

## Petition for the Mysteries of Freemasonry

Dear Friend,

**T**here are a few important things you should know and consider *before* petitioning to join the Masonic Fraternity.

Freemasonry is a fraternity which teaches ethics and morality. We welcome men of every color, creed, religion, sect, and opinion, but each candidate for Freemasonry must be willing to profess his belief in a Supreme Being. No atheist can become a Mason.

Although we require that our new members publicly state their belief in Deity, we specify no religion, we offer no conception of the Almighty, and leave to each Mason what faith he should practice or what worship he should perform. Beyond this simple requirement at your entrance into the Fraternity, Masonry will not go, and discussion of religion in the Lodge is strictly forbidden.

Freemasonry distinguishes between patriotism and partisanship. While patriotism is encouraged as an essential virtue both in the Lodge and in society in large, Masonry takes no position on political issues, and the discussion of politics in the Lodge is also strictly forbidden.

The essential purpose of Freemasonry is the further development of the individual Mason as an honest, ethical, moral, sincere, caring, and charitable man, learning more about his own potential as a human being and developing his intellectual and spiritual character. A man should never enter the Fraternity in the hope of making business connections or for any other sort of professional or mercenary gain. If he does, he will be disappointed, for they will not be found there. What he will find is a group of like-minded men, who are willing to treat him as a Brother and share in a deep and rewarding fellowship with him. In the Lodge, he will find true friends and life-long companions.

We expect men who petition for the mysteries of Freemasonry (Membership) to be good men, but not perfect. We know that all men have limitations and weaknesses. Our questions are; does he care about others, does he feel a responsibility to improve himself, does he wish to make the lives of others better or as best he can, is he willing to be open and honest with us and himself?

Inside this petition we ask detailed questions about you, and we may require that you complete a background examination. These questions and electronic verification are not asked of you out of idle curiosity. When we accept a man as a Brother, we make a sincere promise to him that we will trust him completely and will treat his needs and his interests just as if they were our own. This completed petition, the electronic verification information, and the visit(s) with Lodge Brothers, commence the process of sharing information which is vital if both you and we are able to be comfortable with one another.

We are glad you are interested in the Masonic Fraternity, and we look forward to the chance to know you as a Brother

Sincerely,  
Grand Lodge of South Dakota.



# TO THE MASTER, WARDENS & MEMBERS OF:

LODGE NO. \_\_\_\_\_ OF \_\_\_\_\_,

SOUTH DAKOTA:

*The Undersigned, unbiased by the solicitation of friends, and uninfluenced by mercenary or other improper motives, believing in God, the Supreme Being, and having long entertained a favorable opinion of the Ancient and Honorable Society of ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS, freely and voluntarily offers himself as a candidate for the Mysteries of Freemasonry, and peacefully prays that he be admitted thereto, promising cheerfully to conform to all established usages and to yield a cheerful obedience to all requirements of the Institution.*

## PETITIONER'S INFORMATION

Full Name (Print or Type): \_\_\_\_\_  
First Middle Last

Place of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_  
City State Country Month Day Year

Citizenship ☐ U.S.A. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_ Language(s) Spoken: ☐ English ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing address City Zip Code

Preferred Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Home ☐ Cell Alternate Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Home ☐ Cell

Preferred Email: \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Home ☐ Work Alternate Email: \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Home ☐ Work

Social Media: ☐ Facebook \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Twitter @ \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ None ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_  
Screen name Account Name  
Service Screen Name

Present Occupation or Trade: \_\_\_\_\_ Employer Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing address City State Zip Code

Length of Present Employment: \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ years *or* ☐ months. Employer Telephone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

List Any Special Skills, Technical Expertise, Professional Licenses or Specialized Training You Use in Your Job:

List Your Hobbies: \_\_\_\_\_

How long have you lived in South Dakota (Minimum 6mo. required)? \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ years *-or-* ☐ months. Previous State of Residence: \_\_\_\_\_

Have you previously petitioned THIS or ANY OTHER Lodge of Masons? ☐ Yes ☐ No *If Yes, list Lodge, location, date and all particulars:*

## REFERENCES

*Each Petitioner is required to furnish the names of three persons (preferably Masons) as references OTHER THAN THE RECOMMENDERS.*

Name Address Telephone or Email

## RECOMMENDERS

**We Recommend,** pursuant to the Laws of Masonry, the above petitioner as a candidate for the degrees of Freemasonry, based upon our belief that he is of good moral character, temperate, industrious and capable of earning an honest living for himself and dependants, and we hereby certify to his physical, mental and moral fitness.

Important!  
2 Signatures  
Required

X

Signature

X

Signature



Print Name

Print Name

(RECOMMENDERS MUST BE MEMBERS OF THE LODGE TO WHICH THIS PETITION IS SUBMITTED.)



## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

*IMPORTANT: All questions MUST be answered before petition can be processed.*

Are you married? ☐ Yes ☐ No Wife's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Dependent children? ☐ Yes ☐ No *If Yes, list names and ages:*

Have you ever been **convicted** of a felony or a misdemeanor? ☐ Yes ☐ No Have you ever been granted a diversion/deferred prosecution? ☐ Yes ☐ No  
*If answer is YES to either question, fill out the following:*

Year	Charge		Result
_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Felony <input type="checkbox"/> Misdemeanor in _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Convicted <input type="checkbox"/> Diversion/Deferred Prosecution
		List City or County, Court & State	
_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Felony <input type="checkbox"/> Misdemeanor in _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Convicted <input type="checkbox"/> Diversion/Deferred Prosecution
		List City or County, Court & State	

*For additional information, use a separate sheet*

Have You Ever Been Party to a Lawsuit in Civil Court? ☐ Yes ☐ No *If YES list nature of the case:* \_\_\_\_\_

Military Service? ☐ Yes ☐ No *If yes:* ☐ Army ☐ Navy ☐ Marine Corps ☐ Air Force ☐ Coast Guard Rank on Separation? \_\_\_\_\_

Years of Service: \_\_\_\_\_ Retired? ☐ Yes ☐ No Discharge? ☐ Honorable ☐ Dishonorable ☐ Medical ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_  
Specify

### PROVIDE THE ADDRESSES OF PLACES YOU HAVE RESIDED FOR THE PAST 10 YEARS:

	Address	City and State
From _____ to _____	_____	_____
Year Year		
From _____ to _____	_____	_____
Year Year		
From _____ to _____	_____	_____
Year Year		
From _____ to _____	_____	_____
Year Year		
From _____ to _____	_____	_____
Year Year		

*For additional information, use a separate sheet*

### PROVIDE THE NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF YOUR EMPLOYERS FOR THE PAST 10 YEARS:

	Employer	City and State
From _____ to _____	_____	_____
Year Year		
From _____ to _____	_____	_____
Year Year		
From _____ to _____	_____	_____
Year Year		
From _____ to _____	_____	_____
Year Year		
From _____ to _____	_____	_____
Year Year		

*For additional information, use a separate sheet*

## QUALIFYING QUESTIONS

Do you believe in a Supreme Being? ☐ Yes ☐ No Are you a male at least 18 years of age? ☐ Yes ☐ No

*If you wish to bring a holy book of your choice to your initiation, please inform the Lodge Secretary or Master*

## PETITIONER'S STATEMENT

**I** **Hereby Authorize** the Masonic Lodge to which I have submitted this petition, its members, and the Grand Lodge of South Dakota, its officers and members, to contact any person or entity they deem appropriate to investigate my character, background, criminal and/or civil court history, and qualifications for membership in this Lodge. I further consent to the review of any and all information obtained as a result of this investigation, and I understand that any material found that is or may be associated with me that is deemed inappropriate by the Lodge as having possible adverse effects on the Fraternity is justification for my immediate disqualification as a petitioner. In addition, I acknowledge that the information I have supplied on this petition is truthful, and that any *deliberate* misstatements, falsehoods, or omission may result in my petition being rejected;

**And Further, I Certify** that the information I have provided herein is true, complete, and correct as to the best of my knowledge and belief.

**X**

SIGNATURE OF PETITIONER IN INK

Dated This \_\_\_\_\_ Day of \_\_\_\_\_ 20 \_\_\_\_\_

# The Process of Becoming a Freemason

You have already started the process of becoming a Mason by asking for a petition. Answering the enclosed questions completely, completing your electronic verification if asked, and giving both to the Lodge Secretary in a sealed envelope, is the next step. When your petition is received, the Master of the Lodge will appoint a committee to review your provided information. The committee will report their findings to the Lodge, and the members will vote on your petition. If the vote is affirmative by a *unanimous ballot*, the Lodge will contact you to set a date for your initiation - the Entered Apprentice Degree.

*A degree is a ritual in the form of a play, a solemn and beautiful ceremony and you should dress accordingly, avoiding casual clothes.*

Masonic rituals contain nothing whatever of hazing or horseplay. After you receive the first degree, you will be assigned a mentor, who can help you become proficient in the material of that degree. When that is finished, you take the Second Degree (Fellow Craft) and then the Third Degree (Master Mason). Upon attaining the Third Degree, you will become a full member of the Fraternity.

## ELECTRONIC VERIFICATION

As part of our membership process, the Grand Lodge of South Dakota may require that you complete an electronic verification of your background information before your petition may be accepted by the Lodge. Please read and sign the consent (below), and refer to the Electronic Verification Supplement attached to this petition.

## CONSENT FORM

By signing this consent form, I acknowledge that I may be subject to an electronic verification and I authorize the Grand Lodge of South Dakota, its members, employees, agents and assigns, as well as the Lodge to which I submit this petition, its members, employees, agents and assignees to investigate my background. I understand that this investigation will be used to determine my suitability for membership in the Masonic Fraternity, and in exchange for consideration of membership, I consent to this background investigation and agree to hold harmless the Grand Lodge of South Dakota, its members, employees, agents and assigns, as well as the Lodge to which I submit this petition, its members, employees, agents and assigns, from all claims, damages, liabilities, costs, expenses, or any other action arising from searching for, retrieving, or reviewing any information obtained, and further that I hereby waive my right to bring any cause of action against the Lodge, its officers, members of the Grand Lodge of South Dakota, its officers or members, for defamation, invasion of privacy, or any other cause of action arising from their investigation and/or discussion.

Wherefore, having read and fully understood the above, I hereby signify my agreement and consent with my signature,

X

SIGNATURE OF PETITIONER IN INK

Dated This \_\_\_\_\_ Day of \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_\_\_

## FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

THIS PETITION SUPERSEDES ALL PRIOR PETITIONS

\_\_\_\_\_, LODGE, No. \_\_\_\_\_  
OF \_\_\_\_\_, SOUTH DAKOTA

**Petition**  
for the

**Mysteries of Freemasonry**



PETITIONER: \_\_\_\_\_

PRESENTED \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_

INVESTIGATION COMMITTEE

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

REPORT DUE \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_

**BALLOT**

☐ ELECTED  
☐ REJECTED

MENTOR \_\_\_\_\_

DATE ENTERED \_\_\_\_\_

DATE PASSED \_\_\_\_\_

DATE RAISED \_\_\_\_\_

INITIATION FEES \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Initiation fee DOES NOT include fee for Electronic Verification.  
Electronic Verification Fee must be paid to provider and the results given to the Lodge Secretary prior to ballot. Secretary shall review and return results to petitioner after review.