

The Story of the Violet

The Official Flower of Alpha Delta Kappa

Opening

Have you ever wondered...
how the violet came to be the official flower of Alpha Delta Kappa?

At first glance, it may seem like a simple choice—a small, beautiful flower. But behind that choice is a meaningful story filled with tradition, symbolism, and even a little bit of chance.

The Beginning of the Story

The story takes us back to the very first initiation of the Kansas Alpha Chapter.

One of the founders, Agness Shipman Robertson, was preparing for the ceremony. She asked a local florist to create a beautiful cornucopia filled with flowers.

Now here's the interesting part...
She didn't specify which flowers to use.

The florist made the choice.

And that choice... was violets.

A Moment That Became a Tradition

Those violets were used in that very first initiation ceremony.

And sometimes, the most meaningful traditions begin in the simplest ways.

What started as a florist's selection soon became something much bigger.

- The violets stood out
- Their beauty and symbolism resonated
- And over time, they were officially adopted

The violet became the official flower of Alpha Delta Kappa.

A Symbol with Deep Meaning

But why did the violet endure?




Because it represents everything the organization stands for:

- Beauty and modesty
- The springtime of youth
- Growth, learning, and new beginnings

Just as spring awakens the earth, the violet symbolizes the awakening of students' minds—and the role educators play in that transformation.

Colors That Tell a Story

The violet is also part of a powerful trio of colors:

-  Olive green – connected to Athena, the goddess of wisdom
-  Golden yellow – representing Demeter and Proserpina, symbols of growth and renewal
-  Purple violet – the heart of learning, transformation, and enlightenment

Together, these colors reflect the journey of education: wisdom planted, knowledge grown, and potential fulfilled.

The Teacher's Role

Within Alpha Delta Kappa, this symbolism becomes deeply personal.

Educators are seen as those who:

- Sow seeds of knowledge
- Nurture growth
- Help students flourish

And in time, students “reap” the benefits of education, experience, and guidance.

A Living Piece of History

And that original moment?

It hasn't been forgotten. The very cornucopia used in that first initiation—filled with violets—is still preserved today at the organization's headquarters in Kansas City.

A simple arrangement of flowers became a lasting symbol of purpose and legacy.

🌟 Closing

So the next time you see a violet, remember...

It's not just a flower.

It's a symbol of:

- 🌱 Growth
- 📖 Learning
- 🌸 Renewal
- 💡 The power of education

And it all began with one simple question... and one unexpected choice.