

Next Steps...

We encourage any interested potential member to visit as many lodges as is reasonable. Even though all lodges belonging to the Grand Lodge of Texas A.F. & A.M. are based on the same basic principles, each individual lodge has its own character. Some focus more on a relaxed atmosphere and fraternal fellowship, some are all about charity and community involvement, while others focus on philosophy, education and spiritual development. All lodges will include all of these aspects to some degree, but each lodge has a different focus.

Come see which lodge is the best fit for you. Additionally, since being a freemason involves frequent visits to the lodge, it is highly advised to consider a lodge that is conveniently located within a reasonable driving distance from either home, work or in between. If it is a hassle to fight traffic to attend, then it is highly likely that it will prevent you from becoming an active Mason.

Additional Resources:

Masonry 101.com
Grand Lodge Of Texas.org
Be A Freemason.org

What is Freemasonry?

Freemasonry a worldwide fraternity that is based on an initiatic system that offers a progressive degree structure. The 1st degree is called Entered Apprentice. The 2nd degree is the Fellowcraft and the 3rd degree is the Master Mason. These degrees and the structure and philosophy is based on the ancient historical Stonemasons. During the Enlightenment Era intellectuals who wanted to openly discuss ideas and philosophies that challenged the existing power structures and commonly accepted ideas, joined secret societies.

Freemasonry uses symbols to reinforce and build upon its teachings.

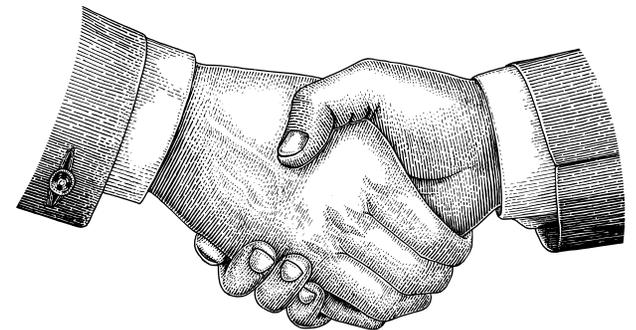
Today, Freemasons are organized into local lodges, which belong to a Grand Lodge. In the USA Grand Lodges are organized by states.

Once a member is a 3rd degree Master Mason he is eligible to join appendant bodies and get more Light in Masonry. Popular appendant bodies include:

- Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite
- York Rite, including Knights Templar
- Ancient Arabic Order of the Mystic Shrine
- Order of the Eastern Star



MASONRY 101 INFORMATION



Frequently Asked Questions:

Who can join?

Candidates needs to be male and at least 18 years of age. He should not have any significant criminal record and have a good moral character. Finally, he needs to declare a belief in a supreme being, however the candidate chooses to define that.

How can I join?

Just ask to join. Freemasonry does not recruit. There is a simple, short petition to complete – To be one, ask one

What is required to become a mason?

A candidate needs to provide the following to the secretary of the lodge:

- Completed and signed petition
- 5 signatures of master masons, 2 of which must belong to that lodge
- Copy of birth certificate
- Payment for application fee (differs by lodge)

Are you a secret organization and behind....

Freemasonry is an organization with secrets, not a secret organization. How secret can an organization truly be that has bumper stickers, big blinking neon

signs on our buildings, parades, golf tournaments and hospitals, college football bowl games, websites and invitational dinners such as this one tonight.

What is Freemasonry hiding?

There are very few things that Freemasons are not allowed to discuss with anyone outside of their fraternity. We took an obligation when we joined Freemasonry to keep some things secret, never to be shared with anyone who was not a Mason themselves. These things include:

- Handshakes and passwords
- Rituals and degree work
- Discussions and votes within a “tiled lodge”
- Catechism memory work

Once I join, can I ever leave again?

Absolutely, YES! A mason can leave the fraternity at any time for any reason. Candidates can simply inform the Lodge Secretary, or Worshipful Master and withdraw their petition.

A member can demit from the Lodge by providing a simple letter to the Secretary. Alternatively, he can simply stop paying his dues and then become inactive due to non-payment of dues.

Why do you call each other brother?

The term “Brother” is a title for Freemasons. It is also acceptable to use the shortened version: “Bro.” instead. This is not intended as a colloquialism or to sound hip, but instead it is intended for brevity when writing. Only once you have been initiated as a 1st degree Entered Apprentice, have you earned the title.

Why can't women be Freemasons?

The reason for this gender separation is that a male-only fraternity allows men to focus on self-improvement, spiritual development, and true brotherhood. It allows the members to open up and safely be vulnerable to their brothers. Introducing females to this equation activates deep-rooted natural tendencies to modify behavior and change the focus of the meetings. It introduces potential distractions to the lodge meetings. There is another more formal and legal reason, that is based on the Ancient Landmarks of Freemasonry. In order to be considered legal and accepted, every lodge worldwide must conform with these principles.