

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Date: May 13, 2025

Tree Planting & Dedication Ceremony Honors Legacy of Beloved Members

Milwaukee, WI – Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®, Epsilon Kappa Omega Chapter is inviting the community to gather in honor of environmental stewardship, remembrance, and renewal at its **Tree Planting and Dedication Ceremony** on **Saturday, May 17, 2025**, at **Havenwoods State Forest**, located at **6141 N. Hopkins St., Milwaukee, WI 53209**.

Hosted in one of Wisconsin's most serene urban green spaces, this meaningful event is a tribute to the enduring legacy of distinguished members whose contributions continue to inspire. The morning will begin with a **Tree Planting activity from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.** followed by a **Tree Dedication Ceremony at 12:00 p.m.** honoring:

- **Diamond Members (75 or more years of membership):** Carolyn Bolton and Mildred Pollard
- **Pearl Members (65 or more years of membership):** Mary Barnes Ball, A.F. Jacquelyn Coleman, Jenelle Elder-Green, and Amy Hall
- **Beloved Departed Members (Ivies Beyond the Wall):** Hester Besteda, Shellie Johnson, and Juliana T. Rhoten

There will be 18 trees planted. The planting of these trees will symbolize strength, growth, and the deep roots these women have established in our lives and community.

To conclude the day, guests are invited to a **“Havenwoods Soror Hike” from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.**, an opportunity to enjoy reflection and sisterhood while exploring the state's only urban forest, featuring 237 acres of natural beauty and over six miles of scenic trails.

About Havenwoods State Forest

A hidden gem in the heart of Milwaukee, Havenwoods offers grasslands, wetlands, and woods perfect for hiking, biking, wildlife watching, and nature immersion. Visitors can also enjoy its interactive nature center, tranquil ponds, and a 120-foot bridge, making it a perfect location to celebrate life, legacy, and the power of nature.

About Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® (AKA), an international service organization, was founded on the campus of Howard University in Washington, D.C. in 1908. It is the oldest Greek-letter organization established by African American college-educated women.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® is comprised of more than 360,000 initiated members in graduate and undergraduate chapters located in 12 nations and territories including the United States, Bahamas, Bermuda, Canada, United Arab Emirates, Germany, Japan, Liberia, Nigeria, South Korea, South Africa, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The Enhance Our Environment International Program

The goal of the Enhance Our Environment program is to employ specific strategies to optimize our collective ability and to improve and protect the environment globally. Activities are prioritized to promote the adoption of sustainable and responsible practices. Activities and workshops are sponsored to encourage and engage individuals and communities in eco-friendly practices to reduce household waste.