



The York Rite will provide you with the rest of the story.



The Blue Lodge has provided you with half the story...



Petition for Degrees and Orders York Rite of Freemasonry



Date _____

To the Excellent High Priest, King, Scribe and Companions of

_____ Chapter No. _____, Royal Arch Masons of Ohio.

To the Illustrious Master, Deputy Master, Principal Conductor of the Work and Companions of

_____ Council No. _____, Royal and Select Masons of Ohio.

To the Eminent Commander, Generalissimo, Captain General and Sir Knights of

_____ Commandery No. _____, Knights Templar of Ohio.

The above entries may be left blank if unknown, and membership will be referred to a Chapter, Council and Commandery in your area.

The undersigned is a Master Mason in good standing in

_____ Lodge No. _____ under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Ohio and is desirous of receiving the degrees and orders of the York Rite of Freemasonry.

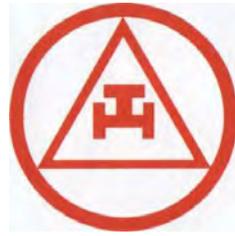
He promises to comply with all the forms, laws, orders, regulations, ancient usages and customs of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of Ohio, the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masons of Ohio, and the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Ohio and is a firm believer in the Christian religion.

Sign name in full, giving name for each initial

FIRST NAME	MIDDLE NAME	LAST NAME	JR./SR.?
RESIDENCE ADDRESS			
MAILING ADDRESS (if different)			
CITY / STATE / ZIP		CITY / STATE / ZIP	
HOME PHONE		BUSINESS PHONE	
DATE OF BIRTH		PLACE OF BIRTH	
OCCUPATION		FIRM	
<input type="checkbox"/> RETIRED (show last occupation / firm)			

We vouch for the good character and Masonic standing of the petitioner and recommend his admission.

*The
York Rite
Bodies*



Chapter History

The component parts of the American York Rite are: The Symbolic Blue Lodges, which are governed by Grand Lodges; The Chapters of the Royal Arch Masons, which are subordinate to Grand Chapters; The Grand Council of Royal and Select Masons is the authority for the constituent councils within its jurisdiction; and the Commanderies, under the ultimate authority of The Grand Encampment Knights Templar of the USA. All of these are established on democratic principles where the senior officers are elected by and from the membership of that particular organization.

While there is no central authority of the York Rite, the leaders and officers at all echelons of Symbolic, Capitular, Cryptic and Chivalric Masonry coordinate and cooperate as if they were part of one organization.

The Symbolic Lodge is the foundation and cornerstone of Freemasonry. This is the local unit, which has the daily responsibility for implementing the programs and policies of the Fraternity.

Although the first three Degrees of Masonry are interesting, vital, beautiful and valuable, much cryptic, unexplained ritual and ceremony still remains. The answer lies in the Capitular Degrees - The CHAPTER. The Capitular Rite consists of the Mark Master, Past Master, Most Excellent Master and Royal Arch Degrees.

The Mark Master Degree is the compliment to the Fellowcraft Degree and stresses the dignity of labor and working for wages. You will be pleased and inspired with "A white stone with a new name written."

The Past Master Degree teaches responsibility. Before one can rule he must learn to submit and obey. This Degree is necessary before one can become Master of his lodge.

In the Most Excellent Master Degree you will learn of the completion of King Solomon's Temple. You will be impressed with the furnishing of the Temple and the dedication thereof. After which man exclaims, "For He is good, His mercy endureth forever."



Council History

The Council of Royal and Select Masons as the Cryptic Rite signifies a concealed place or subterranean vault. A crypt was used to conceal and preserve some of the most sacred and meaningful secrets of Ancient Craft Masonry and thus an interesting and fascinating instruction for the initiate. The first degree of Royal Master causes the initiate to assume the character of Adoniram, a fellowcraft in search of divine truth, The Word. In your search you will, for the first and only time in your Masonic life, meet and speak with Hiram Abif, the widow's son, the chief builder of the temple. The True Word is your reward.

The Select Master degree represents a secret vault beneath the temple. The object of this degree is to commemorate the deposits of an important secret treasure which is said to have been made by Hiram Abif. The Select Master performed a secret service which remained unknown until after the construction of the second temple. The secrets had been lost but the craftsmen were promised that future generations would discover them and preserve them within the secret vault.

The Super Excellent Masters degree is a most impressive one. The symbolism of the ceremonies illustrates the rebellion of the Jewish people under Zedekiah and the punishment meted out to them by Nebuchadnezzar. The lecture forcibly inculcates that most important Masonic virtue, Fidelity.



Commandery History

Who are the Knights Templar?

The Knights Templar is a Christian oriented fraternal organization that was founded in the 11th century. Originally, the Knights Templar were laymen who protected and defended the Christians traveling to Jerusalem. These men took vows of poverty, chastity, obedience and were renowned for their fierceness courage through battle.

Do the Knights exist today?

The organization as we know it in the 21st Century is the Christian branch of York Rite of Freemasonry. The warlike spirit does not exist among today's Templars, but their service to those in need is evident through their charitable support to those in need of help.

How does one become a Knight Templar?

All Knights Templar are members of the world's oldest fraternal organization known as "The Ancient Free and Accepted Masons." Generally referred to as Masons, not all Masons are Templars. Some do not avail themselves of the Chivalric Orders.

To petition a Commandery of Knight Templar for membership, you must first become a member of a Masonic Lodge and other pre-requisite bodies and profess a belief in the Christian religion.