

Sakarettes Transglobal Alliance (STA)
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What is a Sorority?

presented by
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Upon preparing to share words of advice with you as you enter into the world of sisterhood, I reflected upon my initiation 25 years ago into my Sorority, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and so many warm and fuzzy feelings surfaced and thoughts of sisterhood, loyalty, dedication, commitment, trust, and love came to my mind. I was a young 21 year old ready to take on the world, with energetic enthusiasm; ready to fight the good fight of social justice; ready to serve my community all in the name of Sisterhood; all in the name of Delta. I must say it has been 25 years of a labor of love - a love for my Sorority, for my Sisters, and for my Community.

When I reflected upon what is a Sorority? The thought that came to mind was that a Sorority is a sisterhood of likeminded women committed to a common cause and bonded by shared principles.

Your organization's virtues that are embedded in your motto - **SOLIDARITY, RESPECT** and **INTEGRITY** provide an exceptionally solid foundation for building the future of your Sorority.

SOLIDARITY - the unity among individuals with a common interest; mutual support within a group. As written in 1 Corinthians 12:12, "The body is a unit, though it is made

up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form *one* body." As a Sorority, a sisterhood, you are **ONE** body. Always remember that there is strength in numbers. Continue to progress forward with a singular focus to affect positive and sustained change. I encourage you to promote solidarity not only in your Sorority, but also in our community. As Black women, we must support each other, celebrate each other and celebrate with each other. We are viewed as a minority in this country, **BUT** we know that collectively we make up a **mighty** majority. We are a beautiful mosaic of talent that is interdependent on each other. To be dependent upon each other, we must take the time to really get to know each other. By engaging in fellowship with each other, we learn to cherish each sister's sweet spirit and **all** that she has to offer.

RESPECT - a feeling of deep admiration for someone elicited by their abilities, qualities, or achievements; a reverence for one another. We should always, respect, remember and revere the numerous achievements of our ancestors. We stand on the shoulders of giants and the many freedoms and liberties that they fought and died in pursuit to obtain the promises to "secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity." We are living in unprecedented political times, and a time in which, we will be moved to exemplify the qualities of boldness and perseverance that our ancestors embodied. These are times when we must respect the communal process. Respect each other just as you expect others to respect you. I have a strong faith and daily turn to the Word for guidance. Before I act or say anything, I think about how would I feel hearing what my sister has said or did. Remember that , "If **one** part suffers, **every** part suffers with it; if one part is **honored**, every part **rejoices** with it." (1 Corinthians 12:26)

INTEGRITY - the quality of being honest and having strong moral principles. Be candid and honest with each other, but do so with kindness. A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger (Proverbs 15:1). A sister who speaks with integrity is someone who can be trusted, someone you can have faith in, someone you can have confidence in. Integrity is derived from the Latin word 'integer' which means whole and complete. So integrity requires an inner sense of 'wholeness' and consistency of character. When you possess integrity, people should be able to visibly see it through your actions, words, and decisions. When you are whole and consistent, there is **only one** you. You bring that same you wherever you are, regardless of the circumstance. You are **YOU** all the time. You bring your whole self to the sisterhood.

I encourage you to continue to move forward with a steadfast commitment to service and sisterhood; to become trailblazers and leave your own indelible mark on history. Be prepared to move forward with an unwavering audacity of courage to bring about change in your community.

I urge you as sisters bonded by your motto - **SOLIDARITY, RESPECT** and **INTEGRITY** - to move forward with fortitude, fidelity, and fervor in your collective endeavors. I wish you many years of success as a sisterhood!!! Thank you!!!