

Pi Mu Epsilon Induction at Appalachian State University

1. About Pi Mu Epsilon

Pi Mu Epsilon (or PME) is an organization dedicated to promoting mathematics and recognizing students who have been successful in the pursuit of mathematical knowledge and understanding. It was first founded at Syracuse University in New York State on May 14, 1914. Currently there are more than 300 chapters nationwide. Student chapters of PME are designated by state name and a letter of the Greek alphabet. There are thirteen local chapters of PME at schools in North Carolina. Appalachian State is the North Carolina Eta PME chapter, originally founded in 1976. It was the 200th student chapter founded nationwide. Membership is for life – there are tens of thousands of PME members in the US.

As stated in the Pi Mu Epsilon constitution, a chapter may only be established at a school “whose standards are excellent in all liberal arts departments and particularly in mathematics” and which is “capable of conserving the standards of the society and spreading its scholarly spirit and ideals.” Further, student nominees to PME must demonstrate excellence not only in mathematics, but in all their college-level studies. At Appalachian, these requirements are particularly high.

To promote mathematical excellence, the national PME council holds an annual conference at the Mathematics Association of America (MAA)’s MathFest that includes student speakers and provides grant money to assist some students in traveling to the conference. It also publishes a mathematics journal with content that is accessible to undergraduates.

2. Explanation of Symbols & Insignia

(a) Motto: “To Promote Scholarship and Mathematics”

The Greek translation of this motto, shown in the shield, is what produces the letters pi, mu and epsilon for the organizations name.

(b) Flower: Violet

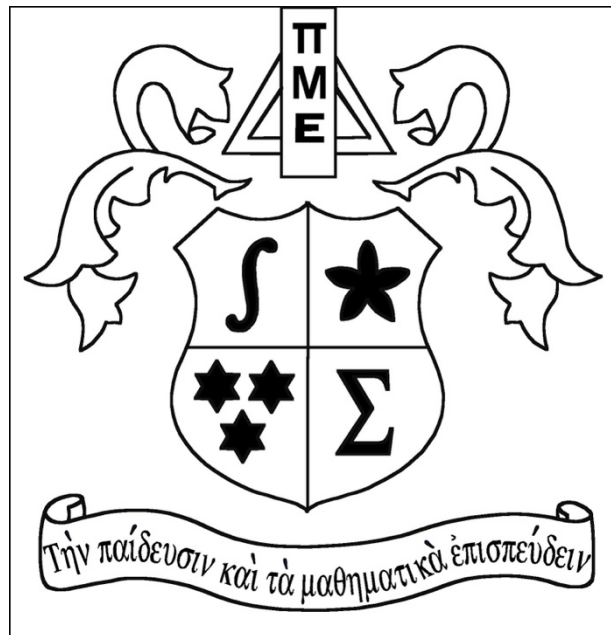
In traditional folklore, the violet is a symbol of determination and concentration.

(c) Colors: Violet, Gold & Lavender

Gold is the color of quality and excellence, the best of the best. Violet and lavender echo the various shades of the violet flower.

(d) Pin: The Pi Mu Epsilon Key has a triangular rim upon which is a raised oblong. Raised still higher are the Greek letters Pi Mu Epsilon.

- (e) Seal: The seal is round with the pin design raised in the center. The words "Pi Mu Epsilon, Incorporated" are written around the edge.
- (f) Shield: The shield is divided into four parts. The upper right hand corner bears the design of a conventionalized violet, while the lower right is a summation sign. The upper left holds an integral sign, and in the lower left there are three stars that represent friendship, morality, and scholarship. Just above the shield proper the Pi Mu Epsilon pin is represented, and below, on a streamer, is the Greek motto.



3. Taking the Pledge

“I solemnly promise that I will exert my best efforts to promote true scholarship, particularly in mathematics, and that I will support the objectives of Pi Mu Epsilon.”

Congratulations! And welcome to the North Carolina Eta chapter!