

Challenge to the Fall 2011 Pledge Class

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My challenge to the members of the fall 2011 pledge class is simply to do your best in Leadership, Friendship and most of all, Service. Doing one's best is an important part of our Scouting tradition, and the three Cardinal Principles of our Fraternity are truly words to live by.

With regard to leadership, I recommend leading by example. Talk is cheap, but accomplishments speak for themselves. The world will recognize what you are doing and what you have done.

Friendship may be a weak spot for me. I was humbled when two friends from long ago called to tell me I had been selected as Pledge Class Namesake Honoree. I may have drifted away, but my friends did not forget me. We can all be better friends.

Service has always been our mission in APO. At any stage in life, we can be useful. New things can bring the most rewarding experiences. May I offer three examples?

As a young faculty member, I was asked to teach a subject that had been a struggle for me as a student. Although I was only a few pages ahead of the class, students from other sections were soon sitting on the auditorium floor to hear the lectures. Having to work at the challenging material helped me explain it. Several years later, I was asked to become treasurer of a group with financial difficulties. I did not know much about the group's activities, but I helped them become solvent, and they gave me the opportunity to travel to places I had never been before. More recently, I became a volunteer sound technician. I'm helping other people be heard, but no big rock stars have requested my services yet!

My message to you? Lead by example, be a good friend, and find an area in which you can make a difference and do your best.