

## Ever consider joining?

Freemasonry is the oldest, largest Fraternity in the world. Its members have included Kings, Presidents, Prime Ministers, Statesmen, Generals, Admirals, Supreme Court Chief Justices, corporate CEOs, opera stars, movie stars, and probably, your next door neighbor.

**Masonry is always ready to welcome good men in the Fraternity.**

It's ready to welcome YOU, if in your heart you can answer "yes" to a few questions.

**Do you believe that there is such a thing as honor, and that a man has a responsibility to act with honor in everything he does?**

Masons teach that principle. We believe that a life not founded on honor is hollow and empty-- that a man who acts without honor is less than a man.

**Do you believe in God?**

No atheist can be a Mason. Masons do not care what your individual faith is -- that is a question between you and your God -- but we do require that a man believe in a Supreme Being.

**Do you believe that you have a responsibility to leave the world a better place than you found it?**

Masonry teaches that each man has a duty not only to himself but to others. We must do what we can to make the world a better place. Whether that means cleaning up the environment, working on civic projects, or helping children to work or read or see -- the world should be a better place because we have passed through it.

**IF YOU ANSWERED "YES", YOU SHOULD CONSIDER BECOMING A MASON.**



## Winter Garden Lodge No. 165 F&AM

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



@wintergardenlodge165

@wintergarden165



If you have any questions, or would like to visit the Lodge and talk about Freemasonry, contact any Brother, or speak with one of the officers.

**2B1ASK1**

230 W. Bay Street  
Winter Garden, FL 34787

Phone: (407) 614-7380  
Email: [info@wintergardenmasoniclodge.org](mailto:info@wintergardenmasoniclodge.org)



## Becoming a Master Mason

### Petitions Process & Fees



# The Process

After careful consideration by a man to join our Fraternity, he should complete a Petition for the Degrees of Freemasonry, which must be signed by two Brothers of the Lodge and submitted, along with a Applicant Background Waiver and the appropriate fees.

Two Committees of Brothers, typically three each, meet with the Applicant to discuss the process, answer questions, and inquire into the background and character of the Applicant. A Criminal Background Check is performed by a third party company, contracted by the Grand Lodge of Florida.

After investigations and inquiries, the Lodge Ballots on an application (petition). Note that it typically takes 6-8 weeks for this to occur, depending upon meeting dates and availability of the applicant to meet with the committees.

If the applicant is approved by the Brothers of the Lodge, he will be notified and a date set for conferring the First Symbolic Degree of Masonry. After this degree, the new Brother must learn certain things and prove to the lodge his proficiency before he can progress to the next degree.

After proving his proficiency in the First Degree, a date is set for the conferring of the Second Degree, and follows the same path of learning and proving proficiency before the This Degree is conferred.



## Application

- Submit Application Forms:
  - ◇ Petition for Degrees
  - ◇ Applicant Background Waiver
  - ◇ Background & Degree Fees
- Background Check is Performed (by an independent 3rd party company)
- Petitions Committee Reviews Forms
- They will meet with the applicant to ensure the forms are correct and complete.
- Petition is read in Lodge and Published in Lodge Trestleboard
- Investigations Committee Meets with Applicant (This usually occurs at the applicants residence)
- Lodge Ballots on Application (at least one month after Petition is Read)

## Degrees

- First Degree is Conferred at a Meeting
  - ◇ Brother learns the “work”
  - ◇ Brother demonstrates Proficiency
- Second Degree is Conferred at a Meeting
  - ◇ Brother learns the “work”
  - ◇ Brother demonstrates Proficiency
- Third Degree is Conferred at a Meeting
  - ◇ Brother learns the “work”
  - ◇ Brother demonstrates Proficiency
- **Applicant is now a Master Mason**

## Application Fees

Background Check	\$15.00
George Washington Memorial Fund	\$5.00
Entered Apprentice Degree	\$150.00
Fellow Craft Degree	\$50.00
Master Mason Degree	\$50.00
Annual Dues (see below)	\$147.30
<b>TOTAL FOR ALL 3 DEGREES</b>	<b>\$417.30</b>

*A minimum of \$170 of the above fees is due before the Lodge can receive the application. However, most applicants pay for the entire amount upon application.*

*If the application is rejected, all fees will be returned except the \$15 Background Check cost.*

## Annual Membership Fees

Lodge Dues	\$100.00
Grand Lodge Fees	\$30.00
LYPMGS (Let your pennies make good sense) voluntary fee to support the Masonic Home of Florida	\$7.30
Building Fund	\$10.00
<b>TOTAL ANNUAL</b>	<b>\$147.30</b>