

## **Kappa Tau Blog Post**

Each year, thousands of students participate in the National Fine Arts Festival. Through participating in a wide range of categories, students get the opportunity to discover, develop, and deploy the gifts that God has given them. Lots of students participate in Fine Arts in both middle school and high school, but don't know they have the opportunity to continue to participate in their college years. Kappa Tau, the college division of National Fine Arts Festival, offers the opportunity for college-age students to continue to discover, develop, and deploy their gifts.

The young adult season of life continues to be a crucial one. Some church leaders have referenced the ages eighteen to twenty-nine as “the black hole of church attendance and the group missing in action.”<sup>1</sup> Though this is the reality for some churches, the young adult season of life has the ability to be one of significant spiritual formation. Kappa Tau gives young adults in this crucial season of life the ability to continue to stay connected to community and develop their gifts.

### **A Few Quick Facts About Kappa Tau**

Kappa Tau: College Fine Arts is an extension of the Fine Arts Festival for college-age students. Kappa Tau participants are not required to participate in or receive an advancing rating from a district festival. Some districts do offer Kappa Tau categories at their district festivals for students wishing to receive additional experience. Contact your district office for specific information on availability of Kappa Tau categories and how to register for your local festival(s).

Kappa Tau: College Fine Arts is open to all Christian students who meet the following criteria:

1. Participating students must be eighteen to twenty-two years of age and no longer enrolled in high school.
2. Participants must be in good standing with a local AG church and/or AG student ministries organization (e.g., church programs, Chi Alpha, or AG university).

Kappa Tau students must register with their home church. Students may not participate with multiple churches or with churches or districts other than their own. If the student is in good standing with more than one AG church or youth ministry, he or she must select only one home church with which to participate.

### **Why Kappa Tau?**

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<sup>1</sup> Scott Pontier, *Reimagining Young Adult Ministry* (Nashville, TN: Ministry Architects Publishing, 2017), 12.

You might ask: Why Kappa Tau? Although there are numerous benefits, I want to take a minute to highlight three primary ones.

- 1. Form community.** The young adult season of life can come with new challenges to finding community. Up to this point in life, there has been built-in community with school, youth group, etc. For many young adults, post-high school is a new season of having to find community. Participating in a group category for Kappa Tau gives young adults the chance to connect with community and make memories. One of my favorite memories of Fine Arts was the time that I got to spend with the groups I was a part of. Through weekly practice times, we got to make memories, talk about our faith, and have fun. Participating in a group event gives young adults the chance to form community.
- 2. Continue to develop your gift.** One of the foundational components of the National Fine Arts Festival is the opportunity for students to continue to discover and develop their gifts. Some young adults may not be in a community where they get to receive feedback for their particular art form. Participating in Kappa Tau allows young adults to receive feedback to help them better develop their art/gift. Through participation in the National Festival, professionals in the field can provide feedback to help young adults to continue to develop their gift.
- 3. Be mentored and be a mentor.** The multiple levels of mentorship is one of my favorite parts of Kappa Tau. Young adults can seek out individuals within their church who are currently involved in the ministry form that they plan to present in. This allows the young adults to spend time with someone who is currently ministering in that area and be mentored to grow in that area. I also encourage college-age students who are participating in Kappa Tau to mentor a youth student who is presenting in the same category in Fine Arts. This would allow the young adult to grow by being a mentor. This allows the young adult to take an active part in discipling someone younger.

### **The Impact of Kappa Tau**

I love the stories that I hear about the impact Kappa Tau is having on college-age students. Here are two testimonies from college-age students who have experienced firsthand the impact of Kappa Tau.

Kappa Tau is a great way for college students to continue to develop their gifts. In Kappa Tau, I was able to showcase my growth and demonstrate the improvements in my ministry gifts. I can truly say that Kappa Tau was a way to expound on how Fine Arts had helped me to grow in my giftings. Kappa Tau helped me confirm my calling to pastoral ministry and serving others with my God-given gifts! If not for Kappa Tau, I would not be as developed and confident speaking in front of people or leading others. I love Fine

Arts and it's vital for school-age kids, but Kappa Tau will always hold a special place in my heart. When we graduate from high school, we're no longer part of youth group. We aged out of Fine Arts. Our entire world is shaken. Knowing that I could participate in Kappa Tau and still utilize my gifts was such a stabilizing point for me. It reminded me that I was still part of a community. I thoroughly enjoyed connecting with other college-age students. I have made so many friends through Kappa Tau.

- Faith Sando

If it wasn't for Kappa Tau, I would have never been able to try out new skills that I wasn't ready for in middle school and high school. Growing up, I wasn't confident in public speaking, so giving a short sermon was not even on my radar while competing in Fine Arts. In college, I took a public speaking class where I became more comfortable and affirmed in my ability to speak in front of an audience. After that class, I felt like the Lord gave me an urge and confidence to compete in the Kappa Tau short sermon category. I competed at nationals, and I ended up receiving second place in short sermon for Kappa Tau. My high school self would never have dreamed that I would be doing a short sermon at the national level someday, and I have Kappa Tau to thank for that.

- Hope Linde