

# **Guide to the New Mason's Journey**



**Making A Mason**

## **Forward:**

It's quite an honor for a man to join the lodge. It is the hope and goal that every new member becomes engaged in it, and continues to maintain an active role.

The instructions in this guide are suggestions on how to lay a path that leads to this very goal.

It must be understood that a relationship needs to be established between lodge members, every brother in the lodge must enthusiastically dedicate himself to engaging not only new brothers, but every member of the lodge.

The only time limit placed on a friendship should be life. Setting a time limit on mentoring destroys the process of it. A person is never fully mentored, it is a never ending process. Nor is it necessary for a member to have a single mentor, quite the opposite is best. Throughout a Masonic journey, several mentors will appear, each with something special to offer.

## **What are the duties of a mentor and how is mentoring accomplished?**

The mentor's goal is to guide the new Mason in becoming enrolled in the Lodge. To help him become an enthusiastic, knowledgeable, and committed Mason. The relationship of the Mentor to mentee should be an open one where each is free to openly ask questions or make comments at any time.

The mentor should be the primary contact for the Candidate for a multitude of things. He should act as liaison with the WM in scheduling further degree work, and any other events or activities that the new brother may enjoy.

The time prior to receiving the degrees of Masonry is likely to be a time of excitement and uncertainty for the new candidate. The candidate may personally know very few of the Brothers already members of the lodge. It is the duty of the Mentor to be a guiding hand and welcoming face throughout this process. In order to make that a success, the WM should appoint a mentor immediately after a candidate is balloted upon.

The Mentor must underscore that Masonry emphasizes each individual man, by helping him to strengthen his character, improve his moral outlook, and broaden his mental horizons.

The Mentoring Process consists of a series of meetings between the Candidate and his Mentor. The mechanics of the Mentoring process differ slightly between a Candidate who receives his degrees one at a time and one who receives his degrees at a Grand Master's One Day Class. The process for the first is very similar to the one we have used for many years to investigate the candidate and assist the new brother with his proficiency. The subsequent meetings are the heart of the mentoring process and are the means by which the candidate becomes "enrolled" into your lodge and into Masonry.

**For a Candidate who has optioned to receive his degrees one at a time the Mentor needs to meet with the Candidate/Brother, while more is encouraged, a minimum of SIX times.**

- 1) Prior to the First Degree.
- 2) Following the First Degree, prior to the Second Degree.
- 3) Following the Second Degree, prior to the Third Degree.
- 4) Following the Third Degree.
- 5) Two months following the Brother's Raising.
- 6) Six months following the Brother's Raising.

**Meeting Number One's Primary Goal...**

To make sure that the Candidate and his Lady feel welcomed into the Fraternity, are informed about the Initiation process and feel comfortable with him proceeding with his Initiation. This meeting begins the enrollment process.

**Suggested Procedure**

- Congratulate the Candidate for being accepted and elected to become a member of the Fraternity.
- Inform him that he will be clothed in traditional garments for his Initiation, similar to the garments which have been worn by all Masons at their Initiation and that he will be required to leave his valuables in the preparation room.
- Inform him that he will be hoodwinked during a portion of the Initiation ceremony and that he will be required to repeat an obligation which contains symbolic penalties.
- View an appropriate video, such as the "Entered Apprentice", "What's a Mason", or "Opening the Doors to Freemasonry." Encourage the Candidate and his family to ask questions.
- Determine if he has any special physical needs that will need to be taken into consideration for his degree work. e.g. heart condition, back or leg problems, etc.
- Confirm the Initiation date and arrange to transport him to the lodge for the Initiation ceremony. Stress that you are the liaison, representative, for the lodge. If he has questions or needs to reschedule his degree(s), he can contact you.
- Introduce the beginning section of the "Masonic Enlightenment Course" and the "On the Threshold" booklet to provide an overview of Masonry. (Another appropriate pamphlet is "What is a Mason?")

This First Impression Is A Lasting One and you're only given one change to make it! ***Ignite Masonic Pride!***

### **Meeting Number Two's Primary Goal...**

To continue the engagement process by providing positive reinforcement to the Candidate about his decision to become a Mason (in other words to avoid "buyer's remorse.")

### **Suggested Procedure**

- The Mentor needs to contact the new Brother within 72 hours after his Initiation to schedule a time to meet.
- Review the Entered Apprentice section of the Iowa Systematic Masonic Enlightenment Course with him to make sure he has a firm grasp of the material.
- Answer any questions he may have about the First or upcoming Second Degree (or promise to find the answer.)
  - Review the Words, Grips and Signs privately with the new Mason.
- Schedule the Fellow Craft Degree and offer to transport him to the Degree.
- Prepare him for the Fellow Craft Degree by informing him that it will be similar to his First Degree, but will build upon what he has experienced and expand his knowledge.
- Invite him to travel with you to any other Masonic events he is eligible to attend in the area, such as First Degrees or other special meetings.

### **Meeting Number Three's Primary Goal...**

To continue providing positive reinforcement to the new Fellow Craft and develop the bonds of friendship and brotherhood.

### **Suggested Procedure**

- Review the Fellow Craft section of the Iowa Systematic Masonic Enlightenment Course to make sure he has a firm grasp of the material.
- Answer any questions he may have about the Fellow Craft or the upcoming Master Mason Degree or promise to find the answers.
  - Review the grips, words and signs.
- Schedule the Master Mason Degree and offer to transport him to the Degree.
- Keep him informed of Masonic events in the area and offer transportation.

### **Meeting Number Four's Primary Goal**

Continue providing positive reinforcement to the new brother and continue the enrollment process.

### **Suggested Procedure**

- Review the Master Mason section of the Masonic Enlightenment Course.
  - Answer any questions he may have about the degree or promise to find the answers.
  - Review the grips, words and signs with him.
- Inform him of any Masonic events in the area and invite him to travel with you.
  - Discuss Customs and Courtesies
  - Continue to develop the bonds of friendship and brotherhood.
- Continue the enrollment process by discussing the various opportunities for leadership and involvement within the lodge.
  - Provide a membership roster for the lodge.
  - Provide a list of the lodge officers and their contact information.
  - Provide a copy of the bylaws of the lodge.

### **Meeting Number Five's Primary Goal...**

To deepen and demonstrate the bonds of brotherhood and be a resource for the new Brother.

To continue the enrollment process by determining his needs, level of satisfaction, and interest in participating in the lodge.

### **Suggested Procedure**

- Help him complete the "Skills and Talents Survey"

### **Ask the Questions...**

- How has the lodge met your expectations?
  - What can we do to increase the value of your membership?
  - What activities would you like to see?
  - What are your areas of interest in the lodge?
  - On a scale of A – F, how would you grade the lodge on your experience to date?"
    - Stress to the brother that this information will remain strictly confidential
- "Conversations between brothers remain between brothers."*

### **Meeting Number Six's Primary Goal...**

Conclude the preliminary engagement process, by determining the Brother's level of satisfaction. Help him determine what part of the lodge's activities he is interested in and then assist him in finding ways

become involved in those areas.

### **Suggested Procedure**

- Review and discuss the Brother's answers to the questions posed to him in the prior meeting.
- Continue to make the new Brother aware of the opportunities for growth and self-improvement.
- Encourage him to attend all lodge functions and remind him of the opportunities for visiting other lodges.
  - Restate the available resources to facilitate his Masonic education.

*Remember, in every interaction with the new brother, your lodge needs to provide at least one of the following:*

Friendship

Fellowship

Leadership

Family Involvement

Community Involvement

For a Candidate who has optioned to receive his degrees at a Grand Masters One Day Class the Mentor needs to meet with the Candidate/Brother a minimum of FIVE times. Meetings should be structured as if the new candidate received his degrees one at a time, reviewing each of the degrees during the meetings.

Mentoring is not a process where certain specified information is presented or a certain number of meetings are conducted with a new member. It is rather an ongoing relationship between Brothers that should and hopefully will last a lifetime. It should be the goal of not only the Mentor and the New Brother to share in this relationship, but should be the foundation of the Brotherly Love reflected between each of the Lodge members to the new Brother and to each other.

A new Brother should never be considered completely mentored. It is the hope that through the mentoring process he will be able to demonstrate that he has the knowledge and understanding of Masonry well enough so that he can effectively pass that same information on to another. This is the process of Mentoring that will enroll, engage and actively involve new Brothers in the Lodge and cement them in the Masonic Family as being a True and Faithful Brother among us.