

omega psi phi handshake

omega psi phi handshake is a distinctive and revered greeting among members of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., a historically African American fraternity founded in 1911. This handshake is more than a simple gesture; it symbolizes brotherhood, unity, and the shared values upheld by the fraternity. Understanding the intricacies and significance of the omega psi phi handshake provides insight into the fraternity's traditions and the pride members take in their bond. This article explores the origins, detailed execution, cultural importance, and the etiquette surrounding the handshake. Additionally, it delves into the symbolism embedded within the gesture and how it fosters lifelong connections among members.

- History and Origin of the Omega Psi Phi Handshake
- Detailed Steps of the Omega Psi Phi Handshake
- Symbolism and Meaning Behind the Handshake
- Etiquette and Usage Among Members
- Role of the Handshake in Fraternity Culture

History and Origin of the Omega Psi Phi Handshake

The omega psi phi handshake has its roots deeply embedded in the fraternity's founding principles. Established at Howard University in 1911, Omega Psi Phi was the first fraternity founded at a historically black college. The handshake emerged as a secret and exclusive gesture among members, designed to distinguish brothers from non-members and to express mutual respect and solidarity. Over time, the handshake has been passed down through generations, preserving a sense of heritage and continuity within the fraternity.

Founding Principles and Early Traditions

Omega Psi Phi was founded on the cardinal principles of manhood, scholarship, perseverance, and uplift. The handshake was crafted to embody these values in physical form, serving as a daily reminder of the fraternity's mission. Early fraternity leaders emphasized the importance of secrecy and exclusivity to protect the integrity of their brotherhood, making the handshake an essential ritual in maintaining these standards.

Evolution Over Time

While the core structure of the omega psi phi handshake has remained consistent, subtle variations and additional gestures have been incorporated to reflect changes in fraternity culture and membership. Despite these adaptations, the handshake continues to serve as a unifying symbol that reinforces the fraternity's identity across diverse chapters and generations.

Detailed Steps of the Omega Psi Phi Handshake

The omega psi phi handshake is a multi-step greeting that involves specific hand movements and grips unique to the fraternity. This handshake is typically taught privately within the fraternity to maintain its exclusivity and to ensure that members perform it correctly. Below is a general overview of the handshake's components.

Initial Grip

The handshake begins with a firm grasp of the right hand, where both participants interlock their fingers in a specific manner distinct from a conventional handshake. This initial grip establishes a connection and signals shared fraternity membership.

Finger Lock and Release

Following the initial grip, the members engage in a finger-locking motion, which involves intertwining fingers and then releasing them in a controlled sequence. This action symbolizes trust and the strength of brotherly bonds.

Additional Gestures

Some variations of the omega psi phi handshake include a snap or a tap with the pinky finger, which serves as a subtle reaffirmation of fraternity allegiance. These additional gestures enhance the handshake's uniqueness and express fraternity pride.

- Firm right-hand grip
- Interlocking of fingers
- Finger lock and release sequence
- Optional pinky snap or tap

Symbolism and Meaning Behind the Handshake

The omega psi phi handshake is rich in symbolism, reflecting the fraternity's core values and historical significance. Each element of the handshake represents facets of brotherhood, trust, and perseverance.

Brotherhood and Unity

The handshake is a physical manifestation of the bond shared among fraternity members. By engaging in this exclusive greeting, members reaffirm their commitment to mutual support and solidarity, fostering a strong sense of community within the organization.

Secrecy and Exclusivity

As a secret handshake, it serves to distinguish brothers from outsiders, reinforcing the fraternity's tradition of privacy and exclusivity. This element of secrecy strengthens the members' sense of belonging and pride.

Perseverance and Commitment

The handshake's complex sequence symbolizes the perseverance required to uphold the fraternity's ideals. Executing the handshake correctly reflects a member's dedication to the organization and its enduring legacy.

Etiquette and Usage Among Members

The omega psi phi handshake is governed by specific etiquette that members are expected to observe. Proper usage ensures that the handshake maintains its status as a respected and meaningful symbol within the fraternity.

When to Use the Handshake

Members typically use the handshake during formal fraternity events, meetings, and casual encounters with fellow brothers. It is a sign of recognition and respect that strengthens interpersonal connections between members.

Respecting the Tradition

Members are taught to respect the handshake's secrecy and significance, refraining from sharing its details with non-members. Proper execution and timing are emphasized to preserve the fraternity's heritage and avoid misuse.

Common Mistakes to Avoid

Incorrectly performing the handshake or using it in inappropriate contexts can diminish its value. Members are encouraged to learn the handshake thoroughly and apply it only among recognized fraternity brothers.

Role of the Handshake in Fraternity Culture

The omega psi phi handshake plays a vital role in reinforcing fraternity culture and identity. It acts as a tangible link between members, past and present, and serves as a constant reminder of the fraternity's mission and values.

Strengthening Bonds

The handshake fosters camaraderie and trust, key components in building lifelong relationships among members. It is a symbol of shared experiences and collective goals within the fraternity.

Maintaining Tradition

By preserving the handshake, Omega Psi Phi sustains its rich history and promotes continuity across generations. The handshake is a living tradition that connects new initiates to the fraternity's founding principles.

Promoting Fraternity Pride

Using the handshake publicly and privately reinforces fraternity pride and visibility. It serves as a subtle yet powerful expression of identity, encouraging members to uphold the fraternity's standards in all aspects of life.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Omega Psi Phi handshake?

The Omega Psi Phi handshake is a unique and secretive greeting used by members of the Omega Psi Phi fraternity to identify and show respect to one another. It typically involves a series of specific hand movements and grips that are recognized only by initiated members.

Why is the Omega Psi Phi handshake important?

The handshake is important because it symbolizes brotherhood, unity, and pride among Omega Psi Phi members. It serves as a bond that connects members across different chapters and generations, reinforcing their shared commitment and values.

Can non-members learn the Omega Psi Phi handshake?

The Omega Psi Phi handshake is traditionally kept confidential and is meant only for initiated members. Non-members are generally discouraged from learning or using the handshake, as it is a symbol of fraternity membership and respect.

Are there variations of the Omega Psi Phi handshake?

Yes, there can be slight variations of the Omega Psi Phi handshake depending on the chapter or region, but the core elements remain consistent to maintain its identity and significance within the fraternity.

How do Omega Psi Phi members learn the handshake?

Members typically learn the handshake during the initiation process or through mentorship by older fraternity brothers. It is passed down as a part of the fraternity's traditions and is taught to ensure proper use and respect.

Additional Resources

1. The Secrets of the Omega Psi Phi Handshake: Tradition and Brotherhood

This book delves into the rich history and significance of the Omega Psi Phi handshake within the fraternity. It explores how the handshake serves as a symbol of unity, trust, and brotherhood among members. Readers gain insight into the cultural and ritualistic importance of this unique greeting.

2. Brotherhood Bonds: Understanding Omega Psi Phi's Handshake and Symbols

Focusing on the various symbols and signs used by Omega Psi Phi, this book offers a detailed explanation of the fraternity's handshake. It discusses the origins, meanings, and the role these elements play in strengthening fraternal ties. The narrative highlights personal stories from members about what the handshake means to them.

3. Fraternal Greetings: The Omega Psi Phi Handshake Explained

This guide provides a step-by-step breakdown of the Omega Psi Phi handshake, emphasizing its proper execution and etiquette. It also contextualizes the handshake within the broader framework of fraternity rituals. The book is ideal for new members and those interested in African American Greek life traditions.

4. *Omega Psi Phi: Legacy of Brotherhood and Handshake Traditions*

Exploring the historical development of Omega Psi Phi, this book highlights how the handshake has evolved alongside the fraternity. It connects the handshake to the larger legacy of service, scholarship, and uplift that Omega Psi Phi represents. The author includes archival materials and interviews with fraternity elders.

5. *The Art of the Grip: Decoding Omega Psi Phi's Handshake*

This publication takes a close look at the physical and symbolic aspects of the Omega Psi Phi handshake. It analyzes the grip's unique features and what they convey about fraternity values. The book also compares Omega Psi Phi's handshake to those of other historically Black fraternities.

6. *Signs of Unity: The Role of Handshakes in Omega Psi Phi Fraternity*

Highlighting the importance of non-verbal communication, this book focuses on the handshake as a powerful sign of unity within Omega Psi Phi. It discusses how the handshake reinforces identity and solidarity among brothers. The text includes historical context and contemporary relevance.

7. *Handshakes and Heritage: Preserving Omega Psi Phi Traditions*

This book stresses the importance of preserving the handshake tradition as part of Omega Psi Phi's cultural heritage. It explores how rituals like the handshake are passed down through generations and their role in maintaining fraternity cohesion. The author offers strategies for educating new members about these customs.

8. *Brotherly Grips: The Symbolism Behind Omega Psi Phi's Handshake*

Focusing on the deeper meanings behind the handshake, this work interprets the symbols embedded within the fraternity's greeting. It highlights themes such as loyalty, respect, and lifelong commitment. The book draws on interviews with fraternity leaders and historical documents.

9. *The Omega Psi Phi Handshake Manual: A Guide for New Members*

Designed specifically for initiates, this manual provides clear instructions on performing the Omega Psi Phi handshake correctly. It also explains the handshake's place in fraternity ceremonies and brotherhood activities. The guide serves as a practical resource for those beginning their journey in Omega Psi Phi.

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omega psi phi handshake: *Inner City Blues: A Charlotte Justice Novel* (Charlotte Justice Novels) Paula L. Woods, 2009-07-01 The award-winning first book in the series featuring black LAPD

homicide detective Charlotte Justice. Meet Detective Charlotte Justice, a black woman in the very white, very male, and sometimes very racist Los Angeles Police Department. The time is 48 hours into the epochal L.A. riots and she and her fellow officers are exhausted. She saves the curfew-breaking black doctor Lance Mitchell from a potentially lethal beating from some white officers—only to discover nearby the body of one-time radical Cinque Lewis, a thug who years before had murdered her husband and young daughter. Was it a random shooting or was Mitchell responsible? And what had brought Lewis back to a city he'd long since fled? Charlotte's quest for the truth behind Cinque's death will set her at odds with the LAPD hierarchy, plunge her into the intricacies of everything from L.A.'s gang-banging politics to its black blue-bloods, and lead her into deep emotional waters with Mitchell's partner (and her old flame), Dr. Aubrey Scott. In Charlotte Justice, Paula L. Woods has created a tough, tart, but also vulnerable heroine sure to draw comparisons to such classic figures as Easy Rawlins and Kinsey Milhone, but a true original as well. Winner of the Macavity Award for Best First Mystery Novel from Mystery Readers International.

omega psi phi handshake: *1959* Thulani Davis, 1992 1959--The year that Willie Tarrant's world changed forever as she, her family, and friends are caught up in peaceful protests turned violent, boycotts, moral issues, anger, conviction, and the joy of right action.

omega psi phi handshake: *No Ordinary Love* Monique Gilmore, 1994 Beautiful reporter Georgette Willis seems to have it all: a terrific job and a fiancé who is one of Philadelphia's most powerful businessmen. But while on a skiing trip to Colorado, Georgette meets firefighter Ray Fuschee--a man whose heated glance fills her with fiery desire.

omega psi phi handshake: *Analitikul Cogitationz* M'Bwebe Ishangi, 2007-05-11 For nearly fifteen yearz I've attempted 'shock therapy' on the mindz of Afrikan people by challenging us to dispute everything from history to politics, diet to religion, on down to historic African-American organizationz. My quest was and always will be to challenge you; to dare you to face who taught you; to reveal that not everything you may believe now, you had the opportunity to thoroughly investigate. *Analitikul Cogitationz* is a two-part book. So that you can know the person behind *Da Ghetto Tymz* magazine, Part 1 (*Deja Vu*), coverz the first few yearz of my re-awakening to Pan-Afrikan consciousness. In this mini-autobiography, I speak of thingz I went through I once was afraid to speak about. Part 2 is a collection of some of my best perspective articles that appeared in *Da Ghetto Tymz* magazine from 1993-2006. You may or may not agree with the message I convey, but I hope you will use my arguments as inspiration to further confirm your own beliefs whatever they may be.

omega psi phi handshake: *Xi Psi Phi Quarterly* , 1906

omega psi phi handshake: *What Winners Won't Tell You* Malcolm Jenkins, 2024-10-08 As a two-time Super Bowl champion, three-time Pro-Bowler, first-round draft pick, and former Jim Thorpe Award recipient, Malcolm Jenkins knows a thing or two about winning. Over the course of his thirteen-year NFL career, the now retired defensive back's triumphs extend beyond that on the football field. As a successful entrepreneur, he has seen the blossoming of his business ventures with an eponymous company, Malcolm Inc., and a media conglomerate called Listen Up Media. As a philanthropist, he strives to make a positive difference in the lives of young people in underserved communities through The Malcolm Jenkins Foundation. And as the father of two daughters, he understands the challenges of loving his children, and preparing them for an often unkind and hostile world. But for every triumph, there is a tragedy, for every loss, a lesson. In *What Winners Won't Tell You*, Jenkins shares the insight he's gained from winning and losing alike. One moment, Jenkins is riding high from being the only NFL player to have Super Bowl victories against Hall of Fame quarterbacks, Peyton Manning and Tom Brady and then he's navigating the harrowing low of a divorce from the mother of his children. In another moment he's advocating for the advances of Black people in America, and then feuding publicly about the direction of this advocacy. Providing fans and readers alike with an intimate portrayal of life on and off the field, detailed breakdowns of his great moments against the games premiere players, and poignant reflections about what it means to straddle the narrow line between victory and defeat, this "thoughtful memoir" (Kirkus

Reviews) is the best kept secret for those who want to know what it takes to be a champion.

omega psi phi handshake: Stand by Your Truth Rickey Smiley, 2017-10-24 Part memoir, part testimonial, and part life guide, *Stand by Your Truth* mixes Rickey Smiley's down-home humor with the values he learned from being raised by three generations of elders, steeped in the Baptist church, and mentored by some of the most celebrated comics in the entertainment industry today. "I'm very passionate about everything that I do and I don't play any games. I just keep it honest. I don't put on airs. That's the only way you can be. If you tell one lie, you've got to tell another lie. I'm cool with who I am. What you see is what you get." Stand-up comic. Single dad. Radio personality. TV star. Prankster. Producer. Community activist. Man of faith. Visit a church, comedy club, college campus, or barber shop, and you'll find few people who aren't familiar with, or fans of, Rickey Smiley. At least four million listeners in more than seventy markets tune in every weekday morning to hear him banter with his radio show crew, hilariously prank call an unsuspecting listener, and perform skits featuring his one-man cast of characters, including "Lil Darryl," "Beauford," and "Joe Willie." But in between the rapid-fire jokes and celebrity dish are flashes of how Rickey views the world, from the challenges of raising children, to the importance of education, to the need to always stand by your own truth. After more than two decades in the spotlight, Rickey is finally ready to delve more deeply into the opinions he voices on the air, riffing on those issues that his listeners, viewers, and fans find most important. This collection of personal and powerful essays will speak to readers from all walks of life, and is sure to inspire you to Stand by Your Truth.

omega psi phi handshake: The End Justifies the Means T.H. Moore, 2006-10-19 Jalen Carthane has managed to avoid the stereotypical pitfalls of growing up in a poverty-stricken city. After a deadly domestic dispute nearly takes both parents away, his mother's self-sacrifice is followed by a sudden move to Philadelphia to Camden, New Jersey which offers an opportunity for a new life and a clean slate. Then he comes face to face with the family "business". Kevin English, an older cousin and father figure to Jalen, leaves behind his tainted past in a sincere attempt to provide a safe lifestyle for his wife and child but falls victim to a murder attempt. Undercurrents of treachery, bribery, money laundering, and revenge among family rivals and Camden's political elite now leave the two men in danger. Jalen and Kevin devise an intricate scheme to get their families out of harms way. They quickly learn that integrating mainstream business principle and integrity with the raw rules and politics of the street don't come easy. At lease, not without a little dirty work to ensure problems disappear and their enemies can't draw another breath.

omega psi phi handshake: The Legendary Florida A&M University Marching Band The History of "The Hundred" Curtis Inabinett Jr., 2016-12-12 Author Curtis Inabinett, Jr., dedicated himself for a seven-year period and delivers the undeniable story of the Legendary Florida A & M University Marching Band. Inabinett's extraordinary biographical display of words, vividly paints an illustrative mind's eye view of the famous band from 1946 to 2015, leaving no stones unturned in his quest to deliver the truth. Released on November 10, 2016, this 296-page 8 by 10 full color book is filled with facts that will instill in readers why 'The Hundred' has survived as one of the top marching bands in America. Inabinett tells the story of Dr. William P. Foster, the band's creator, and how he overcame racism while an undergraduate music major student at the University of Kansas in the early 1940's. This heartfelt message reveals the power of god and perseverance, and is a must read for all lovers of marching bands, but not only that, Inabinett explores the down side of hazing in marching bands, and how 'The Hundred' came back to prominence after a self-imposed suspension in 2012 for a hazing death within its famed band. Inabinett, who has never formally studied journalism, was awarded the first annual '2015 - 2016 Alyce Hunley Whayne Award' for his book manuscript of 'The Hundred,' and spent one week in December of 2015 at the University of Kansas' Kenneth Spencer Research Library completing research for this book.

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omega psi phi handshake: Jet , 1980-02-28 The weekly source of African American political and entertainment news.

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omega psi phi handshake: *La Vie* , 1984
omega psi phi handshake: *Alpha Kappa Psi Diary* , 1928
omega psi phi handshake: *The Emerald of Sigma Pi* , 1922
omega psi phi handshake: *Matrix* , 1928
omega psi phi handshake: *Corks and Curls* , 1989
omega psi phi handshake: The New York Times Magazine , 1991
omega psi phi handshake: *The Makio* , 1916

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