

What you need to know about applying for Chapter Awards from Kappa Delta Pi.

Over the past several years, KDP Chapter and Leader awards have taken several different iterations. Rubrics and criteria have changed, awards have been added and removed and we recognize that this has caused confusion among many chapters.

This year, we wanted to make sure we honored the amount of effort it takes to even run a chapter virtually or hybrid amongst the stress of everything else happening. We want to award you, while still holding to a level of excellence in your activities. Even if your event went terribly or had one attendee, as long as your organizers learned a lot from the experience, you can submit for an award!

Projects will be judged by the Membership Experience Team and other Kappa Delta Pi staff familiar with chapter operations. In the past, we requested outside reviewers; however, this significantly delayed the process, and many did not fully understand the scope of projects or how various chapters must plan events differently.

Here is what has changed for this year:

1. We have added a Covid-19 specific activity award. This is designed for any event or project your chapter did specifically to support education during this time.

Here is what you need to know:

1. Read the criteria and rubrics thoroughly. You expect your students to do so, so please ensure you are hitting each point and answering questions. It is the easiest way to gain an extra point or two, by adding in a line to answer a question.
2. Clearly share the “why” of your project. It is important to have a strong reason behind your chapter’s project. Add in statistics, quotes, share news articles. If you did a professional development event about supporting English Language Learners in the virtual classroom, share about the number of ELLs in a local school district or the number of members requesting the topic. This also helps determine your goals and outcomes. Do you expect for attendees to gain practical skills? Did your last event have 15 attendees, so you plan to have 20 for this one?
3. Your projects should be a meaningful experience from start to finish for your members. Share the ways in which members contributed to the organizing, advertising, fundraising, execution, and evaluation of your programming. We also ask for these details so that we can share with other chapters in their planning of events!
4. Ask your participants for feedback and what they learned. This is the easiest way to improve your programming to suit the needs of your target audience next time. Additionally, discuss as a group what you learned from planning event, as sometimes that process is even more valuable than the content of the program.
5. Evaluate and reflect. You should debrief every program you host, regardless of if you apply for activities. What went well? What needs to be changed in the future? How can you apply the feedback you have received?
6. Submit something other than a standard narrative sheet! We welcome videos, podcasts, slideshows. Write everything from a first-person perspective, as a how-to blog.