

Masons (also known as Freemasons) belong to the oldest and largest fraternal organization in the world. Today, there are now more than two million Masons in North America. Masons represent virtually every occupation and profession, yet within the Fraternity all meet as equals. Masons come from diverse political ideologies, yet meet as friends. Masons come from varied religious beliefs and creeds, yet all believe in one God.

Many of North America's early patriots were Masons. Thirteen signers of the Constitution and fourteen Presidents of the United States, including George Washington, were Masons. In Canada, the Father of the Confederation, Sir John A. MacDonald, was a Mason, as were other early Canadian and American leaders.

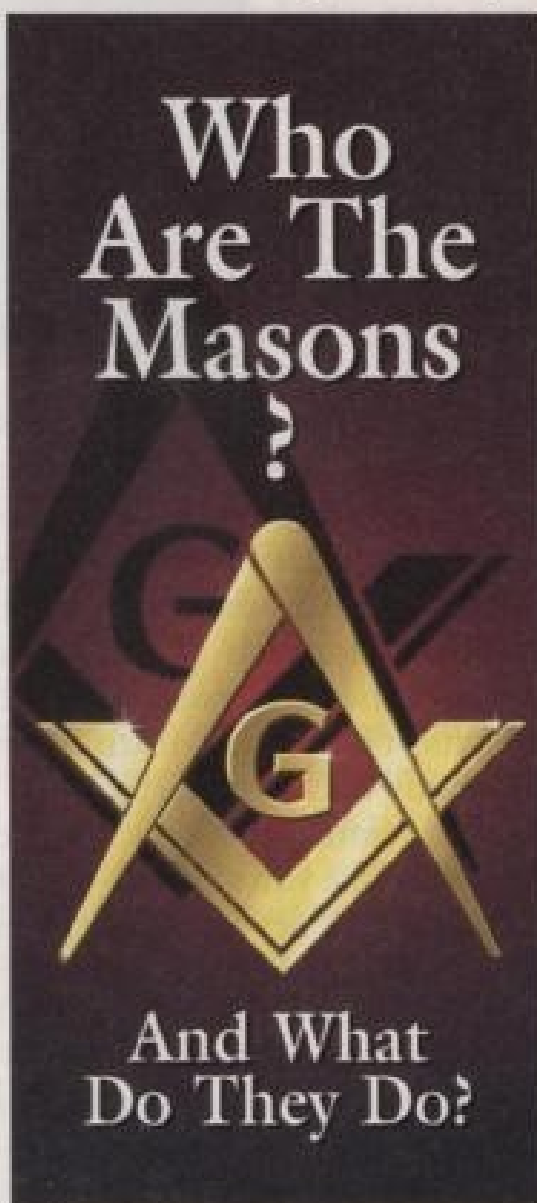
One of the most fascinating aspects of Freemasonry is how so many men, from so many different walks of life, can meet together in peace, always

conducting their affairs in harmony and friendship and calling each other "Brother."

Freemasonry (or Masonry) is dedicated to the **Brotherhood of Man under the Fatherhood of God**. It uses the tools and implements of ancient architectural craftsmen symbolically in a system of instruction designed to

build character and moral values in its members. Its singular purpose is to make good men better. Its bonds of friendship, compassion, and brotherly love have survived even the most divisive political, military, and religious conflicts through the centuries. Masonry is a fraternity which encourages its members to practice the faith of their personal acceptance. Masonry teaches that each person, through self-improvement and helping others, has an obligation to make a difference for good in the world.

No one knows just how old Freemasonry is because



Masonic Information Center
8120 Fenton Street
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the actual origins have been lost in time. Most scholars believe Masonry arose from the guilds of stonemasons who built the majestic castles and cathedrals in the Middle Ages. In 1717, Masonry created a formal organization when four Lodges in London joined to form England's first Grand Lodge. By 1731, when Benjamin Franklin joined the Fraternity, there were already several Lodges in the Colonies, and in Canada the first Lodge was established in 1738.

Today, Masonic Lodges are found in almost every community throughout North America, and in large cities there are usually several Lodges. A Mason can travel to almost any country in the world and find a Masonic Lodge where he will be welcomed as a "Brother."

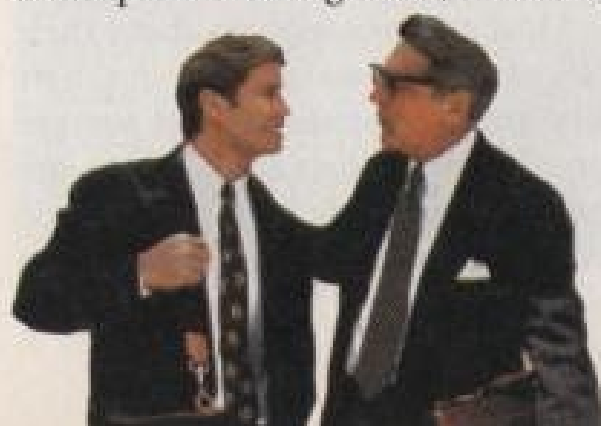
What Do Freemasons Do?

The Masonic experience encourages members to become better men, better husbands, better fathers, and better citizens. The fraternal bonds formed in the Lodge help build lifelong friendships among men with similar goals and values.

Beyond its focus on individual development and growth, Masonry



is deeply involved in helping people. The Freemasons of North America contribute over two million dollars a day to charitable causes. This philanthropy represents an unparalleled example of the humanitarian commitment of this great and honorable Fraternity. Much of that assistance goes to people who are not Masons. Some of these charities are vast projects. The Shrine Masons (Shriners) operate the largest network of hospitals for burned and orthopedically impaired children in the country, and there is never a fee for treatment. The Scottish Rite Masons in the Southern Jurisdiction maintain a network, as of 2001, of 150 Childhood Language Disorder Clinics, Centers, and Programs. Other Masonic organizations sponsor a variety of philanthropies, including scholarship programs (photo above) and perform public service activities in their communities. Masons also





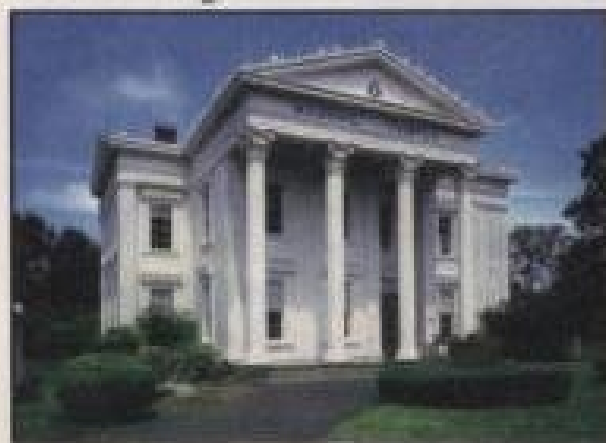
enjoy the fellowship of each other and their families in social and recreational activities.

Several Masonic Principles Are:

- ♣ Faith must be the center of our lives.
- ♣ All men and women are the children of God.
- ♣ No one has the right to tell another person what he or she must think or believe.
- ♣ Each person has a responsibility to be a good citizen, obeying the law.
- ♣ It is important to work to make the world a better place for all.
- ♣ Honor and integrity are keys to a meaningful life.

What Is The Masonic Lodge?

The word *Lodge* means both a group of Masons meeting together as well as the room or building in which they meet. Masonic buildings are sometimes called "temples" because the original meaning of the term was "place of knowledge," and Masonry encourages the advancement of knowledge.



Masonic Lodges usually meet once or twice a month to conduct regular business, vote upon petitions for membership, and bring new Masons into the Fraternity through three ceremonies called Degrees. In the Lodge room, Masons share in a variety of programs. Here the bonds of friendship and fellowship are formed and strengthened.

Who Can Qualify To Join?

Applicants must be men of good character who believe in a Supreme Being. To become a Mason, one must petition a particular Lodge. The Master of the Lodge appoints a committee to visit the applicant prior to the Lodge balloting upon his petition.

So Who Are The Masons?

Masons are men of good character who strive to improve themselves and make the world a better place. They belong to the oldest and most honorable Fraternity known to man. If you think you may be interested in becoming a member, you can begin by contacting a Lodge in your area or speaking to a Mason.

Men Of Character And Integrity Join The Masons

Most are men who go about their jobs and professions with no hint they are Freemasons except for the way they lead their lives. Many are readily recognizable by name, face, or accomplishment. George Washington



and 13 other Presidents, 8 Vice Presidents, and 42 Justices of the Supreme Court have been Masons. 

Some Notable Masons

Eddy Arnold
Roy Acuff
Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin*
Gene Autry
L. Van Beethoven
Irving Berlin
Simon Bolivar
Gutzon Borglum
Ernest Borgnine
Omar Bradley
Richard E. Byrd
DeWitt Clinton
Ty Cobb
George M. Cohan
Davy Crockett
Norm Crosby
Cecil B. deMille
Jack Dempsey
John Diefenbaker*
Jimmy Doolittle
Duke Ellington
Sir Alexander Fleming
Gerald R. Ford*
Henry Ford

Benjamin Franklin
Clark Gable
Benjamin Gilman*
John Glenn
Arthur Godfrey
Barry Goldwater
John Hancock
Harry Hershfield
Harry Houdini
Sam Houston
Hubert H. Humphrey
Burl Ives
Andrew Jackson
Al Jolson
John Paul Jones
Jack Kemp
Rudyard Kipling
Marquis de Lafayette
Fiorello LaGuardia
Charles Lindberg
Douglas MacArthur*
George C. Marshall
Thurgood Marshall
Charles W. Mayo

William McKinley
Lauritz Melchior
James Monroe
Wolfgang A. Mozart*
Arnold Palmer*
Dr. Norman V. Peale*
J. C. Penney
John Pershing
Eddie Rickenbacker
Branch Rickey
Will Rogers
Theodore Roosevelt
Franklin D. Roosevelt
David Sarnoff
Jean Sibelius
Red Skelton
John Philip Sousa*
Danny Thomas
Dave Thomas*
Lowell Thomas
Harry S. Truman*
George Washington*
Thomas J. Watson
John Wayne

*Illustrated on the back cover

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