratulate each of you on receiving this honor.

I will now call the names of the newly inducted members and ask that the journalism advisers please come forward to pin your students. Students as I call your names, please come forward to be pinned and congratulated by your adviser, and then officially sign your name as a member of your school’s Quill and Scroll

chapter in the membership registration book. After signing please remain standing until we complete the pinning ceremony for your fellow members.