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James Walters

University of Northern Iowa, james.walters@uni.edu

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# Sigma Gamma Epsilon Chapter Service Award

## James C. Walters

National Secretary-Treasurer

Sigma Gamma Epsilon

University of Northern Iowa

Cedar Falls, IA 50614-0335

[James.walters@uni.edu](mailto:James.walters@uni.edu)

### ABSTRACT

The Chapter Service Award for Sigma Gamma Epsilon was developed, voted on, and approved by the student delegates at the 42<sup>nd</sup> Biennial Convention in Charlotte, NC, November 3, 2012. The Chapter Service Award is based upon a non-profit/non-chapter fund raising activity that benefits the department, institution, or community. This report provides information on qualifications for eligibility and profiles the two award winning chapters for 2012-2013, Epsilon Eta Chapter at Radford University and Epsilon Theta Chapter at Northwest Missouri State University.

### INTRODUCTION

Delegates to the 42<sup>nd</sup> Biennial Convention of Sigma Gamma Epsilon developed and approved a new award called The Chapter Service Award. The Chapter Service Award is based upon a non-profit/non-chapter fund raising activity that benefits the department, institution, or community. Any chapter that meets all the qualifications is eligible for the SGE Chapter Service Award, annually.

### REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for the Chapter Service Award a chapter must meet all of the following requirements.

- (a) Must be an active chapter that has paid its dues for the current academic year.
- (b) Minimum average of six (6) volunteer hours per member (revised from original) based on the returning members and new

initiates for the fall semester per academic year.

- (c) Participants must be dues-paying members of Sigma Gamma Epsilon at the time of the service project for the hours to be considered eligible.
- (d) Hours must be completed either on an extensive outreach project or multiple projects, one of which must be an outreach project. Two (2) hours (revised from original) must be dedicated to outreach. An outreach project is a non-profit/non-chapter fund raising activity that benefits the department, institution, or community.
- (e) The service project(s) must be completed by the chapter during the academic year (15 August – 15 May). The Service Project Form, including photos, must be completed and submitted by 31 May to:

[even@sigmagammaepsilon.com](mailto:even@sigmagammaepsilon.com)

The Service Project Form is available at:

[http://www.sigmagammaepsilon.com/index\\_files/Page610.htm](http://www.sigmagammaepsilon.com/index_files/Page610.htm)

- (f) If unable to submit the Service Project Form electronically, please print the PDF version and mail to:

Dr. James C. Walters  
National Secretary-Treasurer  
Sigma Gamma Epsilon  
University of Northern Iowa  
Cedar Falls, IA 50614-0335

A certificate and \$50.00 monetary prize will be awarded upon approval. Chapters receiving the Service Award will be recognized in *The Compass* and on the Sigma Gamma Epsilon website. Any chapter that meets the qualifications is eligible to receive the award and can receive the award every year. Two Chapters qualified this year for the new Chapter Service Award: Epsilon Eta Chapter (Radford University) and Epsilon Theta Chapter (Northwest Missouri State University).

## AWARD WINNING CHAPTERS

**Epsilon Eta** (Radford University) members had a total of 1150 service hours, earning them the honor of being the first SGE Chapter to be recognized with the new SGE Chapter Service Award!

Eight members of Epsilon Eta donated 128 hours each to conduct 15 Day-of-Science programs for a total of 1024 service hours! The 15 Day-of-Science programs were conducted from 9/13/12 through 3/21/2013 (Fig. 1). Up to 150 K-12 students participated in each of the 15 Day-of-Science programs. The large group was divided into smaller groups and each member took responsibility for their assigned group and led them from activity to activity according to the predetermined schedule. Members also interacted with the students as role models, participated in many of the demonstrations and experiences, and generally attempted to build interest and excitement about science.



**Figure 1.** Graduating senior, Jacey Allen, volunteering at a Day-of-Science Program.

Epsilon Eta believes supporting the Radford University Science Days is supporting outreach science education in the historically underserved region of southwest Virginia. Since September, 2012, over 2100 K-12 public and private school students have visited Radford University to participate in a "Day of Science". This includes experiencing demonstrations and exposure to Astronomy (RU Planetarium), Earth Science (RU Museum of the Earth Sciences), Botany (RU Greenhouse), Physics (Physics "Magic Show"), Chemistry (Chemistry "Magic Show"), and Anthropology (hands-on demonstration of interpreting bones). Radford University is in the forefront of science education outreach, and Epsilon Eta Chapter is proud to be supporting and assisting in this activity.

Another project in which 5 members donated 6 hours each to was

assisting 125 middle and high school students competing in the annual regional science fair. Members helped to organize the students, send them for interviews at the appropriate time, feed them, and otherwise serve as positive role models as college students and as scientists-in-training. Supporting the regional science fair supports the nurturing of young scientists in the middle-schools and high schools.

Epsilon Eta also hosted earth science-related outreach events for both the university and public communities such as the screening of "Chasing Ice", a cinematic exploration of the diminishing arctic environment (Fig. 2). Members purchased the film "Chasing Ice" which is an award-winning movie about global warming and showed it on campus for free for three nights to anyone who wished to see it. Over 500 patrons attended the showings.



**Figure 2.** Melissa Brett, newly elected 2013-2014 President of Epsilon Eta chapter, acquired the film, secured university support for the venture, scheduled the showing, advertised the event, and actually showed the film at each showing.

Epsilon Eta Chapter members are fortunate to have a retired master gem cutter as a community volunteer at the Radford University Museum of the Earth Sciences. Mr. Harry Troutt taught SGE members how to create lapidary art (both cabochons and faceted stones), present their work in appropriate mountings and settings, and market their products. The chapter purchased raw materials and 12 members performed 96 hours of labor. The products are sold within the museum, local boutiques, and on-campus during homecoming and parents' weekends. Eighty percent of the profits are donated to the Museum.

The members believe this is important because the Radford University Museum of the Earth Sciences relies solely on donations for its development and outreach activities. Epsilon Eta Chapter is proud to furnish financial support to the Museum and to date, Epsilon Eta Chapter has been able to donate in excess of \$300 to the Museum.

**Epsilon Theta** (Northwest Missouri State University) is the second chapter to receive the SGE Chapter Service Award! Thirty members completed a total of 516 service hours. The Afghanistan Cookie Drive was a joint activity with Girl Scout Troop #8307. Members of the Epsilon Theta Chapter volunteered at a popcorn and snacks booth at the Nodaway County Fair. Proceeds went to cover the cost of shipping 187

boxes of Girl Scout Cookies to members of the 129th Field Artillery Battalion currently serving in Iraq. Girl Scout Science Saturday was also co-sponsored with Troop #8307. This activity provided Girl Scouts from the Northwest Missouri Service Region the opportunity to earn badges in Home Science, the Water Cycle, Paleontology, Mineralogy, Petrology, and Entomology. Girls who participated were asked to bring a can of food for donation to Second Harvest Food Bank in St. Joseph, Missouri. A total of 87 girls from 20 different troops earned 119 badges. The event brought in 200 pounds of food for the Food Bank.

Members of Epsilon Theta believe both the Cookie Drive and Science Saturday are crucial for the long-term health and well-being of members of the Epsilon Theta Chapter, the University and larger Maryville community, and the participants themselves. The 129th Field Artillery Battalion is based in Maryville. Many of those who are serving are their sons, daughters, husbands, wives, fathers and mothers. Their support is critical for them and their families. Numerous studies show that girls tend to lose interest in science between the ages of 10 and 14. Activities like Science Saturday have been shown to reinforce the importance of science to young women. Recruiting and retaining talented women is critical to the future of geology and other sciences.