

What Masonry is and is not



The Square and Compasses, Masonry's most popular symbol, signifying integrity and virtue

Freemasonry is:

The oldest, largest and most charitable men's fraternal organization in the world.

Spiritual, not religious in nature, requiring every member to profess a belief in a Supreme Being of his choice.

Family oriented with many programs and groups to involve the entire family.

An opportunity for a man to improve himself. Rich in history, tradition and patriotism.

Sensitive to the needs of each community where it exists.

Open to men of good character regardless of race, creed or religion.

Freemasonry is NOT:

A secret society. Any information about Masons can be found at a well stocked bookstore or local library. Masonic buildings are clearly marked and listed in the phonebook. Members wear Masonic jewelry. The only secret *about Masonry is that there are no real secrets!*

A Mason is proud of his membership!

Family values are critical to the Mason. Membership should never interfere with family life.

A very brief look at Masonic History

No one knows just how old Freemasonry is because the actual origins have been lost in time. Most scholars believe Masonry rose from the guilds of stonemasons who built the majestic castles and cathedrals of the Middle Ages. In 1717 a formal organization was created in England when four Lodges in London joined in forming England's Grand Lodge. Freemasonry in America was initiated by our early settlers and was supported by men such as Washington, Franklin, Hancock, Revere and DeWitt Clinton. As a matter of fact, most of Washington's military staff were Masons. The Grand Lodge of the State of New York was chartered in 1781.

We urge your family to read Masonic history; it is a vital part of our proud American heritage.

The Mason in your family has joined a renowned philanthropic brotherhood which has 1.7 million members in North America and 3.2 million members world wide. There are very few places in the entire world that could not offer your family Masonic friendship or assistance if the need arose.

The Degree System of Masonry

Your family member will be going through a unique experience in the modern world as he participates in our three degrees leading up to his achieving full membership as a Master Mason. Ancient in origin, each degree teaches an important lesson through the use of symbols. There is never any 'hazing' in a Masonic Degree. The Degrees are dignified and when understood can add great value to the Mason's daily life. All Masons wear aprons at their meetings to symbolize the historic link between our current Brotherhood and the builders of old.

Masonic Meetings

All Lodges meet on a regular stated basis which allows your family to plan events.

Masons receive more of the benefits of Masonry by attending meetings, so long as that attendance does not harm the family in any way.

We hope that your family will support and encourage your Mason's attendance and that the whole family will take every opportunity to participate with him.

What is the purpose of Masonry?

The main purpose of Masonry is to take good men and assist them in becoming better husbands, fathers, sons and brothers. Masonry does this by keeping them exposed to moral and ethical teachings and by consistently asking them to consider important character building issues. One of most important concerns is what each Mason gives back to his community. Masonry's cornerstone is charity. Approximately two million dollars a day is given to charity by all Masonic organizations combined. In short, by improving ourselves we are placed in a better position to help others.

Should the Mason in your family becomes ill or hospitalized, please take a moment to call the Secretary or Master of his Lodge.

You will be amazed at the support he and the family will receive. Taking care of Brother Masons and their families is a labor of love for a Mason.

Masons help in good times too!

Inquire about scholarships for college bound teens, housing and care for senior family members, and Masonic Youth Camps for children. There are many ways in which Masons live out their way of life. It is up to each Masonic Family to choose its own way to contribute.

How can your Family be involved in Masonry?

Some of the countless ways that your family can be involved in the Masonic family include:

- Attending Lodge sponsored functions such as public programs, parties, dinners, tours and civic programs.
- Working with the Lodge at its various charitable events such as fund drives, bike rodeos, child identification programs, blood drives, drug and alcohol prevention programs, telethons, and private charitable work such as visiting the sick and tending to the needs of widows.
- Becoming familiar with the full family of Masonry which includes Eastern Star, Amaranth and Daughters of the Nile for women, DeMolay for teenage boys, Constellation of Junior Stars, Rainbow and Triangle for teenage girls. All of these groups provide the wholesome environment which springs from Masonry.

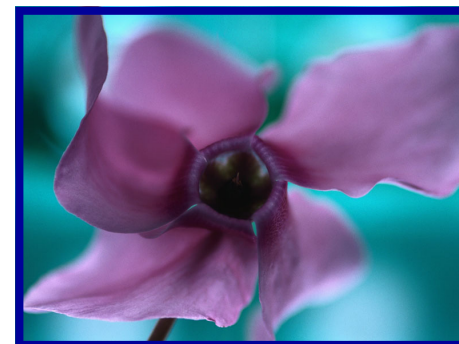
Any Questions?

Should you have any further questions please ask your Masonic Member. If he cannot provide an answer, please do not hesitate to contact the Master or Secretary of his Lodge directly (it is a good idea to have their numbers available). Or, in time of emergency, please feel free to call Grand Lodge for further information or assistance: 1-800-3MASON4.

It is our sincerest hope that you will be proud of your Mason and of your family's involvement in Masonry.

We welcome you with our hearts!

The Masonic Family Welcomes Your Family to Freemasonry!



A man in your family has become a Mason. Congratulations! You are now connected to a worldwide brotherhood which takes as its creed:

Friendship, Morality and Brotherly Love.

We welcome your family to our Masonic family.

There is much to know about Masonry. It is our sincerest hope that Masonry will become a true family affair for you and yours. There are many opportunities for family involvement, not only in the Lodge but in groups designed for the Ladies and Youth, charitable activities in the Community and much, much more. We hope this brochure whets your appetite to enjoy the Masonic experience with your family to the fullest.