

PETITION FOR THE DEGREES

Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Washington

Here are few important things you should know and consider before petitioning to join the Masonic Fraternity.

Freemasonry has in all ages insisted that men shall come to its doors entirely of their own free will, not from feelings of curiosity, but from a favorable opinion of the Institution and a desire to be numbered among its members.

Freemasonry is a fraternity that teaches ethics and morality. Although it is not in any sense a religion or a substitute for religion, we do require that men who join believe in a Supreme Being and the brotherhood of man. No atheist can become a Mason. Although we require that a member believe in a Supreme Being, we never try to tell a man how he should conceive of God, as he understands Him, what faith he should practice or what worship he should follow. Those are questions of individual conscience, and the member must find those answers within his own faith. Freemasonry has for its foundation the great principles of the Fatherhood of God and Brotherhood of Man.

Freemasonry distinguishes between patriotism and partisanship. While patriotism is encouraged as an essential virtue, both within and without the Lodge, no partisan or political discussion is allowed within the Lodge.

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 monetary 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 to share in a deep and rewarding fellowship with him. He will find true friends and life-long companions.

We expect men who petition for the Degrees (Membership) to be good men, but not to be 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 his character and to make the lives of others better as best he can? Is he willing to be open and honest with us and with himself? Your character is the most important factor in consideration of membership.

While members are encouraged to support charitable works to the best of their ability, membership does not guarantee assistance to any Mason. If you are accepted for membership, you will be expected to meet the financial obligation to your Lodge which are set forth in its By-Laws. These include fees for the degrees, annual dues to your Lodge, and any assessments. When called upon, you should be willing and able to give a portion of your time and financial resources to support various Masonic charities. You will be expected to attend Lodge meetings and participate in Lodge activities. We trust you are aware of these responsibilities and that they are not an undue burden to you and your family.

We are glad that you are interested in the Masonic Fraternity, and we're willing to share it with you. Inside this petition you will find several questions. They are not asked 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 petition, and the visit some Lodge Brothers will make with you, will begin a process of sharing information that is vital if both you and we are to be comfortable in the relationship.

THE PROCESS OF BECOMING A FREEMASON

You have already taken the first step in becoming a Mason by asking for a Petition for the Degrees. Filling out this petition and giving it to a Mason to be taken to the Lodge is the second step.

When the Lodge receives the Petition, the Master (the presiding officer) will appoint a committee to visit with you and your family. You will be required to submit a background check through the approved Grand Lodge vendor for a nominal fee. You will need to bring it with you when you meet with the committee assigned by the Lodge. The committee will then report to the Lodge and the Lodge will vote on the Petition. If the vote is affirmative, the Lodge will contact you to set a date for the first ceremony -- your Entered Apprentice Degree. You will be assigned a mentor, a Brother who can help you understand the degree. When that is completed, there will be two further ceremonies -- the Fellowcraft Degree and the Master Mason Degree. All our ceremonies are serious and beautiful. When completed, you will be considered a full member of the Fraternity.

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PETITION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE MASONIC FRATERNITY
TO THE MASTER, WARDENS AND BRETHREN OF

BELLINGHAM BAY LODGE NO. **44** F.: & A.:M.:

Because of what I know of the Masonic Fraternity and its purposes, as explained on the front of the Petition; because I believe that each man has a responsibility for his own self-development; and because I want to join with other men who believe in the same things and who are willing to help and support each other, I am hereby petitioning to be received into the membership and Brotherhood of the Lodge. If I am elected to Membership, I promise to follow the rules of the Fraternity. On my honor, the answers to the following items are correct and complete.

1. Print Full Name (last, first, middle): _____
2. Street Address: _____ City: _____ State/Zip: _____
3. Mailing Address (if different from No. 2): _____
4. Email: _____
5. Telephone: _____ Cellular: _____ Accept Txt Msgs? Yes No
6. I was born : City/State _____ DOB (mm/dd/yyyy): _____
7. I have been a resident at my current address for _____ Years.*
8. If the answer to No.7 is less than three years, please give last two addresses (or as many as necessary to cover three years):
Address/City: _____ State: _____
Address/City: _____ State: _____
Address/City: _____ State: _____
9. Have you ever petitioned any Masonic Lodge for membership? Yes No If yes, give the date, the Lodge name, Lodge number (if known) and location of the Lodge. State whether you were accepted or rejected.

10. My present occupation is: _____
11. Present employer's name and address: _____
12. If present employment is for less than three years, list the employers below that would cover the last three years.
From: _____ To: _____ at _____
From: _____ To: _____ at _____
From: _____ To: _____ at _____
13. Spouse's Name: _____ Spouse's email (not required): _____

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14. Do you believe in the existence of a Supreme Being? Yes No
15. Do you support any movement or organization whose purpose is to overthrow or change the government or laws of the United States or the State of Washington by violent or illegal means? Yes No
16. Have you ever been a defendant in a criminal case in court? Yes No

If yes, give the year, location, circumstances and result.

17. Why are you petitioning the Masonic Fraternity?

18. Do you belong to other Fraternal Organizations? If so, give names and locations:

19. What knowledge, skills and abilities will you bring to the Masonic Fraternity?

20. Three men to whom you refer, state if they are Masons, or not.

Mason?	Name	Address	Phone
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Yes No

Yes No

Yes No

21. How did you learn about Masonry? _____

22. Are you active duty or retired military? Yes No. If so, what in which branch did you serve? _____
Were you honorably discharged? Yes No.

23. I have carefully read, understand and subscribe to the statement on the front cover of this petition.

SIGN FULL NAME  _____ Date _____

