

Grand Lodge of New Jersey F.& A.M.

Petition for the Mysteries of Freemasonry

Dear Friend,

There 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. 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 belief in a Supreme Being, 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, the 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 at 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 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 himself; does he wish to make the lives of others better 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 require that you complete a background examination. These questions and the electronic verification are not asked of you out of idle curiosity. When we accept a man as a Brother, we take it very seriously and 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 some Lodge Brothers will make with you, commence the process of sharing information which is vital if we are 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.



Grand Lodge of New Jersey F.& A.M.

TO THE MASTER, WARDENS & MEMBERS OF:

LODGE NO. _____ DISTRICT NO. _____
OF _____, NEW JERSEY.

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

PETITIONER'S INFORMATION

(IMPORTANT: All questions MUST be answered before Petition can be processed.)

Full Name (Print or Type) _____
First _____ Middle _____ Last _____

Home Address - Street: _____, City/Town _____ State _____ Zip _____

Length at Current Address: _____ Phone Number - Home: _____ Cell: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Social Security Number: _____ Occupation: _____

Employer: _____ Address: _____ Length of Employment: _____

Married? _____ Wife's Name: _____ Number of Children: _____ Ages: _____

List Your Hobbies: _____

How Long Have You Resided in New Jersey? _____ Place of Birth: _____

Have you previously Petitioned THIS or ANY OTHER Lodge of Freemasons? Yes _____ No _____

If "Yes", List Lodge Name, Location and Date: _____

Email Address: _____

REFERENCES

Each Petitioner is required to furnish the names of three persons (preferably Masons) as references other than his recommenders.

Name _____ Address _____ Telephone or Email _____

Petition Fee Due with Petition: _____. Remainder Due at First Degree: _____.

RECOMMENDERS

We Recommend, pursuant to the Laws of Masonry, this 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 dependents, and we certify to his physical, mental and moral fitness.

X _____ Signature _____ Print Name & New Jersey Member Number _____ New Jersey Lodge & Number _____

X _____ Signature _____ Print Name & New Jersey Member Number _____ New Jersey Lodge & Number _____

QUALIFYING QUESTIONS

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

PETITIONER'S STATEMENT

I Hereby Authorize the Masonic Lodge to which I have submitted this petition, its members, and the Grand Lodge of New Jersey, 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 their 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 to the best of my knowledge and belief.

X _____ DATED THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 20_____
Signature of Petitioner in Ink

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 and submitting it to the Lodge Secretary, is the next step. When your petition is received, it is then sent to Grand Lodge for approval. The Master of the Lodge will then appoint a committee to visit with you personally, at your place of residence. After their visit with you, they will report to the Lodge, and the members will vote on your petition. If the vote is favorable 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, beautiful, and formal ceremony. Therefore, you should dress accordingly. Masonic Rituals contain no elements whatsoever of hazing and horseplay. After you receive the Entered Apprentice Degree, you will be assigned a mentor, who can help you become proficient in the material of that degree. After which, that proficiency will be tested in the presence of the Lodge. When that is finished, in like manner, you will take the Fellow Craft Degree and then the Master Mason Degree. Upon attaining the Third Degree, you will become a full member of the Fraternity.

CONSENT FORM

By signing this consent form, I acknowledge that I will be subject to a background investigation and I authorize The Grand Lodge of New Jersey, its members, employees, agents and assigns, as well as the Lodge to which I submit this petition, its members, employees, agents and assigns 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 New Jersey, its members, employees, agents and assigns, from any and 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, the Grand Lodge of New Jersey, its officers or members, for defamation, invasion of privacy, or any other cause of action arising from their investigation and/or decision.

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

X _____ DATED THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 20_____
Signature of Petitioner in Ink