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For people on the outside of Freemasonry, the lodge’s closely guarded secrets are a topic of fascination. Many conspiracy theories have been developed about the events and ceremonies that occur within the lodge, most of which are way off the mark. While the advent of the Internet in the modern age has meant many of the secrets of Freemasonry have been divulged, there are still elements of the fraternity that remain a closely guarded secret from those on the outside. In this post, we take a look at many of the secrets of the Masonic lodge and understand why brothers promise to keep them a secret from those on the outside. As always, this writing does not represent the views and opinions of Freemasons Community, but is merely the reflections of one Mason. Although much information about Freemasonry has been revealed in recent years, there are some secrets that are protected by Masons and not shared with the outside world. When becoming a Mason, for example, each brother has to recite the Masonic Oath, part of which goes as follows: [I] most solemnly and sincerely promise and swear, that I will hail, ever conceal, and never reveal any of the secrets, arts, parts, point or points, of the Master Mason’s Degree, to any person or persons whomsoever, except that it be a true and lawful brother of this Degree, or in a regularly constituted Lodge of Master Masons, nor unto him, or them, until by strict trial, due examination, or lawful information, I shall have found him, or them, as lawfully entitled to the same as I am myself. The Masonic Oath is hugely significant, as it is represents a Masons’ integrity and is an example of their strong bond to all other brothers within the fraternity. In Freemasonry, a brother’s word is of paramount importance, so revealing the secrets of the ceremonies and rituals within the lodge after reciting the Masonic Oath is not permitted. The Oath forms the foundation from which many of the essential Masonic lessons are taught, as it ensures that many of the secrets that are revealed will be kept within the fraternity and not shared widely. Before we can understand the reason why many Masonic practices are shrouded in intrigue and kept as closely guarded secrets, we must first understand the purpose of the Masonic rituals carried out within lodges across the world. Many of the Masonic rituals performed within lodges teach brothers about the important symbolism of the Masonic tools and traditions. Throughout all Masonic lodges are symbolic tools that are reflective of the tools of medieval stonemasons. In modern-day Freemasonry, these tools have a purely symbolic meaning, but in the times of the stonemasons, they were practical tools used to build grand structures like cathedrals and were used by Masons to perfect their trade. Throughout a brother’s Masonic journey, the tools are presented through the medium of Masonic ritual, consisting of lectures and allegorical plays that utilize many of the tools and instruments of the medieval stonemasons. Within Freemasonry, there are three core degrees: Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft, and Master Mason. As a brother transitions from one Masonic degree to the next, he is taught different rituals that help him learn more about Freemasonry. The allegory of the Masonic ritual is centered on the building of the Temple of Solomon in Jerusalem and the story of its chief architect, Hiram Abiff. This is the teaching underpinning much of Freemasonry within Blue Lodge Freemasonry, but it’s important to note that other degrees base their rituals on other allegories and stories of significance. Such further degrees are associated with the Scottish rite, for example. While they are not compulsory, they are an option for Masons who wish to progress as far as they can through Freemasonry and become enlightened. The Masonic rituals are presented through the help of the many symbols of Freemasonry. At the centre of every lodge, a Holy book is placed with reference to a particularly relevant text. The Holy book is often a Bible, but it could as easily be the Quran, Tanakh, or Vedas. This is because Freemasonry is not a religion and is not associated with any religious body of any kind. The Holy Book is present because Masons must profess a belief in a Supreme Being before being accepted as an Entered Apprentice. Moreover, many of the stories that form the basis of the Masonic rituals can be found in the Holy books of the major Abrahamic religions. Commonly, Masons are also believers in one of these core religions. Within Freemasonry, the Supreme Being is never referred to as God as he is in many of the Holy scriptures. Instead, he is known as the Great Architect of the Universe, which is in keeping with the geometrical and architectural theme of Freemasonry. Furthermore, such reference ensures that the Supreme Being is not tied to a particular religion’s conception of God and to avoid any potential conflict or disagreement that may arise from such an understanding. In keeping with the essential religious symbolism of the Masonic rituals, King Solomon’s Temple is a central symbol of Freemasonry. It is said that the first three Grand Masters were King Solomon, King Hiram I of Tyre, and Hiram Abiff, who was the architect who built the temple. Some of the Masonic initiation rites include the re-enactment of a scene set on the Temple Mount while it was under construction, such is the importance of King Solomon’s Temple within Freemasonry. Therefore, during particular rituals, the Masonic Lodge actually becomes representative of King Solomon’s Temple itself. Many of the objects within represent the tools that helped construct the temple as well as specific architectural structures. Common within lodges are symbols of the pillars of Boaz and Jachin through which every initiate must pass as they begin their Masonic journey. The pillars of Boaz and Jachin In addition to tools and symbols used to represent King Solomon’s Temple in Jerusalem, some lodges use tracing boards, which are painted or printed illustrations that depict the various symbolic emblems of Freemasonry. These are instructional tools used by Master Masons to educate brothers about the critical symbolism within Masonic rituals and articulate the significance of a particular object or tool. While those outside of Freemasonry know about the existence of the Masonic rituals and particular symbols within the lodge, they don’t know anything in great detail and aren’t privy to the particulars of many of the Masonic allegories. Indeed, many Masons greet each other in ways that are unique to the fraternity. Specific handshakes and handgrips indicate that a man is a Mason, and the type of handshake is unknown to those on the outside. In addition to the practice of the Masonic Rituals within lodges, many conspiracy theorists use the code of secrecy within Freemasonry to spread rumour and speculation about the different types of rituals and ceremonies performed within lodges. Many erroneously speculate that some ceremonies are sinister in nature, often including blood sacrifices of new initiates. Such rumour has allowed conspiracy theories to abound, despite them having no grounding in truth whatsoever. As has been touched upon, in the modern-day, it’s challenging for Masons to keep details of all of their Masonic rituals and practices a secret, as there are so many members, each of which has access to the Internet and social media. However, the Masonic Oath is of great importance to brothers, and they recite it intending to keep it. The first known attempt of someone who tried to reveal the secrets of Masonic rituals was William Morgan in 1826. Morgan was preparing the publication of a book that was due to reveal many of the secret rituals of Freemasonry. This event is shrouded in mystery, as an attempt was made to burn down the publishing house before the book could be published. Moreover, William Morgan was arrested on charges of petty larceny shortly after and subsequently disappeared, never to be seen again. At the time, it was seen as an attempt by Masons to keep their rituals a secret, although precisely what happened to William Morgan has never been proven. As has been explored in this post, when men become Masons, they take a Masonic Oath in which they promise not to reveal the secrets of the Masonic rituals to those outside the fraternity. This is done to preserve the sanctity of the allegories and teachings of Freemasonry and ensure that men have reason to join the lodge. Although we know that many of the rituals are rooted in the religious scriptures, little is known about the exact details of them. And perhaps this is the way it should stay, as it is the prerogative of brothers to closely guard the secrets that have formed the inner teachings of Freemasonry for generations. Share — copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format for any purpose, even commercially. Adapt — remix, transform, and build upon the material for any purpose, even commercially. The licensor cannot revoke these freedoms as long as you follow the license terms. Attribution — You must give appropriate credit , provide a link to the license, and indicate if changes were made . You may do so in any reasonable manner, but not in any way that suggests the licensor endorses you or your use. ShareAlike — If you remix, transform, or build upon the material, you must distribute your contributions under the same license as the original. No additional restrictions — You may not apply legal terms or technological measures that legally restrict others from doing anything the license permits. You do not have to comply with the license for elements of the material in the public domain or where your use is permitted by an applicable exception or limitation . No warranties are given. The license may not give you all of the permissions necessary for your intended use. For example, other rights such as publicity, privacy, or moral rights may limit how you use the material. So your interest is piqued, and you want to know more and to take the next step, before you do it’s worth asking yourself a few questions.You must believe in a supreme being to be a Freemason. We won’t ask about religion, that is personal to you.The number of meetings per year varies from Lodge to Lodge, but you might expect at least six full meetings per year, together with two, three or four less formal rehearsal, learning and social meetings a month. Health warning. Freemasonry can become addictive, and many Freemasons belong to several lodges or additional Masonic orderWhile not disproportionately expensive, there is a cost to Freemasonry (Joining fee, regular lodge subscription, dining fee, regalia) and it is vital that you factor that into your consideration. While each lodge differs in cost, you should anticipate paying somewhere in the region of 400-450 per year (to include dining after a meeting). Becoming a Manchester Mason really is much easier than you think, there are actually only three steps to becoming a Freemason. Fill in the contact form.As part of the process, you will want to meet and talk to some Manchester Masons. They will also want to meet with you and discuss your interest and circumstances. There is a process for this which will be made clear to you.That’s it. You’ve asked, you’ve met and been met. Everyone’s happy. You join and enjoy becoming a member of one of the world’s largest and oldest non-religious and non-political fraternal and charitable organisations. Back to top Become a Freemason Special interest Lodges Formed by members to enjoy their shared interests and hobbies, there are many special interest Lodges you can join in Freemasonry throughout the country to enrich the social calendar.From football to rugby, through to military and emergency services to list but a few, special interest Lodges are another great way of meeting new people and there is almost certainly something for everyone.Special interest Lodges were historically formed through a common interest or purpose and they continue to exist today. Lux in Tenebris Lodge No. 3856 in London, for example, is one of a vast number found throughout the country. Members of the Lodge are all blind and its name is taken from the Latin for ‘light in darkness’.Let’s take a closer look at some of the special interest Lodges we have throughout the country.List of Special Interest LodgesBack in 2016, Football Lodge No. 9921 was founded in Hampshire, with a principal focus on engaging at a grassroots level to bring Freemasonry into their community. The Lodge founder is David Lallana (the father of Brighton player Adam Lallana) and has a number of high-profile members such as former England and Southampton striker James Beattie, with the Lodge not just focusing on Freemasonry or football, but also fun. Football Lodge’s quirky take on the ceremonies made headlines after featuring in Sky’s Inside the Freemasons documentary. Members enter the Lodge to the sound of the Match of the Day theme tune and can receive a card (yellow or red, depending on severity) for social faux pas!Welsh Rugby Clubs Lodge No. 9986 is another example of a Lodge dedicated to a love of a particular sport – in this case rugby. With the support of the Welsh national team, a group of rugby-playing Freemasons formed the first rugby Lodge in South Wales in 2019. The rugby theme also extends to details such as the rugby ball-shaped gavel, while there are rugby caps for members, a rugby ball signed by the Lodge founders and plans for a tie featuring the Lodge logo – a cartoon red dragon carrying a rugby ball and wearing an apron with the club motto: ‘Passing It Forward’. There are also a number of English rugby Lodges who play occasional fixtures against each other.Members are able to share their love of classic cars in Square Wheels Lodge No. 9966 – one example of many classic cars Lodges, which was founded in 2017 in the British Motor Museum in Warwickshire. The origins of the Lodge – which has more than 90 members – can be traced back to the Classic 300, a series of 17 classic car rallies that took place across the country during UGLE’s tercentenary year in 2017.There are a number of other Lodges for car enthusiasts such as the Buckinghamshire Classic Car Lodge No. 9945, which was founded in 2017 and followed the consecration of the Buckinghamshire Motorcycle Lodge No. 9926 the previous year.There are a number of Circuit of Service Lodges throughout the country, which exist to promote comradeship and fraternal contact between military Freemasons and bring together these Lodges for special meetings and events.An important milestone will also take in 2021 with the Consecration of Lodge No. 10,000 – a special interest Lodge that is defined as being for and run by younger members. This newest Lodge – with an iconic number – will be run by younger members, who will gradually fill the principal and progressive offices and attract young initiates.That’s not all – we also have Light Blue Clubs in our Provinces across the country. These have been setup to provide a great opportunity for new and young Freemasons to connect with other members from a similar group, meet socially, share their journey in Freemasonry and participate in events and activities across the country. In Leicestershire & Rutland and West Lancashire, both Provinces also formed Light Blues rugby clubs, and back in 2019 they competed against each other for the Freemasons Rugby Challenge Cup.Essex Cornerstone Club is one such example aimed at connecting young and new Freemasons under the age of 40 across the Province of Essex. The club was established in 2016 and has become an established part of Freemasonry in Essex, with about220 members. Each month various social and educational opportunities are organised that compliment Lodge and Provincial activities, and help members make the most of their Freemasonry.In almost all parts of the country, you can find a Lodge for those with an involvement, background or interest in The Scouts. Just two examples are Venturer Lodge No. 7897, which meets near Gilwell Park, the headquarters of The Scout Association in Essex, and Brownsea Island Lodge No. 9689, which meets in Dorset. Most other counties also have a Scout Lodge.Many Scout Lodges have introduced elements of Scouting customs in their Lodge practices, whether it be wearing Scout uniform at meetings, holding events at campsites, singing Scouting songs when they dine or supporting local Scout Groups. Some members of these Lodges continue as active volunteers with The Scouts; others help when they can, while others still have fond memories of their time as a Scout and enjoy being in an environment with Scouting customs. For many, the big attraction is that Scouting and Freemasonry develop in young people and adults exactly the same values and principles. Scout Lodges are instrumental in developing local support for Scouting.There are also some Lodges for those with a similar background in The Boys’ Brigade or the Cadet Forces, which are developing ways of supporting their organisations locally.Together all these Lodges form the Kindred Lodges Association, an association that holds two special meetings each year in different parts of the country."I set up a Freemasons rugby team in my spare time because I felt like I wanted to show the community that it’s a lot more than just men in aprons behind closed doors! It’s paid off, as we’ve played local games and shown the value of Freemasonry, as well as making some great friends along the way." Artificial Intelligence For DummiesYouTube Channels For DummiesMicrosoft Power Platform For DummiesNetworking All-in-One For DummiesMediterranean Diet For DummiesBrain Health For DummiesSarah McKayQuickBooks Online For Dummies, 2025 EditionGED Test Prep 2025/2026 For DummiesMicrosoft Copilot For DummiesC++ Essentials For DummiesFootball For Dummies, USA EditionBlack American History For DummiesMicrosoft 365 Excel Formulas & Functions For DummiesiPad For Seniors For Dummies, 2025 - 2026 EditionFinancial Literacy For DummiesMusic Composition For DummiesMarvel Comics For DummiesMarvelSwing Trading For DummiesiPhone For Dummies, 2025 EditionJob Interviewing For DummiesBusiness, Careers, & MoneyFinding Your Passion For DummiesBluesky For DummiesTechnologySomatic Exercises For DummiesBody, Mind, & SpiritVideo Game Design For DummiesHome, Auto, & HobbiesTeaching STEM For DummiesAcademics & The ArtsCaptain America For DummiesMarvelPersonal Boundaries For DummiesStarting an Online Business All-in-One For DummiesAndroid Smartphones For Seniors For DummiesYouth Soccer For Parents For DummiesHome, Auto, & Hobbies2025/2026 ASVAB For DummiesAcademics & The ArtsPMP Exam Prep For DummiesAcademics & The ArtsProject Management with AI For DummiesBusiness, Careers, & MoneySAS For DummiesTechnologyAutism For DummiesBody, Mind, & SpiritEffective Business Communication For DummiesBusiness, Careers, & MoneyGetting Out of Debt For DummiesFantastic Four for DummiesMarvelTennis For DummiesHome, Auto, & HobbiesSocial Anxiety For DummiesBody, Mind, & SpiritCritical Thinking Skills For DummiesInstagram For Business For DummiesApple Vision Pro For DummiesItalian Workbook For DummiesAcademics & The ArtsStand Up Paddleboarding For DummiesHome, Auto, & HobbiesChatGPT For DummiesTechnologySoft Skills For DummiesBusiness, Careers, & MoneyMicrosoft 365 Word For Professionals For DummiesTechnologyWomen's Health All-In-One For DummiesBody, Mind, & Spirit by Midnight Freemason Guest ContributorBro. Adam Samuel RothWhen you join Freemasonry, your options for participation and learning are endless. There are blue lodges, lodges of research, and grand lodge activities. There are a myriad of appendant bodies, ranging from the Scottish Rite, York Rite, and Shriners, just to name a few. How do you choose which lodges and appendant bodies to join and in which to participate? Every Master Mason should be a member of three Masonic bodies. The lodge that raised him, his local lodge, and the body that speaks to his passion. Allow me to explain why. You will always have a special bond with the brothers and lodge that raised you. Hopefully, you will have spent countless hours with a mentor or several brethren who taught you the catechism and ritual. This lodge introduced you to Freemasonry and gave you your first impressions of it. This lodge "berthed" you as a mason, which is why it is often referred to as your mother lodge. In the Judeo-Christian tradition, the fifth commandment is to "(h)onor thy father and thy mother." So should you honor the lodge that raised you with your continued membership and prompt payment of dues. Though you may move far away from this lodge, you now have a duty to ensure that it is sustained. This duty continues even if your mother lodge merges with another. Your local lodge is where you can truly be a part of your community and do the most good. The men of your local lodge, and their families, are your neighbors. You will see them at school, the supermarket, and elsewhere about town. You will get to know them well. They are the ones who will lend a helping hand when you are in need. It will also be easier for you to help your fellow brother when he is in need. Due to your proximity to the lodge, the labor you do will not place an undue burden on you or your family. You can also do the most good for your community with your local lodge. The local lodge is the lodge that sees what the community needs and acts to alleviate it. There are many forms of Freemasonry. There are ritualistic, social, historical, charitable, and esoteric forms of Freemasonry. I am sure that one or more of these forms of Freemasonry is what you were looking for when you joined the fraternity. Perhaps you discovered a new passion during the process of becoming a Master Mason. No matter which form of Freemasonry you wish to practice, there is a lodge or appendant body that will feed your passion. If your mother or local lodge is not providing you with the form you crave, don't give up on them. Find the lodge or appendant body that satisfies your needs. This will keep you engaged and make your labors within the quarry more enjoyable. Some are lucky enough to have a single lodge perform two or all three of those functions. But why should you stop at three? Shouldn't you join all the appendant bodies? The answer is quite simply no. If you spend all your time going to Masonic events, you leave no time to practice your Masonry out in the real world. Your spouse, your children, your family all want to see you. Isn't that the purpose of all of that we do and why we devote our time to the Craft? I hope that all Masons, young and old, heed this advice. It keeps not only our passions within due bounds but our labors as well. It ensures that our families don't resent our participation in the Craft. It prevents us from getting burnt out. Most importantly, it keeps us engaged and happy. ~ARBro. Adam Samuel Roth is the Chaplin of Anacostia-Pentalpha Lodge No. 21, in Washington, DC and a member of Acacia Lodge No. 16 in Clifton, Virginia. He is the curator of the Masonic Archive, which can be found at www.masonicarchive.org. He is also a devoted husband and father who works in the IT industry. Download Article The modern man’s guide to joining the oldest brotherhood around Download Article Freemasonry is the largest and oldest fraternal order in the world, crossing all religious boundaries to bring men together of all countries, sects, and opinion in peace and harmony. Its members have included major religious figures, kings, and presidents.[1] To join the brotherhood, you must demonstrate the values that have been shared by millions of Masons for hundreds of years. If you know any Masons personally, ask them to help you join (or just learn more) about your local lodge. If you don’t know any Freemasons, find your nearest lodge’s website and fill out the form on their page. Someone will contact you about next steps in 2-3 days. Freemasonry is a spiritual fraternal organization for men. Dating all the way back to the 14th century, Freemasonry (or just “Masonry”) is a fraternity for men who believe in a higher power. It’s not as strict or dogmatic as a religion but not as casual as a social club. Masons attend meetings at their local “lodge” where they discuss spiritual topics, gather in friendship, and work together to grow.[2] Freemasons are the subject of a lot of conspiracy theories, but Masonry is basically just a semi-religious social club for men who want to be leaders in their community. There’s nothing nefarious about it. Freemasons do participate in rituals, but they’re not “secret” or designed to do anything nefarious. Masonry’s ceremonies are no more radical or unique than any other spiritual tradition. Advertisement 1 Be a man at least 18 years of age. This is the most basic requirement under most Grand Lodge (the center of authority for Freemason groups) jurisdictions. You must be a man and you must be old enough to vote. There are two variations of Masonry for women—the Order of Women Freemasons and the Honorable Fraternity of Ancient Freemasons. These are considered “separate” from the core Freemason system, though.[3] Note: Some jurisdictions only accept men who are 21 and over. However, exceptions are made for the sons of members, or university students. 2 Believe in any supreme being or higher power. Freemasons do not require belief in a specific God (i.e. you do not have to be Christian, Jewish, Muslim, etc.). However, you must believe in a God or God-like being. You must believe in a God or deity above all others. People from all religious backgrounds are welcome as long as this holds true.[4] What if I’m not a practicing religious person? That’s okay! Whatever lodge you end up joining won’t poke, prod, or investigate your beliefs. You don’t have to attend a church regularly or anything like that. All you need to do is believe in a higher power in your heart. 3 Be of good moral character. This may be the most important quality to have as a potential Freemason. The fraternity's motto is, "Better men make a better world," and honor, personal integrity, and responsibility are essential. You must be able to demonstrate that you are a man with good character. Some lodges require you to have a good reputation. They may ask someone to vouch for your character. Some chapters need you to be a good family member who has the means to support your family (if you have one). Some lodges actually run background checks, but this seems more common in the UK and Australia. 4 Have a pure motivation for joining the Masons. Many people seek to enter the fraternity because they heard about it in movies, books, and mainstream media. Freemasonry is often portrayed as a secret society that is trying to take over the world. The truth is that Freemasonry is just an organization for regular men who strive to support each other in fellowship, friendship, and good citizenship.[5] If you do join expecting to get let into some secret society conspiracy meeting, you’re going to be very disappointed. There are rituals, but they’re mostly symbolic. Most lodge meetings consist of mundane business and educational activities.[6] Advertisement 1 You’ll find camaraderie and friendship in a tight-knit community. Being a Mason grants you entrance to the monthly gatherings at Freemason lodges, where you commune with fellow Masons. Here, you’ll engage with the teachings on the history of Freemasonry. You’ll also participate in the ancient rites of Freemasonry, such as the handshake, rituals of initiation, and free use of the Masonic square and compass symbol. All of this takes place among a community of men who care about one another. If you feel a little “lost” and you think you’d benefit from more actionable direction and community support, Freemasonry might be right for you. 2 You’ll be intellectually stimulated and personally challenged. Freemasons pride themselves on being the best possible versions of themselves, and your lodge’s community will challenge you to push yourself. Whether it’s checking in to make sure you’re not resting on your laurels professionally or pushing you to take the leap and sign up for that master’s degree, your fellow Masons will help you become the best you. 3 You get to grow spiritually without the rigors of organized religion. Freemasonry isn’t an organized religion in the traditional sense, but it is a spiritual organization. If you want to worship and grow in your spiritual life but you don’t want the dogma and rigidity of a formal religion, this is the perfect organization for you. A lot of the rituals and events you’ll attend at the lodge are informed by religious traditions or ancient spiritual traditions, but the “religious” element isn’t emphasized if that makes sense. Your spiritual experiences are likely to be very unique to you and won’t be a huge point of public discussion. 4 You will grow as a person, friend, and family member. If you’re interested in becoming the best possible man you can be, Freemasonry will help you. Through the guidance of other men, the network of Masons, and the wisdom of lodge elders, you’ll have no lack of support on your side. If you want to be the most ambitious, productive, and happy version of yourself, your brothers at the lodge will help. Masons are notorious for keeping their fellow community members accountable. If you want someone to hold you to a higher standard, you’re sure to find one at your local lodge. 5 You’ll join a long tradition of excellence in leadership. Famous freemasons include George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, Mozart, Jonathan Swift, Booker T. Washington, Thurgood Marshall, Henry Ford, and Simón Bolívar.[7] If you are drawn to organizations that produce community leaders, innovators, and leaders, Freemasonry may be for you. Advertisement 1 Ask a Freemason you already know, if you know any. The traditional way of joining Freemasonry is to ask someone who is already a member for information about joining.[8] If you know someone who's a member, let him know that you're interested in joining, and tell him you'd like to petition for membership. He should direct you to the appropriate venue to issue your petition; you'll have to answer some questions about why you want to become a member. If you don't know someone who's a member, there are a few things you can try: Look for a "2B1Ask1" sign. You'll see this on bumper stickers, shirts, hats, and other items displayed by Freemasons who want to welcome new members. Look for the Masonic square and compass symbol. This is a bit harder to spot, but you may see someone wearing it on a t-shirt or another item. Masons often put a square and compass on their car’s bumper. 2 Find your local lodge’s website and express your interest. Look up your local Freemason lodge. Find their website and look for a “how to join” or “I’m interested” button. Click that and fill out the form. Someone from that lodge will reach out to you with specific information on how to join your local chapter. Can’t find your local lodge? Use the Freemason’s lookup tool to find the closest lodge to you. 3 Interview with the Freemason who contacts you. After you've submitted your petition to a particular lodge, the Freemasons there will review it and decide whether to invite you in for an interview with an investigative committee.[9] If they wish to call you in, a date and time will be arranged. During the interview, you can expect the following: You'll be asked questions about why you want to become a Freemason, and you'll be asked to describe your life story and your own character. You'll get the opportunity to ask them questions about how things work at the Lodge. 4 Wait to hear their decision. After the interview, the Freemasons will conduct an investigation into your life. Most of the time, this is no big deal. They’ll just confirm you live where you live and that you are who you say you are. In fringe cases, they may call someone you know to verify that you have a high moral character. They may also conduct a background check to determine whether you've had issues with crime, drugs, or alcohol. 5 Accept the invitation to join. Once the investigative committee has made their decision, you'll receive a call and an official invitation to join the fraternity. You'll receive further instructions about meetings. Advertisement 1 Start as an Entered Apprentice. This is the first stage of initiation, and you'll learn the basic principles of Freemasonry After you gain enough knowledge and put in some time, you'll work your way up through two more symbolic degrees.[10] Before you can advance to the next degree, you must demonstrate proficiency in understanding the degree work you experienced. Note: Throughout the apprenticeship period, you must continue to demonstrate good character. 2 Advance to the Fellow Craft degree. You'll delve deeper into the teachings of Freemasonry, especially as they pertain to the arts and sciences. To complete this degree, you'll be tested on your knowledge about everything you've learned so far.[11] 3 Get a Master Mason degree. This is the highest level you can achieve, and it usually takes several months to get there. To get the degree, you must demonstrate proficiency in the values of Freemasonry. Your completion of the degree will be celebrated with a ceremony.[12] Advertisement 1 Is Freemasonry a religion? No, Freemasonry is not a religion, although its members are religious. Most Masons also attend a church or worship separately in their own time. You must believe in some kind of God or supreme being to become a Mason, but you won’t discuss your religion or engage in religious practices. 2 When did Freemasonry start? Freemasonry began in England around 1717. The original lodge was founded by stoneworkers, carpenters, and other tradesmen looking for fraternal kinship (this is where the “masons” part of “Freemason” comes from). They designed the organization based on old chivalrous codes and fraternities.[13] 3 What are degrees in Freemasonry? The degrees refer to the seniority of a member. A member may study Freemasonry’s rituals, history, and community codes to partake in initiation ceremonies that increase their degree. This process is meant to emulate the journeyman system in masonry trades where you start off as an apprentice, become a journeyman, and then get promoted to a master over time as your expertise and knowledge grows.[14] 4 Why are Masonic symbols so unique? The Masonic symbols and ceremonies borrow from trade iconography and language, Hermetic magick, Christianity, and social clubs of the past that would seem extremely out of place in contemporary society if they existed today. As a result, Freemasonry has a lot of fascinating and unique symbology that you just don’t find anywhere else.[15] Advertisement Add New Question Question Do I get paid for joining the Freemasons? No, you do not get paid for joining Freemasons. In fact, you pay them to be in the fraternity. Question Can people in Tanzania become Freemasons? Yes, if there's a Lodge in proximity where you can inquire, than men of Tanzania can become Freemasons. Question I am a Kenyan and I have been told to send 9000ksh in order to join the Freemasons. Then I will get a car of my choice, a house and £6000 in my account. How true is this? It is absolutely false, as in it is not true and it is a scam. Do not fall for anyone saying such things, they are after your money and you'll never see them or your money ever again. See more answers Ask a Question Advertisement Thanks Thanks Advertisement This article was co-authored by wikiHow staff writer, Eric McClure. Eric McClure is an editing fellow at wikiHow where he has been editing, researching, and creating content since 2019. A former educator and poet, his work has appeared in Carcinogenic Poetry, Shot Glass Journal, Prairie Margins, and The Rusty Nail. His digital chapbook, The Internet, was also published in TL;DR Magazine. He was the winner of the Paul Carroll award for outstanding achievement in creative writing in 2014, and he was a featured reader at the Poetry Foundation’s Open Door Reading Series in 2015. Eric holds a BA in English from the University of Illinois at Chicago, and an MEd in secondary education from DePaul University. This article has been viewed 1,233,049 times. Co-authors: 104 Updated: March 7, 2025 Views: 1,233,049 Categories: Religion Print Send fan mail to authors Thanks to all authors for creating a page that has been read 1,233,049 times. "I have an IQ of 138, and have been interested in joining the Freemasons. However, I wasn't sure how or even if, I qualify. But based on the information I've uncovered on this page, as well as others, I indeed do qualify. So, thank you for the information."..." more Share your story In order to become a Freemason, you need some basic qualifications (specific qualifications vary from one lodge to the next, but some general rules apply). If you meet the Freemason criteria, you have to go through a process, from petitioning to becoming a full member. When you’ve decided on the lodge you want to join, ask for a petition, which is a standard questionnaire that's usually provided by the Grand Lodge for the lodges in its jurisdiction. Answer all the questions completely and truthfully. All lodges charge annual dues (in Europe, these are often monthly payments, or subscriptions). Most lodges also charge a petitioning or initiation fee. Be sure you understand all costs before joining. After you turn in your petition (and get a recommendation from at least one existing member of the lodge), the lodge Secretary presents your petition to the members at the next regular business meeting (sometimes called a stated meeting). In the United States, the petition is read to all the members, and an investigative committee is appointed by the Worshipful Master to meet with you in an official, investigative capacity. Being investigated as a prospective Mason In the United States, the most common method of investigation is by an investigative committee. The investigative committee is the eyes and ears of the lodge. Because not every lodge member can meet with you, the committee does, and it issues a report. The committee may meet you at the lodge, at a local restaurant, or even in your home, depending on the customs of the lodge. The committee members may meet you as a group or one-on-one.The committee reports at the next business meeting. These two meetings — the meeting when the investigative committee is appointed and the meeting at which it report its findings — are usually a month apart. Some jurisdictions may also conduct a criminal background check and that felony convictions are not looked on favorably. Balloting for your acceptance into a Masonic lodge After the investigative committee reports to the lodge, your petition is voted on. The election (or rejection) of a candidate in a Masonic lodge is a secret ballot, and with few exceptions, must be completely unanimous. One vote against the petitioner generally rejects him.If a petitioner is rejected by a lodge, most Grand Lodges have rules that require a waiting period before he can petition that lodge again or try to petition another one. This period is usually one year. Scheduling your Masonic degree ceremonies After you’re elected to receive the degrees of Masonry, the only thing left is for the lodge to schedule your degree ceremonies. Depending on the state or country you’re in and the customs of your individual lodge, you may have some options concerning your degree conferral: Proficiency: Most lodges prefer you to go through your degrees by yourself, one at a time, with a certain waiting period between them. You doubtless have to prove your proficiency (knowledge of the degree) before moving to the next one, so you're assigned a mentor — possibly one of the men who signed your petition. One-day classes: A few Grand Lodges in the United States offer controversial one-day classes, allowing you to receive all three degrees in one day, with no waiting period. Instead of participating in the degrees, you sit in an audience and witness the degree performed, with one man acting as an exemplar candidate, meaning he represents you and your “classmates.” Welcome, Masonic brother When you’ve completed your Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, and Master Mason degrees, you’re a full member. Any additional degrees are optional, and sort of the Masonic equivalent of a continuing education course. But a 32nd-degree Scottish Rite Mason doesn't “outrank” a 3rd-degree Master Mason. In a world yearning for honor and integrity, we, as Freemasons, are on a transformative journey of self-discovery, united by our commitment to truth, Brotherly Love, and universal virtues. Our craft transcends divisions of race, religion, gender, and creed, and empowers us to become the best versions of ourselves, serving our communities and the world at large. Now more than ever, the world needs more than just men. The world needs Masons. Finding the right Masonic lodge to join is one of the key decisions you’ll make as you begin your Masonic journey. However, if you have several options in your area, you may also face the choice between joining an older, well-established lodge or becoming part of a newer lodge that’s still finding its feet. This decision is more than just picking a meeting place; it’s about selecting a community that will influence your experience. So, what are the pros and cons of joining a new lodge versus an old one? The answer, as with many things in life, is nuanced. The choice between a new and an old lodge can influence your experience in ways you might not immediately expect. It’s worth taking the time to consider what each option offers, as well as the potential challenges. In this article, we’ll explore the advantages and disadvantages of both choices to help you make an informed decision that aligns with your personal and Masonic goals. The Appeal of an Old Lodge: History and Tradition One of the most compelling reasons to join an old lodge is the deep sense of history and tradition that these lodges typically offer. Established lodges often have a rich heritage, with roots that go back decades or even centuries. This longevity brings with it a wealth of Masonic knowledge and a strong sense of continuity. Pros: Rich History and Tradition: An older lodge can offer a profound connection to the past, with rituals and practices steeped in history. Many members find it rewarding to be part of something larger than themselves, something that has stood the test of time. This sense of tradition can provide a stable foundation and a feeling of belonging to a long-standing community. Experienced Membership: With age often comes wisdom, and older lodges typically have a significant number of seasoned members who can offer guidance, mentorship, and a deep understanding of Masonic principles. If you’re looking for a place where you can learn from those who have a wealth of experience, an older lodge might be the right choice. Established Community: Being part of an established lodge means joining a well-knit community. The bonds among members in older lodges can be strong, with many shared experiences and a deep sense of camaraderie. Cons: Resistance to Change: One potential downside of an older lodge is that it may be resistant to change. Established traditions can sometimes become rigid, and introducing new ideas or practices might be met with hesitation or even opposition. If you’re someone who values innovation and new approaches, this could be a point of frustration. Entrenched Dynamics: Older lodges can sometimes have entrenched social dynamics, with long-standing “cliques” that might be difficult to penetrate. For new members, this can make the process of integration into the lodge community more challenging. Potential Lack of Energy: While the wisdom of experience is valuable, older lodges can sometimes lack the enthusiasm and energy found in newer lodges. If the majority of members are of an older generation, there might be fewer social activities or opportunities for dynamic engagement. The Allure of a New Lodge: Innovation and Enthusiasm On the flip side, joining a new lodge offers a different kind of appeal. These lodges may not have the historical weight of older ones, but what they lack in tradition, they often make up for in innovation, enthusiasm, and the opportunity to help shape the lodge’s future. Pros: Opportunity to Shape Traditions: One of the most exciting aspects of joining a new lodge is the chance to be part of something from the ground up. You have the opportunity to help establish traditions, set the tone for the lodge, and contribute to its development. For those who are passionate about bringing fresh ideas and approaches to the table, a new lodge can be an ideal environment. Openness to New Ideas: Newer lodges are often more open to innovation and change. Without the weight of long-standing traditions, these lodges may be more flexible and willing to experiment with new rituals, activities, and ways of engaging with the community. This can create a vibrant and dynamic atmosphere that appeals to those who value creativity and forward-thinking. Enthusiasm and Energy: There’s a certain energy that comes with being part of a new lodge. The members are often highly motivated and enthusiastic about building something new and making a meaningful impact. This can translate into a more active and engaged community, with plenty of opportunities for involvement. Cons: Lack of Established Traditions: While the flexibility of a new lodge can be a pro, the lack of established traditions can also be a con. Without a rich history to draw upon, newer lodges might struggle to create a strong sense of identity or community. For some members, the absence of time-honored rituals and practices might feel like a significant gap. Limited Experience: In a new lodge, there may be fewer experienced members available to provide guidance and mentorship. This could be a drawback for those who are seeking a more structured learning environment with access to seasoned Masons. Challenges in Stability: New lodges might also face challenges in gaining recognition and stability. Building a strong lodge from scratch requires effort, dedication, and sometimes a bit of trial and error. For those who prefer a more secure and established environment, this uncertainty could be a disadvantage. Making the Decision: What Matters Most? Ultimately, the choice between joining a new lodge or an old lodge is a personal one. It depends on what you’re looking for in your Masonic journey and how you envision your role within the lodge. Are you drawn to the wisdom and traditions of an old lodge, or do you feel more inspired by the energy and opportunities of a new lodge? One key piece of advice that many experienced Masons offer is to visit both types of lodges before making your decision. Spend some time getting to know the members, observing the dynamics, and participating in the activities. This firsthand experience can give you a better sense of where you’ll feel most at home and where you can best contribute. Whether you choose the old or the new, the most important thing is finding a lodge where you can grow, learn, and build meaningful relationships with your fellow Masons. The journey is what you make of it, and the right lodge will help you make the most of your Masonic experience. The word lodge really has two meanings to a Freemason. It is both a place where Masonic meetings are held, and a collective term for the members who meet there. So, as weird as it sounds, you could say that a lodge meets in a lodge. In fact, many different lodges can meet at different times in the same lodge building. This practice is common in larger cities, where one building may have many rooms for lodge meetings and dozens of lodges that share them.Masonic lodges are named by their original founding members. They can be named after the town they're in, a historical figure, a famous Mason, or even a symbolic word or phrase. The name of the lodge is always followed by a number, such as Washington Lodge #13 or Ancient Landmarks Lodge #319. The number is issued by the governing Grand Lodge and designates the order in which lodges have been chartered in that jurisdiction. The older the lodge, the smaller the number.Many of the details in a lodge room are patterned after aspects of King Solomon's Temple, as described in the Bible and other historical records. A Freemason teaches by symbolism, and much of that symbolism is based upon the accounts of Solomon's Temple. The Temple was built in the 10th century B.C. on Mount Moriah in Jerusalem. Solomon built it as a temple to God and to store the sacred Ark of the Covenant, which contained the tablets of the Ten Commandments given by God to Moses. The details of Solomon's Temple are described in the Bible in 1 Kings and 2 Chronicles. In its time, the temple's magnificence was known all over the ancient world.Early stonemasons claimed their guilds originated with the great construction projects of the Bible, to give themselves a long, proud, and sacred pedigree. When Freemasonry became a philosophical organization in the 1700s, the Masons who developed the ceremonies and practices of the fraternity seized on the symbolism of Solomon's Temple to help teach moral and spiritual ideas.A lodge room contains much that is based on interpretations of descriptions of Solomon's Temple. There are many variations throughout the world