



# Phi Theta Kappa and the American Cancer Society National Outreach Project Youth Partner

Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society recognizes academic achievement for students enrolled in associate degree programs. Phi Theta Kappa was founded in 1918 by college presidents, and the founders modeled the new academic honor society after the prestigious senior college society Phi Beta Kappa.

## About Phi Theta Kappa

Currently Phi Theta Kappa includes 1,200 chapters on college campuses in all 50 states, Canada, US territorial possessions, and abroad. Approximately 100,000 students are inducted annually; more than 2 million members have been inducted overall.

Because community colleges serve a diverse audience, Phi Theta Kappa members include traditional-aged students as well as adult students attending college for the first time, returning for a second chance at college, or enrolling for retraining in new careers. Almost half of the undergraduate students attending college in the United States are enrolled in community colleges or in associate-degree programs.

## Mission Statement

The purpose of Phi Theta Kappa shall be to recognize and encourage scholarship among two-year college students. To achieve this purpose, Phi Theta Kappa shall provide opportunity for the development of leadership and service, for an intellectual climate for exchange of ideas and ideals, for lively fellowship for scholars, and for stimulation of interest in continuing academic excellence.

Phi Theta Kappa's mission is two-fold: the Phi Theta Kappa Society recognizes and encourages academic achievement and also provides opportunities for individual growth through participation in programs designed to foster civic engagement, cultivate a commitment to community service, nurture developing leaders, and advance life skills.

Phi Theta Kappa members are dedicated agents of change and have always followed the philosophy that a scholar has a responsibility to serve his or her community. Phi Theta Kappa chapters and members have a long history of supporting various service endeavors, resulting in the creation of a standardized service initiative, the International Service Program.

## International Service Program

In 1984, Phi Theta Kappa established an International Service Program to focus the organization's considerable resources toward one common goal. Phi Theta Kappa selects a national service agency as its program partner and establishes participation guidelines, focus areas, and goals for chapters and members.

## Phi Theta Kappa and the American Cancer Society

In 2002, Phi Theta Kappa established an International Service Program partnership with the American Cancer Society. "Conquering Cancer:

A Prevention and Awareness Program" was the first four-year service program in Phi Theta Kappa's history. Due to the response from members and the level of participation, the program was extended for two additional years.

In 2006, because members indicated they wanted to continue to support the American Cancer Society, Relay For Life was adopted as a Phi Theta Kappa Civic Engagement Initiative.

Since 2002, Phi Theta Kappa chapters have raised more than \$2 million for the American Cancer Society and have committed to a goal of raising \$10 million by 2018. Phi Theta Kappa chapters have logged over 400,000 hours in the fight against cancer, and Phi Theta Kappa has twice been honored for being a top collegiate contributor to Relay For Life.

Currently, Phi Theta Kappa promotes the following activities in support of the American Cancer Society and Relay For Life:

- Phi Theta Kappa chapters are encouraged to field a team for their local Relay For Life. In areas where no Relay events are scheduled, chapters are challenged to assume a leadership role in establishing a local Relay For Life.
- Phi Theta Kappa's International Headquarters' Web site includes a page devoted to Relay For Life planning. (<http://www.ptk.org/service/fundraising.htm>)
- Phi Theta Kappa chapters report their Relay For Life participation and fundraising totals.
- Phi Theta Kappa's International Conventions regularly feature educational forums, presentations, and an academic marketplace booth focusing on Relay For Life to motivate members and chapters to continue the fight against cancer.
- Phi Theta Kappa's 29 regions – made up of individual states or groups of states – also promote Relay For Life and American Cancer Society participation. They often schedule American Cancer Society speakers and forums at their annual regional meetings.

## How to Work with Phi Theta Kappa

Although Phi Theta Kappa is a youth partner, Phi Theta Kappa teams participate in both college and community Relays.

Please ensure that Phi Theta Kappa teams include Phi Theta Kappa or PTK in their team name (example: PTK Cancer Crushers) and that they complete the affiliation information online or on the scannable form.

To locate a Phi Theta Kappa chapter in your community, please visit the organization's Web site at [www.ptk.org](http://www.ptk.org) (navigate under "About," then select "Contacts"), or contact Jennifer Stanford at [jennifer.stanford@ptk.org](mailto:jennifer.stanford@ptk.org) or at 1-601-984-3532.



**Celebrate. Remember. Fight Back.**

1.800.ACS.2345  
[www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org)

Hope.Progress.Answers.®