

*...take the next step, talk to the person who gave you this invitation...*

### How To Join

You have been invited to join the Freemasons of Pennsylvania. To start the process, you must first submit a petition for membership. This petition will be read at a meeting of the Lodge you are seeking to join. You will then be visited by a small committee from the Lodge who will ascertain your qualifications and answer any questions you or your family may have regarding Freemasonry. At the next meeting the members will vote on your petition for membership. Once approved, you will be asked to attend three successive meetings, during which you will learn the teachings of Freemasonry. In ceremonies known as Degrees you will assume your vows of membership. You may also have the opportunity to shorten this process to a single day by participating in a special "One Day Class." The fee for joining Freemasonry varies with each Lodge and includes your dues for the first year.

### Why You Should Consider Membership

Every man has his own reason for wanting to be a part of the greatest fraternity in the world. Regardless of your reason, you will benefit from membership, because Freemasonry makes good men better. To take the next step, talk to the person who gave you this invitation or contact the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania.



### Contact Information

**The Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Pennsylvania**

One North Broad Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19107-2598

215-988-1900

800-462-0430

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

# You're Invited

to join the  
Freemasons  
of Pennsylvania

*Special Opportunity!*  
JOIN IN ONE DAY  
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2010



### Our Purpose

*Freemasonry is a fraternity of brothers who share one common goal: to help each other become better men. We strengthen and improve our character by learning and practicing basic virtues of fraternal love, charity, and truth. Our principles extend far beyond our interactions with each other, and we strive to apply them to our daily lives. All who join Freemasonry must declare their belief in the existence of a Supreme Being, and practice their own personal faith, but the fraternity is neither a religion nor a place to worship. Rather, it is a place where men of all monotheistic creeds can meet and focus on the great truths of peaceful human interaction that are common to all religions.*

### Our History

Freemasonry is known as "the world's oldest and largest fraternity." No one knows its true origin, but our tradition dates to the building of King Solomon's Temple. Documentary evidence can be traced to the 14th century and the medieval guilds of craftsmen who built the great cathedrals of Europe; hence the symbolic use of the tools of architects and builders to teach our life-affirming lessons. Our modern



history began in 1717 with the formation of the Grand Lodge of England in London, the subsequent establishment of St. John's Lodge in Philadelphia between 1727 and 1730, and the formation of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania in 1731.

Hundreds of testimonials, written through the centuries, of both a personal and public nature, prove that the fraternal relationships built in Freemasonry can survive wars, political conflicts, religious disputes and personal strife. Many of our nation's early patriots were Freemasons, as well as thirteen signers of the Constitution and fourteen Presidents of the United States, beginning with George Washington.

### Who We Are

Today, there are more than three million Freemasons, also known simply as Masons, around the world. We come from virtually every respectable occupation, profession and social

class. Within the fraternity, however, we meet as equals. We have diverse political opinions, but we gather as friends. We represent nearly every ethnic group in our country, yet we tolerate our differences. We practice different religious faiths, but profess our belief in one Supreme Being. In Pennsylvania, there are over 100,000 Freemasons who share our common bonds of brotherhood within more than 400 community Lodges throughout the Commonwealth.

### What We Do

As Freemasons, we are loyal citizens who conform to the moral laws of society and abide by the laws of the government under which we live. We meet monthly, in small groups called Lodges, throughout Pennsylvania. At these meetings we conduct regular business, vote on petitions for membership, perform our ceremonial initiations and learn to be better men. It is at these meetings where the bonds of friendship and fellowship are strengthened. We are committed to help each other, without neglecting our own personal responsibilities, but we are also generous with our money and manpower, and often seek ways to improve our communities. We conduct fund-raising, social, and family events. We participate in appendant groups such as the Shrine, Scottish Rite, and York Rite, among others, to enhance our fraternal experience. We support related organizations, such as the Eastern Star for Masons and their female relatives, and DeMolay, Job's Daughters and Rainbow Girls for young people.

*...one of the great architectural "wonders" of the Masonic world.*

### Our Masonic Temple

The Masonic Temple at One North Broad Street in Philadelphia has been called one of the great architectural "wonders" of the Masonic world. Adorned with some of the finest works of Masonic art, the Masonic Temple connects us, as Freemasons, with our past by outwardly displaying our Masonic traditions and values. The building is the home of our governing body, the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, and many of our city Lodges also meet there. It was built at a cost of \$1,600,000 from July of 1867 to September of 1873. Today, this incomparable structure could not be constructed at nearly 100 times the cost, even if the skilled artisans and craftsmen could be found. This grand edifice features

Norman, Corinthian, Renaissance, Ionic, and Egyptian architectural styles, as well as murals depicting celebrated masterpieces of the ancient world. It is the home to the Masonic Library and Museum of Pennsylvania, which houses over 75,000 volumes, 30,000 manuscripts, documents and photographic prints, and 30,000 artifacts of Masonic history. The Masonic Temple was declared a National Historic Landmark in 1985.



### Our Charity

Freemasons in America contribute more than \$1.5 million each day to charitable causes they, alone, have established. Appendant or related organizations, such as the Shrine, provide free care for crippled or burned children at their hospitals. The Scottish Rite provides Learning Centers to teach children to overcome dyslexia. The Knights Templar offers free eye care for those in need. Freemasons here, and around the globe, actively support many of their local community programs, as well as national and world-wide charities. Because of this, we have been called the world's greatest philanthropy.

Through the Grand Lodge's Pennsylvania Masonic Youth Foundation we provide scholarships and leadership training opportunities to young men and women, training for adults who work for the betterment of youth, and specialized education to help keep children safe from violence, abuse and exploitation. The Masonic Blood Club provides for emergency needs for our members, their families and our Masonic youth group members. Our Lodges support hundreds of local community efforts, and many are involved in providing the Child Identification Program (CHIP) and other services to youth. These are just a few of the many ways Freemasons are making a difference in their communities.



*Freemasons in America contribute more than \$1.5 million each day to charitable causes...*

*...assist individuals, families and children in realizing their potential and enjoying the highest possible quality of life...*

### Our Masonic Villages

In Pennsylvania, we have created, and continue to sustain, five Masonic Villages located throughout the state. These welcoming communities provide retirement living, personal care and skilled health care services to more than 2,500 Freemasons, their families and others on behalf of our



"Mission of Love." Each year, we provide more than \$18 million in services for those unable to pay for the cost of the care they need. The five Villages are located at Dallas, Elizabethtown, Lafayette Hill, Sewickley and Warminster. A children's home on the Elizabethtown campus provides a supportive environment for orphans and those who do not live in a secure or stable environment. Through the Villages, we offer several outreach programs for residents and non-residents, including adult and child day care; a residence for adults with mild to moderate mental retardation; caregiver support; free information, education and referral services and a medical equipment loan closet. For Masons and their family members only, additional services are available, such as financial assistance, home assistance and access to free or affordable legal advice.



*Freemasonry is not a secret society. Many of our activities are open to family and friends.*

### Dispelling the Myths

**HAZING**—There is absolutely no hazing permitted in the Masonic fraternity.

**ATTENDANCE**—There are no attendance requirements.

**RELIGION**—Freemasonry is not a religion. Your religious beliefs are your own. You must, however, believe in a Supreme Being.

**A SECRET SOCIETY**—Freemasonry is not a secret society. Our members do not hide their affiliation with us. Our buildings are well-marked and often available for community use. While there are a few confidential handgrips and passwords used to confirm membership, we have no secrets concerning our purpose and programs. Many of our activities are open to family and friends.

**MEMORIZATION**—Like all fraternities, Freemasonry has impressive ritual ceremonies that date back centuries. These are presented from memory by officers who are developing their leadership and public speaking skills. There is no requirement to memorize any ritual, but members can choose to participate as they wish.

### Who Can Join?

To qualify for membership, a petitioner must be male, at least 18 years of age, one who believes in the existence of a Supreme Being, of good moral character, motivated to join for reasons unrelated to personal gain or profit, prompted by a favorable opinion of Freemasonry, desirous of earning knowledge and willing to conform to the ancient usages and customs of the fraternity.