

Tapping of the Guard

April 10, 2026
Tower Guard
Afternoon Ceremony

Tower Guard Pledge

"As a pledge of Tower Guard who has been selected from the freshman class for this honor, I aspire to uphold its standards of Character, Scholarship, Leadership, and Service. I will strive to fulfill the hopes for accomplishment that Tower Guard held in choosing me. As a member I will try to uphold the principles and forward the endeavors of the ideals of progressive and aspiring humanity. In consideration of my society and of my honor, I shall ever work for the advancement and recognition of my school, Michigan State University."

*after the group photo, please head to Wells Hall, B122 for your first official meeting!

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Leadership is not defined by position, nor is it a guaranteed trait of one who has won an election. It is, instead, a lifestyle – something that one must demonstrate on a daily basis, through each interaction, whether it is great or small. The truly great leader does not lead by force or power, but by example. By this example, the leader offers confidence to the group, creating an environment in which human development can be facilitated. Leadership is at times a lonely lifestyle, requiring the ability to admit mistakes, to ask questions that others are afraid to ask, and to put others before one's own personal welfare. The evidence of truly great leadership can be found only when a group is unable to name their leader, and each member takes pride in their contribution to the overall success of the group.

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Service is an unselfish gift from the heart, a sparkle of hope for people in need. It sets the foundation of character and leadership throughout one's life. Giving of oneself can greatly impact the community, but it can also give the realization that he or she can make a difference.

"Only a life lived in service to others is worth living."
-Albert Einstein

The Four Corners

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Scholarship is a commitment one has made to improve his or herself academically. This commitment shows up on paper, but is expressed within oneself. The motivation for excellence should not be evident only in the classroom, but in all aspects of everyday life.

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The final pillar of Tower Guard, character, is reflected in all other pillars combined. Through goodness and strength, this group gives itself unselfishly in community service. Through strong will and devotion, we seek to excel in academics, and through courage and personality, we ask others to follow in our footsteps.

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