To: All Graduate Chapters

From: National Programs Committee

Date: November 1, 2019

RE: 22nd Annual Youth Symposium – March 2019

On March 9, 2019, the 2nd Saturday of March, which is commemoratively set within Sigma Week, Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., alumnae chapters will unite to simultaneously host the annual Youth Symposium across this nation. The Symposium is just one initiative of our national signature program, Project Reassurance, which has incorporated the theme of “H³: It’s All About Me – Healthy Choices, Healthy Living, Healthy Generations.” During your activities, please take time to honor the late Past Grand Basileus, Dr. LaRona J. Morris, who was the originator of this nation-wide symposium. Dr. Morris initiated this program under her administration during the periods of 1996 – 2000. We are honored to continue her thrust to empower youth in our communities.

The 2019 Youth Symposium theme is “Mission Possible: A Safe Space for Our Youth”. We live in a time in which protecting our youth is imperative to survival. Equipping the youth with the skills and competencies to not only advocate for themselves but also their peers is important. For parents and guardians, it is important to know and understand what affects the youth, and to be able to support and advocate on their behalf is also important. The goal of the symposium is to create dialogue, have opportunities for youth to connect to community resources, and to provide inspiration for making positive and long-last change.

As launched during the Boule in Dallas, Texas, we would like to see the discussion on human trafficking continued. Resources materials are provided by the Golden Alert Committee and is accessible on Sorors Only. In addition, chapters should choose at least one topic from each of the theme areas below – Healthy Choices, Healthy Living, and Healthy Generations to include presentations/discussions. Advisably, due to the fact that Youth Symposia include children, there must be a completed parental clearance before including any underage children in workshops with topics about HIV/AIDS, unplanned pregnancy, etc. Forms are included and available on the website.
Healthy Choices

- **Choosing Me:** Teen pregnancy prevention and self-esteem/Resource – Power to Decide
- **Choose Wisely:** Distracted Driving Prevention/Resource - National Highway Traffic Safety
- **Choosing My Future:** Financial Simulations for students: Making the "Real World" Real (See enclosures for materials)

Healthy Living

- **Saving a Life:** HIV/AIDS education/Resource – Sigma A34Life – Act Against AIDS Campaign OR CPR or First Aid Training/Resource - American Heart Association
- **Exercise For Life:** Zumba, Field Games, Walking, or SWIM 1922
- **Eating For Life:** Cooking & Meal Planning, Dietary Lifestyles, “What’s In Your Food” – reading labels, ingredients

Healthy Generations

- **My Baby’s Future:** Teen Pregnancy/Resource – Project CRADLE Care (March of Dimes) OR Investing For the Future/Resource – WeeSavers or Financial Institution
- **My Future Career:** Education and Literacy/Resource – Mwanamugimu, Operation BigBookBag
- **Our Social Action:** Social and Legislative Actions/Resource – Golden Alert, Social Action Committee

Enclosed for your information are the following:

- A general checklist for Youth Symposium Planning and a marketing guideline to keep you on track
- The nationwide agenda for the Youth Symposium
- A sample proclamation to be completed and provided for your Mayor to proclaim March 9, 2019 to be Sigma Gamma Rho Youth Day in your respective city
- A Project Reassurance list to provide you with ideas for securing both local speakers and materials for distribution

When planning your Youth Symposium think of the following:
Location – Select a popular location with easy access, e.g. civic/youth center, church hall, school, university – Trio Programs for high school students, etc.

Partnership – When possible, invite local representative from our national partners to host an information table at the event to promote their youth and family related activities and services. If they are not able to attend, consider providing brochures or contact information to attendees for the following groups in support of their mission:

   March of Dimes – Project CRADLE Care (Sigma Program) & March for Babies
   Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) – A34Life – Act Against AIDS (Sigma Program)
   7 Pearls Foundation – Healthy Heart Program

Marketing – Be sure to invite and include the participation of your Undergraduates, Rhoers, Philos, and fellow Greeks. Send your materials to local newspapers, radio stations, and television. Use social media sites such as Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter to promote the event. Also, contact your local schools, churches, community centers, university – Trio programs and other organizations well in advance to invite the participation of their youth groups.

Branding – To expose the sorority even further, set up a display that will highlight some of the chapter’s recent community involvement. Include pictures and brochures. Try to focus the display on those programs, projects, and activities that involve our youth, e.g. the Rhoer Club; Project Reassurance; Operation BigBookBag; and local, regional, and national scholarship programs. This also serves as a great way to recruit in the community.

Sponsorship – To obtain potential funding for refreshments and to secure possible attendance prizes, remember to seek support from local community entities, e.g., bank, utility companies, newspapers, major corporations, governmental agencies, civic organizations, social service agencies, department stores, chain restaurants, etc.

Evaluation – It is important that we collect data on how we are serving the community. Ensure that chapter recorder logs the Youth Symposium into Golden Service. Each member should also log in her hours towards Youth Symposium in Golden Service.

We thank you for your continued support of our national Youth Symposium and look forward to receiving your report on the details of your event. Submit your report via the Golden Service no more than 10 days after the completion of the event. Contact your regional programs chairwoman if there are questions.

REGIONAL PROGRAM CHAIRS:

   nationalprojects@sgrhocentral.com, Central – Angel Leake Worthy, MD
Enclosures:  
Marketing Guide Timeline & Planning Checklist  
Sample Proclamation  
Nationwide Agenda  
Reporting Tool – Online  
H^3 Pledge  
Project Reassurance Partial Resource List  
HIV/AIDS Parental Clearance Form

2019 YOUTH SYMPOSIUM - MARKETING GUIDELINES

Public service announcements and press releases about the Youth Symposium will be released in the coming months. To ensure that the event is presented and branded in a consistent manner, a general or “donut” press release will be sent to local chapters. The local and regional epistolei are encouraged to use the national template, and simply add their local contact and event information. Press releases will be available 6-8 weeks prior to the Youth Symposium date.

There is an approved Youth Symposium logo graphic and flyer for marketing and advertising use. Chapters may choose to use produce their own flyers; however, the approved logo graphic must be used along with the official sorority shield.
General Planning Checklist

This document outlines the high-level actions to be taken. Form committees to outline the more detailed steps.

____ Confirm Youth Symposium location

____ Secure sponsors (financial and/or in-kind services) for refreshments, publicity, etc.

____ Confirm partners to be highlighted

____ Confirm the Youth Symposium speakers and other participants.

____ Promote the Youth Symposium and cultural performances using all marketing mediums available.

____ Order co-branded materials from the international Headquarters for March of Dimes, CDC, etc.

____ Contact and send flyers to schools and all community service organizations that work with teens.

____ Send PSAs and announcements to local newspapers, television and radio stations.

____ Arrange for refreshments (through sponsorship or in-kind services) for the Youth Symposium, awards for contest participants and gifts for program participants.

____ Complete as appropriate and send Proclamation to your local mayor’s office. Use personal contact where available and be sure to follow up.

____ Arrange for professional photography for the Youth Symposium.

____ Conduct Youth Symposium.

____ Survey youth attendees as they arrive and at the conclusion of the program. The survey forms are available on the Sorority’s website.

____ Send letters of thanks and certificates to all sponsors and partners.

____ Create and submit press release and photos to local newspapers, The AURORA, and pressoffice@sgrho1922.org. Be sure to include the names of all sponsors/partners.

____ Submit the Youth Symposium Report using the **Golden Service online within 10 days**.

____ Send copies of all publicity (newspaper articles, The AURORA) to your sponsors/partners.
PROCLAMATION

“SIGMA GAMMA RHO SORORITY YOUTH DAY”

March 9, 2019

WHEREAS: Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., is a 90,000-member nonprofit collegiate sorority dedicated to the encouragement and promotion of high scholastic attainment, community service, and improvement in the quality of life through its chapters, members, and affiliates located throughout the United States, Korea, Bermuda, Africa, Bahamas, Canada and the Caribbean and Germany; and

WHEREAS: Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., through its mission seeks to address programs, projects, and concerns that impact society educationally, socially, politically, and economically; and

WHEREAS: Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. is sponsoring its Twenty Second Annual Adolescent Youth Symposium simultaneously in local communities across the nation on Saturday, March 9, 2019; and

WHEREAS: the local members of ____________________________ Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., will hold their symposium on March 9, 2019 at ___________________________(location); and

WHEREAS: Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., through this year’s nationwide symposium agenda, will seek to help youths come to grips with peer-pressuring challenges that may deal with making healthy choices, healthy living, healthy generation; and

WHEREAS: Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., has called upon the participation of a panel of community authorities to share facts regarding some of the consequences that may be faced by young people who have self-esteem and peer pressure issues; and

WHEREAS: Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., is requesting all area junior/senior high schools, sororities/fraternities, social/civic organizations, and youth services agencies to support the intent of this symposium by promoting the attendance and participation of their students and youth groups:

NOW, THEREFORE, I ____________________________, Mayor of the City of ____________________________, do hereby proclaim SATURDAY, MARCH 9, 2019 to be SIGMA GAMMA RHO SORORITY YOUTH DAY Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., in the City of ____________________________.

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED that our residents join with me in congratulating and recognizing the members of ____________________________ Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., for their efforts to encourage and guide our youth. As such, we wish for the chapter and the sorority much success in all of their future endeavors.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I HAVE SET AND CAUSED TO BE AFFIXED THE OFFICIAL SEAL OF THE CITY OF ____________________________, STATE OF ____________________________, DONE THIS __________ DAY OF ____________________________, 2019, A.D.

__________________________ MAYOR
“Mission Possible: A Safe Space for Our Youth”

A SYMPOSIUM FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Held Nationwide by Alumnae Chapters of SIGMA GAMMA RHO SORORITY, INC.

SATURDAY, MARCH 9, 2019

Between 8:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

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Pledge of Allegiance

Prayer/Meditation for Our Youth

Welcome/Purpose Reading of Proclamation

Overview of the Theme - Mission/ Goals/ Community Work

Healthy Choices-Workshop (Breakout sessions)

Healthy Living

REFRESHMENTS and Youth ENTERTAINMENT

Healthy Generations Panel Discussion

H^3 Pledge, Certificates, Drawings, Surveys

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This symposium is a product of OPERATION BIGBOOKBAG - An International Service Project Sponsored By Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc
**The $H^3$ Pledge**

I commit to being conscious that my life choices determine my future. I will learn and grow to make healthy choices in my life.

I vow to be more socially and civically aware of my health, both mentally and physically, and of my ability to grow in these areas.

I commit to be the Master Motivator to inspire my generation, to be a perpetual learner that uses knowledge and wisdom to inspire those in my present and future.

I pledge that my choices will reflect my living and influence the generations to come.
PROJECT REASSURANCE RESOURCE LIST

The March of Dimes  www.marchofdimes.com

Power to Decide: Campaign to Prevent Unplanned Pregnancy: 
https://powertodecide.org

The Centers for Disease Control- Act Against AIDS website:  http://www.cdc.gov/actagainstaids/index.html

Girls Health from the US DHHS
http://www.4girls.gov/
http://www.4girls.gov/freestuff/images/brochure.pdf
http://www.4girls.gov/freestuff/teenguide/teen_survival_guide.pdf

Adolescent Decision Making: Implications for Prevention Programs
http://books.nap.edu/openbook.php?record_id=9468&page=1

Free Spirit - Company that provides educational material for youth
http://www.freespirit.com/foreign_rights/foreign_rights.cfm

Excerpts from the Rites of Passage Youth Empowerment Curriculum by our own Soror Emily Diane Gunter
http://www.ritesofpassageonline.org/index.html

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration-Distracted Driving Campaign
http://www.distraction.gov

SPEAR – Wee Savers
http://www.spearfoundation.org/page9.html

United States Department of Agriculture
https://www.nutrition.gov/shopping-cooking-meal-planning
Parental Waiver and Hold Harmless Agreement

Name of Child: ______________________________________________________________________________

Name of Parent/Guardian: _______________________________________________________________

Address: _____________________________________________________________________________________

Phone: ______________________________________ E-mail: ________________________________

I, ____________________________________________, on behalf of myself, my heirs, assigns and all other persons or entities claiming by, under or through me, represents, covenants and agrees that I will not hold or seek to hold Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., its officers, directors, regions, members, affiliates, employees, agents or representatives responsible for any liability resulting from my child’s participation in the 2019 Youth Symposium activities hosted by the Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. I further waive and release any and all rights and claims against the aforementioned parties for any injury or loss suffered while participating in this group. I further grant an irrevocable and nonexclusive license to Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. allowing the use of my child’s name, voice, portrait, likeness, photograph and/or motion pictures, either alone or accompanied by other material, in any media and formats whether now known or later developed, for any purpose relating to developing and promoting the growth and mission of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. I hereby waive all my rights to inspect and approve the finished product and materials, their use or such visual, written or audio copy as may be used in connection therewith.

____________________________________________  __________________________________________
Parent/Guardian Signature  Date
Emergency Medical Treatment Waiver

In the event that reasonable attempts have been made to contact me at the following phone number ____________________________ or my designated emergency contact [name and phone number] ______________________________________ have been unsuccessful, I hereby give my permission and consent to any medical treatment that may be required to the above minor child and authorize an adult, in whose care the minor has been entrusted, to consent to any medical care to include any X-Ray examination, anesthetic, medical, surgical, or dental diagnosis or treatment. This is to include any hospital care needed to be rendered to or under general or special supervision of any physician, dentist, or medical staff of a hospital licensed under the provisions of the Medical Practice Act, regardless of whether such diagnosis or treatment is rendered at the office of said physician or hospital.

Please list any allergies or medical conditions:

_________________________________________________________________________________________________

Please list any medications that your child is taking, prescription and/or over-the-counter.

_________________________________________________________________________________________________

Notice of Rights to Parents/Guardians
A3 4 Life – Centers for Disease Control Act Against AIDS
Leadership Initiative
&
Power to Decide: National Campaign to Prevent Unplanned Pregnancy

As a recipient of more than $500,000 in grant funding from the Centers for Disease Control for the implementation of an HIV/AIDS education and prevention program and Power to Decide: National Campaign to Prevent Unplanned Pregnancy to educate young girls and teens on positive self-imaging and healthy behavior, the sorority may from time-to-time offer instruction in high-level HIV and AIDS information and education and other human sexuality information. Instruction may also include the recognition, prevention, and treatment of sexually transmitted disease. This instruction shall stress that abstinence from sex is a responsible and effective method of preventing unplanned or out of wedlock pregnancy and sexually transmitted disease and is a positive lifestyle for unmarried young people.

Request to Examine Instructional Material

The sorority, upon request, will make program educational synopses available to parents of children participating in events hosted by Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. All requests shall be made to the alumnae chapter president in your local community.

Educational Program Waiver Request

If you desire for your child to not participate in such educational sessions, please sign on the line below: I request that my child not participate in any classes discussing HIV/AIDS education and prevention or any human sexuality related topics.

______________________________
Parent/Guardian Signature