



The Badge

Pi Beta Phi's golden arrow is considered "the outward and visible sign of the inward and spiritual grace that has placed its approval upon nothing short of the true, honest, just, pure, lovely."

Badge of Honor

The decision to adopt the arrow as the official badge of I.C. Sorosis was not made lightly. The founders met many times to discuss the choice before landing on what **ADA BRUEN GRIER** described as "the most desirable symbol for our clan." On May 5, 1867, the decision was made, and pins were ordered that same day from Wilson Lusk, a jeweler in Monmouth, Illinois.

The first badge was a golden arrow bearing the letters 'IC' on its wings, with a golden chain. The pins arrived just over a week later, and the founders wore them in their

hair to chapel the very next day. As **EMMA BROWNLEE KILGORE** recalled, "It was a long-to-be-remembered event. The young men cheered, the faculty smiled, and we felt that it was truly an important occasion."

The badge has evolved thoughtfully over time. Until 1888, it bore the letters "I.C." in black enamel and was longer than the current one-inch size. When Pi Beta Phi officially adopted its name at the 1888 Ottumwa Convention, the Greek letters replaced "I.C." on the wings.

To mark the occasion, the Fraternity presented its first jeweled badge to Grand President **RAINIE ADAMSON SMALL** Illinois Beta, who presided over the convention.

Significant decisions about the badge continued to be made at various conventions throughout the years. Early photos show badges worn in hair, on high-neck collars and on either side of the bodice. At the 1906 Indianapolis, Indiana, Convention, members voted that the badge should be worn on the left side of the bodice, near the heart, pointing upward—a standard

that still holds today. At this time, the Fraternity also decided that members were not allowed to give Pi Phi jewelry to any man. At the 1921 Charlevoix, Michigan, Convention, members voted to standardize the badge: from that point forward, all initiated members would wear only the official gold badge, with enameled wings and stones in the chains no longer permitted. The convention also established that the fraternity pins of husbands, fathers, brothers, sons and fiancés

could be attached by a chain to the arrow. A separate pin bearing the Pi Beta Phi monogram—known as the Brother Pin – was made available for the brothers, fiancés and husbands of Pi Beta Phi members to wear. The Brother Pin was discontinued at the 2011 Orlando, Florida, Convention. At the 1934 Yellowstone Convention, the previously woven chain was replaced with a linked chain of 12 links, one for each of the Fraternity’s founders.

Wearing the Badge

Upon initiation into Pi Beta Phi, each member receives a gold-filled badge. Article XVIII, Section 2, of the Pi Beta Phi Statutes describes it as follows:

The badge, which shall be worn on the left side near the heart, shall be a golden arrow, bearing the Greek letters Pi Beta Phi transversely on its feather, with a loop chain of 12 links pendent from the shaft.

A few important guidelines govern the badge:

1. Collegiate members are expected to wear the Pi Beta Phi badge at all appropriate times.
2. Wearing of a replica of the I.C. badge is restricted to the Chapter President. The replica badge is the property of the chapter.
3. No member may give, sell or lend a Pi Beta Phi badge to any person who is not a duly initiated member of the Fraternity.
4. The Pi Beta Phi badge shall be used only as a badge and may not be used as a mounting on any piece of jewelry.
5. Upon the death of its owner, a badge may be buried with her, bequeathed to a member of the Fraternity or a collegiate chapter or alumnae club to be used as an honor badge, or sent to Headquarters for disposition as directed by Grand Council.

Official Jewelers

The Fraternity’s first badges were ordered from Wilson Lusk in Monmouth. Over the decades, several official jewelers have held the distinction of crafting Pi Beta Phi’s badge. In 1912, members voted to designate a single official jeweler, and after a year of reviewing bids and samples, the L.G. Balfour Company of Attleboro, Massachusetts, was awarded the contract—notably Pi Phi’s contract was Balfour’s

very first with a fraternity. The L.G. Balfour Company served as Pi Beta Phi’s official jeweler for decades, until the fraternal jewelry industry underwent significant changes in the 1990s. Herff Jones, whose Greek Division is dedicated to hand-crafting official fraternity and sorority jewelry, now serves as the official jeweler of Pi Beta Phi.

As the Fraternity grew, so did the need to carefully steward the badge. In 1914, Grand Council



established the office of custodian of the pin—a role responsible for overseeing badge orders for non-initiated individuals, managing

unclaimed and deceased members' badges and maintaining records of badges purchased by initiated members.

Honor Badges

Replicas of other designs are used as honor badges to recognize distinguished service and membership. A large gold-winged arrow denotes a director's badge, and a large white-winged arrow recognizes service on Grand Council. The distinguishing badge

for members of the Silver Arrow Society—which honors 25 years of Pi Beta Phi membership—is a silver-tone, diamond-shaped pin with a center, bevel-cut arrow. The Order of the Golden Arrow was established at the 1946 Swampscott, Massachusetts, Convention, and in



1952 its members were recognized with a carnation pin worn as a guard or badge. At the 1987 New Orleans, Louisiana, Convention, the carnation was replaced by a new design: a gold circle pin crossed by an arrow, with a larger pin back for ease of wear.

Notable Badges

In 1948, a tiny gold flying pigeon became the distinguishing badge for Settlement School Committee members and staff—a nod to the Little Pigeon River, where Pi Beta Phi's Settlement School was located. Five years later, an official badge was established for past and present Grand Council members: a replica of the large original pin bearing "Pi Beta Phi" on white enamel wings, available for individual purchase.

For Pi Beta Phi's centennial in 1967, chapters were invited to submit a jewelry design to be featured at convention. The winning design came from Massachusetts Alpha

MARYLA WALTERS, who created a design specifically for a charm. Her charm centered on a theme of light and legacy. As Maryla described, "The central theme of this design begins with the illuminating inspiration and strength that was displayed by our founders. The first sparks of courage and independence, beginning with the 'Lantern Brigade,' ignites into a single flame; the illuminating flame of Pi Beta Phi's beginning. Right from the start the hidden base for up-holding the original aspirations of our Fraternity is supported by Pi Phi's unbroken chain of friendship." ✨

