

## CHILD ID COMMITTEE PROGRAM 2016-2017

My Brothers:

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on your appointment and look forward to an enjoyable year. Also, to say thank you to everyone for their hard work on the Florida Masonic Child ID Program. Without your help, we would not be able to provide FREE child identification kits to hundreds of thousands of families.

The Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Florida initiated the Florida Masonic Child ID Program in 1997 and each year has reinforced its goal to provide parents/caregivers with state of the art Child ID and child safety information.

One and all know and understand the importance of safeguarding our youth. A Child ID kit provides a parent/caregiver the capability to equip law enforcement with vital information to assist their efforts when searching for a missing person. It contains up-to-date quality photos, medical information, physical characteristics, and contact information. The digital fingerprints can be used to help locate a missing person in a variety of ways including licensing, registrations, certifications, employment, and law enforcement.

A Child ID event is one of the most important and useful public relations activities available to the Fraternity. Events educate the public about the Fraternity's commitment to charity. They display community involvement and assist in the membership process. At a Child ID event, professionals, young adults, and their families witness Masonry and can learn about the Fraternity through a learned Brother who can talk comfortably with others.

A few years ago, the Florida Masonic Child ID Program Facebook page "Florida Masonic Child ID Program," and website <http://flmasonicchildid.org/> were created and implemented to assist the various Districts to discuss ideas and ask for help. But above all, these sites have proven to expand the program by increased exposure with the public and organizations that are committed to child safety. Participation from the Zone and District Committeemen is required for these sites to continue to be successful.

The 2016 goals for the Florida Masonic Child ID Program are:

1. 100% District Participation
2. A standardization of the program
3. An affordability for every Lodge/District
4. Provide a superior product

For our program to continue its success, we need to continue our fundraising as it is important to the growth and quality of the program. The logo pins, ties, and scarves have been a tremendous source of funds, and we will continue to promote them. Over the last few years, Committeemen were successful in identifying suppliers of quality refurbished equipment that can be of great assistance to a Lodge or District starting a Child ID Program. Any and all fundraising ideas are welcomed and encouraged.

Without our Brothers, their families, and friends who donate their time and resources, the Florida Masonic Child ID Program would not be the success it is today. Every Lodge can get involved by promoting upcoming events in their trestleboards, by having the Child ID Program at their Lodge events, or volunteering for an event. Lodges and Districts support each other and welcome assisting with new Child ID Programs.

I want to thank M.:W.: Stanley L. Hudson for the opportunity to serve him and our Fraternity as the 2016 State Chairman. I thank the Zone Chairmen, District Chairmen, and Volunteers for their support and dedication.

Sincerely and fraternally,

W.: Michael R. Gambarrotti  
State Chairman, Child ID Committee

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