

### **Is there anything for wives, daughters and sons to participate in?**

All Master Masons and/or their wives are eligible to petition the Order of the Eastern Star. It serves as no part of the masonic organization. Any daughter, ages 12-18, and of good moral character are encouraged to petition for the Order of Rainbow Girls, regardless of masonic relationship. Any boy of the same, ages 13-20, may petition for membership in the Order of DeMolay.

### **Does Masonry interfere with a man's regular job and responsibilities?**

Masonry is in no way to interfere with a members necessary vocation, as these are on no account to be neglected.

### **When a man is made a mason, is it compulsory for him to continue?**

Masonry is compulsory on no one. Masons feel that if a petitioner is well-informed of the organization before he enters, he will be interested enough to continue his pursuits.

### **How much memory work is required in Masonry?**

The only required memory work is a catechism of the first two degrees, but there is no limit to what a member can learn. There is enough Masonic literature available for a man to spend an entire lifetime studying, and still not learn it all.

### **How many branches is Masonry divided into?**

Masonry is separated into many different divisions. The body of the first three degrees is called the "Blue Lodge." After a member has become a Master Mason, he is eligible to petition for membership into York Rite, Scottish Rite, the Shrine, and many others.

### **Where can I find more information on how to become a Mason?**

[www.msgrandlodge.org](http://www.msgrandlodge.org)

Our Grand Lodge website includes a listing of our current *Grand Lodge Officers, News and Events* from around our jurisdiction, information on our *Philanthropy, membership resources*, and a *Lodge Locator* to find a local Lodge near you.



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## Questions And Answers



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### **What is Masonry?**

Freemasonry is an organization founded on religious principles promoting social and fraternal association among good men, the exercising of brotherly love, maintenance of good moral character, and contributing to the general well-being of society at large.

### **Who are Masons?**

Freemasons are men of every career known to man. Its membership has included kings, presidents, politicians, clergymen, entertainers, and laborers.

### **Is Masonry a secret organization?**

No! Freemasonry is classed among many other organizations, which also include meaningful and reflective ceremonies. For this cause, some people may think it is a secret organization.

### **Is Masonry a religion?**

No! Freemasonry, rightly conceived and practiced, will enhance every worthy loyalty in a man's life. It will not weaken a man's loyalty to his church, but will strengthen it by the increased sense of responsibility to God and dependence on God taught in our ritual. It will not drain his strength from the service of the church but increase his strength for the service of the church. It will stimulate his interest in the values of religion that enrich the life of a man.

### **Is Masonry sectarian?**

Masonry is strictly non-sectarian. Any man who believes in the existence of a Supreme Being, immortality of the soul, the resurrection of the body, and is of good moral character, is eligible to petition a lodge for membership, regardless of his religious faith.

### **How old is the Masonic Fraternity?**

Although the origins of Freemasonry remain shrouded in antiquity, Masonic authorities suggest Masonry as we know it, began in the 13th to 15th Centuries.

Ancient Masons worked in both operative and speculative art forms, extending back approximately 4000 years before Christ.

### **What are the requirements to be a Mason?**

Petitioners must be at least 18 years old, believe in the existence of God, the immortality of the soul, and the resurrection of the body. Also, a petitioner must be a law-abiding citizen of good moral character.

### **How long does it take a person to be a Mason?**

Processing a petition may take from one to two months. Following his election, a candidate may advance one degree per month, after proving his proficiency in the preceding degree.

### **What are the advantages of being a Mason?**

This could be a lengthy answer, but to name a few: You always have a place to go where there will be a warm reception, good fellowship, and wholesome instruction.

### **How often is a Mason expected to visit Lodge?**

Lodges meet once a month, and as often as necessary, at the discretion of the Master. All members are urged to visit neighboring Lodges on all convenient occasions. The Grand Lodge of Mississippi is made up of over 200 local Lodges and hold amity with several other Grand Lodge bodies across the world.

### **How is lodge business conducted?**

By officers who are elected or appointed at an annual scheduled meeting. Officers include Worshipful Master, Senior and Junior Wardens, Treasurer, Secretary, Senior and Junior Deacons and Tiler.

### **What benefits does a family receive from a Master Mason's membership?**

There are some functions and public meetings in which the family is encouraged to participate. The Grand Lodge of Mississippi does have a relief program whereby a Mason or his family can receive some financial assistance as necessary.

