



WISCONSIN MASONIC HANDBOOK

CHAPTER 9

LODGE SPONSORSHIP OF YOUTH

ORGANIZATIONS

A. INTRODUCTION

The Masonic Code of Wisconsin authorized a Lodge to sponsor individual or jointly with another Masonic body one or more Chapters of the Order of DeMolay, Assemblies of the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls, and/or Bethels of the International Order of Job's Daughters. This section of the code also permits sponsorship of Boy Scouts and Cub Scout packs.

The Junior Warden of each constituent Lodge is required by Section 57.03B of the Masonic Code of Wisconsin to act as liaison between his lodge and any related youth groups. He is further required to make periodic reports to the Junior Grand Warden and to his Worshipful Master and keep them informed of his activities.

The following material is intended to describe the major characteristics, history, membership requirements and programs conducted by these three groups. More in depth information can be secured from representatives of these groups themselves.

Addresses and telephone numbers for these youth groups can be obtained from the Office of the Grand Secretary.

B. DEMOLAY



The following information is presented in capsule form as it relates to the Order of DeMolay, the Supreme Council of DeMolay, and specific rules and regulations, which govern the Order, its members and the sponsoring body of Masons. It is not intended to be complete; rather, it is presented to act as an introduction to DeMolay, its general nature, membership, sponsorship and basic regulations. The guideline should answer basic questions only. Further and complete information can be gained through contact with the Executive Officer as

described in this guideline.

1. HISTORY OF THE ORDER OF DEMOLAY

Frank S. Land, an active Freemason, met with nine boys in March of 1919 in order to discuss the founding concepts of a special boys' club. The selection of the name of the order was based on the example provided by Jacques DeMolay, Grand Master of the Knights Templar in the 14th century, who chose to die as a martyr to loyalty and toleration, rather than betray trusts reposed in him.

A second meeting drew thirty-one boys. The foundation of DeMolay was then established. Soon after, a number of Scottish Rite members of Adoniram Lodge of Perfection, Kansas City, Missouri, chose to act as sponsors for the "Mother Chapter" of DeMolay. Within one year, the membership in the Order grew to 2,000 boys.

DeMolay came to Wisconsin in 1921. Edwin G. Nash, Grand High Priest of Grand Chapter, Royal Arch Masons, ordered a study of the DeMolay movement. A positive report led to the action by the Grand Chapter to permit sponsorship of DeMolay units by constituent chapters throughout Wisconsin.

Frank S. Land traveled to Wisconsin in 1922 with the original nine DeMolay members to actively take part in initiating about 1,000 boys into the Order of DeMolay. This new DeMolay group established the original twenty-two chapters in the state.

2. MEMBERSHIP

A prospective member of good character must have passed his thirteenth birthday and not yet have reached his twenty-first birthday. Membership is not limited to sons or relatives of Masons.

Each prospective DeMolay must be recommended by two members of the Chapter to which the petition is made, or by a Senior DeMolay holding a Senior DeMolay Certificate or by a Master Mason.

3. PURPOSES OF DEMOLAY

The foundation of the Order of DeMolay is to build better citizens through the use of character development in young men.

DeMolay stresses seven basic virtues including comradeship, reverence, love of

parents, patriotism, courtesy, cleanness and fidelity. Its beautiful ritual develops, displays and demonstrates values of proper attitudes for young men as they take part in the activities of a DeMolay Chapter.

Programs are established to help young men understand their self-identity and true worth. Activities cover a broad range of topics including ritual work, community service, sports, social events, and many special offerings.

4. PARENT INFORMATION

Some people believe that young men must be relatives of Freemasons before being accepted in DeMolay. This is not so. They must be recommended by a Master Mason and be of a character acceptable to the philosophy of the Order.

Each boy must:

- a. Meet the specific age requirements.
- b. Profess a belief and reverence for God.
- c. Be loyal to his country.
- d. Practice high standards of personal morality.
- e. Pledge himself to uphold the teachings of the Order.
- f. Accept the philosophy of the Universal Brotherhood of Man and the nobility of the character typified by the life of Jacques DeMolay.

5. EXECUTIVE OFFICER

A member of the Supreme Council assigned to a jurisdiction is known as the Executive Officer. He acts as the representative of the Supreme Council in the State of Wisconsin. The current Executive Officer for the State of Wisconsin is PGM MW Al Iding.

6. APPLICATION TO ESTABLISH A CHAPTER

The following guidelines have been derived in part from the Statutes of the International Supreme Council of the Order of DeMolay. All initial contacts, questions, requests, or other inquiries should be directed to the Executive Officer.

- Only an organization composed exclusively of Master Masons may

sponsor or make application to establish a Chapter of DeMolay.

- The sponsoring body must adopt a pledge of sponsorship.
- The application is filed with the Executive Officer who supplies all forms of application and sponsorship.
- The minimum number of members for establishing a new chapter is fifteen.
- A "New Chapter Kit" will be provided by the Executive Officer and training will be scheduled.
- Joint sponsorship may be taken by two or more Masonic groups such as two symbolic lodges, a Royal Arch chapter and a symbolic lodge, a York Rite, Scottish Rite, Shrine, or other organization made up exclusively of Freemasons.

7. REINSTATING A CHAPTER

The general procedures for reinstating a discontinued DeMolay chapter are the same as those established for forming a new chapter, except a reinstatement application is filed. Contact with Executive Officer is required.

8. STEPS SUGGESTED FOR ORGANIZING A CHAPTER

Talk with the Executive Officer or his personal representative about establishing a DeMolay Chapter.

1. Find other interested Masons; put on an informal program.
2. Secure a sponsoring body and have them pass a resolution to sponsor.
3. Select an Advisory Council and fill out the certification.
4. Select a chapter name.
5. Fill out the "Petition for Letters Temporary."
6. Forward the, "Resolution to Sponsor," "Advisory Council Certification," and "Petition for Letters Temporary," to the DeMolay Executive Officer for the jurisdiction, along with a check for the "Letters Temporary" fee; if the

Executive Officer approves, he forwards the papers to the International Supreme Council for processing.

7. Receive "Letters Temporary" from jurisdictional Executive Officer.
8. Look over material and publications received and order any additional supplies needed.
9. Establish initiation fee.
10. Organize a membership drive for initial class of members.
11. Sign up and approve petitioners.
12. Initiate initial class.
13. Report new initiates to "I.S.C." on appropriate form.
14. Select and install first set of chapter officers.
15. Adopt a set of chapter by-laws.
16. Proceed to operate the chapter in accordance with "I.S.C." regulations and jurisdictional policies.

9. SPONSORSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES

The members and officers of a sponsoring body or group must accept several responsibilities including the following:

- a. Provide a proper meeting place.
- b. Maintain active trained Advisory Council
- c. Supervise the Chapter through the Advisory Council
- d. Guide the development of the Chapter and its members.
- e. Assist the Chapters and its members when and where needed.

10. ADVISORY COUNCIL GUIDELINES

Each DeMolay chapter shall be directed by the Advisory Council made up of at least six or more members, two of which must be Master Masons. The balance of the Advisory Council can be made up of either Freemasons or male non-Masons.

The Advisory Council governs and helps to direct the activities of the Chapter. A number of specific guidelines are to be followed by the Council members as they carry out the duties and responsibilities described or assigned by the Supreme Council, the Grand Master or the Executive Officer.

C. JOB'S DAUGHTERS

1. HISTORY OF JOB'S DAUGHTERS

The Order of Job's Daughters was founded in 1920. The initial concept for this youth group came from the spirit of purpose possessed by Mrs. Ethel T. Weed-Mick. She and her husband, Dr. William H. Mick, worked with a number of interested helpers for several years before completing the materials upon which the International Order of Job's Daughters was established. It was recorded that the early planning meeting was organized with a number of Master Masons and Eastern Star members present. The Order has been established throughout the State of Wisconsin, the United States and many foreign countries.

2. GENERAL CONCEPTS OF THE ORDER

The basis of the Order of Job's Daughters is found in the Holy Bible, particularly in the Book of Job. The biblical descriptions of straight forwardness, honesty and pity for orphans and widows, clearly were selected as those characteristics, which should be exemplified by the members of the Order. Special reference is made to the 42nd Chapter, 15th Verse in the Book of Job; "and in all the land were no women found so fair as the Daughters of Job; and their Father gave them inheritance among their brethren." The same set of characteristics are also inculcated in the teachings of the Masonic Lodge which an indication of the influence of the members of the founding group on the Order of Job's Daughters.

3. MEMBERSHIP IN THE ORDER

Young ladies between the ages of 11 and 20 years old, who are related to Master

Masons, may become members of the Order. Job's Daughters is the only Masonic youth organization requiring a Masonic relationship before membership is granted. The relationship helps to tie the Order to the Masonic Fraternity. The relationship can be go beyond Freemasons of the immediate family; it can extend to other relatives who have Masonic ties. It includes all of the following:

Daughter, adopted daughter, step-daughter, granddaughter, great-granddaughter, step-granddaughter, sister, half-sister, step-sister, sister-in-law, niece, or first or second cousin of a Master Mason in good standing in the Masonic jurisdiction under which he holds membership, or who was in good standing at the time of his death, or so related to wife or widow.

The cost of membership, set by the individual Bethel Guardian Council, is not prohibitive.

4. INSTITUTION OF A BETHEL

Under the guidance and support of Freemasons, and when a minimum of 15 eligible girls request membership in the Order of Job's Daughters, movement toward the establishment of a Bethel can commence.

An "Application for Dispensation," allowing the organization of a Bethel, must be requested from the Supreme or Grand Secretary of Job's Daughters. After approval by the Supreme or Grand Guardian, a Bethel may be instituted. Historically, many Job's Daughters' Bethels take part in helping to organize, initiate and install members and officers of a new Bethel. Contact with the Grand Lodge Office should be made in order to obtain current contact information related to the present addresses of the members of the Supreme and Grand Guardian Councils directly concerned with the establishment or reinstatement of Bethels.

5. BETHEL MEETING ATTENDANCE

Every adult witnessing the ritualistic ceremony or attending a meeting of a Bethel of the International Order of Job's Daughters must be a Master Mason in good standing in the Masonic jurisdiction under which he holds membership, or the parent, step-parent, or guardian of a member candidate of a Bethel, or a woman at least twenty years of age vouched for as being the wife, daughter, granddaughter, mother, sister, half-sister or widow of a Master Mason, or a woman under the age of twenty years who is a member of an organization basing it membership requirements on such Masonic relationship, or who, if married, is eligible to

membership in such an organization.

Attendance of an adult at Bethel meetings is a privilege, which is given by and may be withdrawn by the Executive members of the Bethel Guardian Council.

Visitors must assume a pledge of secrecy. The Chaplain at the Altar with the Bible open gives the pledge. A committee appointed by the Honored Queen shall give late visitors this pledge in the anteroom on an open Bible. An Executive member of the Bethel Guardian Council must work with the Pledge Committee.

Every member of the Bethel Guardian Council must also assume the pledge before such members are entrusted with the duties of their office.

An adult is not entitled to debate questions arising in a Bethel meeting unless he or she is an Executive member of the Bethel Guardian Council or a majority member of the Bethel.

6. HUMANITARIAN AND PHILANTHROPIC PROJECTS

A wide range of activities is the hallmark of most Bethels. Major activities can and have included financial contributions to Shrine Hospitals, Masonic and Eastern Star Homes, Knights Templar Eye Foundation, guide dogs for the blind, community support of civic projects and numerous other benevolent contributions.

7. SOCIAL ACTIVITIES OF BETHEL

A wide range of positive activities can be found on the calendars of Job's Daughters Bethels. Service to Masonic Lodges and their related projects can always be identified. Bethel officers frequently plan drill teams, drama clubs, joint activities with Rainbow girls and DeMolay boys and special gatherings including sports and other programs.

8. BETHEL GUARDIAN COUNCIL

Each individual Bethel operates under the guidance of its own executive Bethel Guardian Council. This Council is made up of five individuals who must be Master Masons or women over twenty years of age who are the wives, daughters, granddaughters, mothers, sisters, half-sisters or widows of Master Masons, or who are majority members of the Order of Job's Daughters.

Each position is identified individually. They include the following: Bethel

Guardian, Associate Bethel Guardian (a Master Mason), Guardian Secretary, Guardian Treasurer and Guardian Director of Music. Each has specific and interrelated duties and obligations to perform.

The Grand Guardian of the State appoints members of the Executive Bethel Guardian Council. Other selected Master Masons and or selected, eligible women are appointed as associate members of the Bethel Guardian Council in order to aid and assist the members of the Bethel Guardian Council and the Membership of the Bethel in general.

9. GRAND GUARDIAN COUNCIL

Grand Guardian Council is composed of members of Executive Bethel Guardian Councils, Past Bethel Guardians, Past Associate Bethel Guardians, Past Grand Guardians and/or Past Associate Grand Guardians of the State.

10. SUPREME GUARDIAN COUNCIL

The Supreme Guardian Council is composed of Grand Guardians and Associate Grand Guardians, Past Grand Guardians and Past Associate Grand Guardians of all States, Provinces and Countries. The Supreme Guardian Council holds jurisdiction over all.

11. LANDMARKS

Job's Daughters were organized and consent obtained from J. B. Fradenburg, the Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Nebraska, and also the Worthy Grand Matron of Nebraska, Order of the Eastern Star, Mrs. Anna J. Davis, and the Grand Patron, Mr. James E. Bendnar, to work under the following landmarks:

- * FIRST – To be known as Job’s Daughters.
- * SECOND – Membership to be composed of developing girls who believe in God and bear a Masonic relationship.
- * THIRD-The meeting place to be called a Bethel.
- * FOURTH-The teachings based on the “Book of Job” with special reference to the 42nd Chapter: 15th Verse.

- * FIFTH-Is to be taught in three epochs-not degrees.
- * SIXTH-Motto: "Virtue is a quality which highly adorns woman."
- * SEVENTH-The emblems to be, The Horn of Plenty, Incense Burner and the Dove.
- * EIGHTH-Requiring all members, guardians and visitors to assume a pledge based on honor.
- * NINTH-To be a DEMOCRATIC organization with the right of appeal to a Supreme Authority, with all members and guardians amenable to the laws.
- * TENTH-A Supreme Guardian Council with Constitution and laws in conformity with landmarks governing the Supreme Guardian, Subordinate Guardians and Bethel members.

D. RAINBOW FOR GIRLS



1. HISTORY OF RAINBOW

The Reverend Mark W. Sexson of McAlester, Oklahoma founded the Order in 1922. The Order of Rainbow is a parallel organization to the DeMolay for boys. The ritual is inspiring and revealing. It teaches such virtues as love of home, country, school and church. The name was selected as it acts to represent the first visible sign that God gave to mankind. Each color has a specific meaning, all combining to produce pure white light represented by the Holy Bible.

2. MEMBERSHIP IN THE ORDER

The Rainbow Order attracts young ladies between the ages of 12 and 20 years old. Any girl recommended by an Eastern Star member or Master Mason may request a petition for membership. A young lady desiring membership may also ask another Rainbow girl for a petition. It is NOT necessary that a candidate have Masonic relatives in any organization in order to join.

3. PURPOSES OF RAINBOW

The Order, through its ritual, stresses and teaches a belief in the existence of a Supreme Being, the truths of the Holy Bible, the development of dignity of

character, effective leadership, cooperation with others and service to all mankind.

Programs are arranged in order to conduct business, present the ritual, offer social and family activities, fund raising, and support and service to the community in general.

4. ASSEMBLY ORGANIZATION

Their Mother Advisor and an Advisory Board guide each Rainbow Assembly. The Sponsoring Body selects the Advisory Board. Regular meetings are held at which time ritual work, business, social and other activities and programs are discussed.

The Worthy Advisor leads the Assembly and four other elected officers: Worthy Associate Advisor, Charity, Hope and Faith. Other appointed officers form the "Bow". Each officer of this group symbolically represents a color of the rainbow and a basic teaching of the Order.

Each individual Assembly carries out its own program of activities. All Assemblies take part in community service, social and family programs, go to church meetings and other wholesome activities.

A Grand Assembly is held each year in the state. Many activities are involved. Every two years, a Supreme Assembly attracts girls from across America and throughout the world to join the fellowship and work of the Order.

5. RITUAL TEACHINGS

The beautiful ritual involves the basic teachings of the Order. Each color of the Rainbow illustrates a fundamental principle: red for love, orange for religion, yellow for nature, green for immortality, blue for fidelity, indigo for patriotism and violet for service.

Further fundamentals of the Order include love of home, country, school and church. All are combined to present a meaningful and impressive program, which is the foundation for the Order.

E. OTHER YOUTH GROUPS

A local lodge can sponsor Boy Scout and Cub Scout packs. Sponsorship does not attach financial liability to sponsor a troop or pack by the lodge. By volunteering

your building, the lodge merely provides a free spot for youths to meet.

F. HOW CAN LODGES HELP YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS

Help can come in many forms. If your lodge does not sponsor a youth group or use the lodge building for meetings of outside groups, perhaps, financial help would be a consideration. This could easily be accomplished by having a yearly fund raiser - bake sale by the ladies group, pancake breakfast, raffle, lodge dinner, saving of newspaper, aluminum cans to cash in at a salvage business – for the benefit of the DeMolay Chapters, Job Daughters' Bethels, or Rainbow Assemblies. Your financial help will support their activities and it is truly appreciated by these youngsters.

Members can volunteer their time to nearby youth groups if the lodge does not have a Chapter, Bethel or Assembly. Time is as important as financial support.