

How do I become a Mason?

Masonry does not solicit members. No one is asked to join, and a man must seek admission of his own free will. He must ask. A man interested in becoming a Mason, should consult a friend whom he believes to be a Freemason to secure his good counsel and recommendation concerning this important undertaking.

Some men are surprised that no one has ever asked them to become a Mason. For hundreds of years, Masons have been forbidden to ask others to join the fraternity. We can talk to friends about Masonry. We can tell them about what Masonry does. We can tell them why we enjoy it. But we can not ask, much less pressure, anyone to join.

There is a good reason for that. It is not that we are trying to be exclusive, but becoming a Mason is a very serious thing. Joining Masonry is making a permanent life commitment to live in certain ways. No one should be "talked into" making such a decision.

The first step is to ask to become a member!

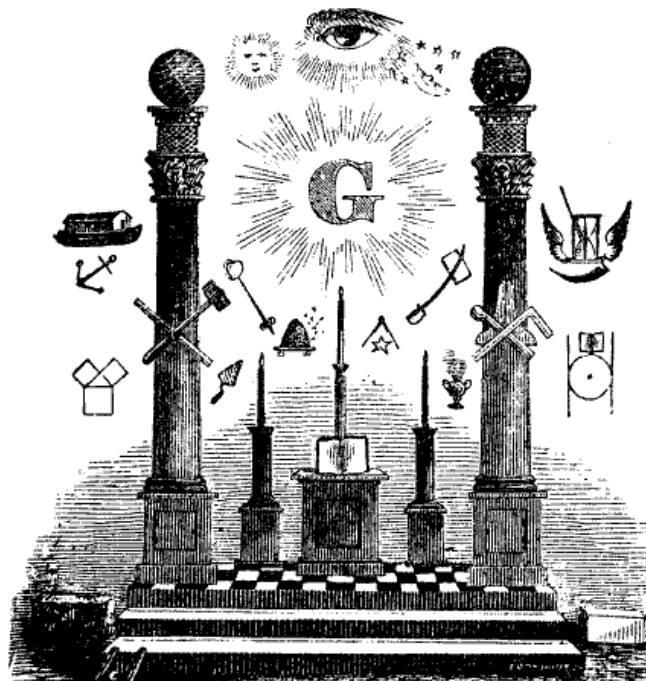
Please feel free to email or call the Lodge and request more information.



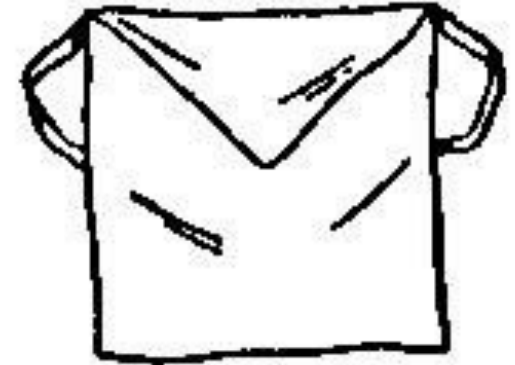
For More Information

You can find more information by visiting these suggested Masonic web sites:

www.njfreemasonry.org (Grand Lodge of NJ)
www.nj1stmasonicdistrict.com (1st Masonic District of NJ)
www.mastermason.com/njlore1786 (NJ Lodge of Research)
www.msana.com (Masonic Service Assoc. of North America)
www.gwmemorial.org (G. Washington Masonic Memorial)
www.childrenslearningcenters.org (32 Masonic Learning Center For Children)
www.32ndmlcnorthfield.schools.officelive.com (32 Masonic Learning Center at Northfield)
www.mmrl.edu (Masonic Medical Research Laboratory)
www.americanmason.com (American Mason)
www.freemasoninformation.com
www.njdemolay.org (DeMolay Leaders of New Jersey)
www.angelfire.com/nj4/nj_iorg (New Jersey Rainbow for Girls)
www.njoes.com (New Jersey Order of Eastern Star)



It's No Secret !



Real Men Do Wear Aprons



Mansfield Lodge #36, F&AM
275 Route 31, North
Washington, NJ 07882
(908) 689-2533

<http://www.nj1stmasonicdistrict.com/mansfield36.htm>
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What is a Mason?

That is not a surprising question. Even though Masons (Freemasons) are members of the largest and oldest fraternity in the world, and even though almost everyone has a neighbor friend or relative who is a Mason, many people are not quite certain just who Masons are.

The answer is simple. A Mason (or Freemason) is a member of a fraternity known as Masonry (or Freemasonry). A fraternity is a group of men (just as a sorority is a group of women) who join together for the common good of Man. Freemasonry is the oldest, largest, and most widely known fraternal organization in the world. It is comprised of men who seek to become better through their association with one another and their families. They are active in their community and they enjoy being together with men they like and respect.

Mason is a man who has decided that he likes to feel good about himself and others. He cares about the future as well as the past, and does what he can, both alone and with others, to make the future good for everyone. The institution of Masonry is founded upon the Fatherhood of God, and the Brotherhood of Man.

It teaches Morality, Brotherly love and Charity. Our teaching includes brotherhood, morality, justice, tolerance, citizenship, education and freedom of ideas, of religious choice, and of expression.

Freemasonry is a tradition of honor and integrity, to be willing to share with and care about others, to trust each other, and to place ultimate trust in God.



Who are Freemasons?

The Free & Accepted Masons are a fraternal organization, rich in history, of men working towards "making good men better". We are involved in the betterment of one's self and the giving to charity. We live our lives "upon the square".

Masons come from all walks of life. We are teachers, business people, doctors, lawyers, pharmacists, police, firemen, EMT's, barbers and deli-men. Our common purpose is "making good men better".

What is a Lodge?

The word "Lodge" means both a group of Masons meeting in some place and the room or building in which they meet.

The term "Lodge" itself comes from the structures which the stonemasons built against the sides of the cathedrals during construction. In winter, when building had to stop, they lived in these Lodges and worked at carving stone.

Since Masonry came to America from England, we still use the English floor plan and English titles for the officers. The Worshipful Master of the Lodge sits in the East. "Worshipful" is an English term of respect which means the same thing as "Honorable." He is called the Master of the Lodge for the same reason that the leader of an orchestra is called the "Concert Master." It is simply an older term for "Leader." In other organizations, he would be called "President." The Senior and Junior Wardens are the First and Second Vice-Presidents. The Deacons are messengers, and the Stewards have charge of refreshments .

Every lodge has an altar holding a "Volume of the Sacred Law." In the United States and Canada, that is almost always a Bible.

Freemasonry, helping improve the world, one Mason at a time.