

THE KEY

How many of us could, without looking, describe the Delta Kappa Gamma key which we so proudly wear? Let us look at it closely, part by part and piece by piece.

Our key is shaped as a golden ellipse. Unlike a circle, which has one focal point, an ellipse has two foci – two centers, and two points of reference.

The ellipse was selected as the shape of our key because, as Delta Kappa Gamma members, our orbit of activities has two foci: one, organization and two, work of each for all.

In our pledge we promise to be loyal to the policies and programs of our society as a whole, and at the same time, to assume individual responsibility for shaping and carrying out these policies and programs. The ellipse represents both the “we” and the “me” of Delta Kappa Gamma.

Across its center, the ellipse bears the Greek letters: Delta, Kappa, and Gamma.

Delta, the fourth letter of the Greek alphabet, is an equilateral triangle and signified the folding flap of a tent – the open door.

Kappa, the tenth letter of the Greek alphabet, originally faced the opposite way and signified the beckoning hand.

Gamma, the third letter of the Greek alphabet, represented the sling shot, the effective weapon of the day. The open door – the beckoning hand – the effective weapon = Education!

We in Delta Kappa Gamma have another interpretation for these letters. It combines the initial letters of these three words:

Didaskotikai (di das k□□ tee k□) meaning teachers,

Klerdonchai (kl□ doo□ k□) meaning key, and

Gynaikes (gee n□ k□ys) meaning women

Teachers -----key women.

At first, Dr. Annie Webb Blanton had these letters placed to signify Key Women Teachers (Kappa Gamma Delta), but it was discovered that another organization had been registered with the letters in that order, and so we became Delta Kappa Gamma

Teachers, key women Women, key teachers,
Key women teachers ---
ALL ARE SIGNIFICANT!

Above the letters of our Society is placed a wreath of laurel leaves. In ancient Greece, the stiff aromatic leaves and purple berries were entwined to form crowns for those who had given distinctive service. A wreath of laurel was a gift bestowed --- the recipients did not crown themselves.

You were chosen for membership in Delta Kappa Gamma; the “laurel wreath” has been bestowed upon you by your fellow teachers who wished to honor you for distinctive service in education. They crowned you!

Below the letters is placed the scyphus, which symbolizes the cup of knowledge. “Drink deep, drink well, and from your knowledge shall come wisdom.”

This is your key! This is its symbolism! Bear the symbolism in mind and wear your key with pride!