

**MASONIC YOUTH ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE
PROGRAM 2017-2018**

My Brothers:

Your appointment to the Masonic Youth Activities Committee is a tremendous opportunity, not only for you to represent our Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Florida to our youth members, but also because you can help bridge the gap between the youth and their sponsors. Yours will truly be the face of the Masonic Fraternity for these young people, providing the example that they will expect to see in their sponsoring bodies.

It is important to remember that our Masonic Youth Groups are not *Masonic-affiliated* organizations; rather, they are *Masonic-sponsored* organizations. There is **no requirement** for the youth members to join the adult organizations when they reach proper age. There may be an expectation, however, the decision of whether or not they join the adult organizations may well be determined by their personal interactions while active as a youth.

Always be mindful that today’s youth are the future leaders of our country, our communities, and our Fraternity. Being able to introduce this generation to Masonic Tenets will help build a foundation for a better society in the coming years.

Additionally, you will learn that many of the adult advisors/volunteers who work with the youth may not yet be Masonic. Your interactions can also serve as an opportunity to lead them to Masonic affiliation.

As members of The Grand Lodge of Florida Masonic Youth Activities Committee, we must all be in constant collaboration in supporting our youth; ours is never a committee of one. While we have committeemen on the State, Zone, and District levels, none is more important than the other; we meet on the level, act by the plumb, and part by the square. We are all in this together.

The adult leaders of Florida DeMolay, Florida Rainbow, and Florida Job’s Daughters will each receive a copy of this plan for their information and governance. I wanted to give them advanced notice of the program we are promoting, so that their local leaders may further communicate with our committeemen should they need assistance.

Responsibilities of Masonic Youth Activities Committeemen

District Chairman	Zone Chairman
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend Official Visits with the District Deputy Grand Master; provide a brief presentation regarding our Masonic Youth Activities Program (see talking points) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is recommended that you visit each Masonic Youth Organization within the Zone (at least once during your term)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visit each Masonic Youth organization within the District (a minimum of twice during your term) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review monthly reports provided by the District Committee Chairmen, looking for correlations to your own observations. Clarify any vague or ambiguous points with the District Chairman and forward updated reports to the State Chairman
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare monthly reports of visitations, observations and calls for action, to be submitted to the Zone Chairman and D.D.G.M. by the 5th of the following month (i.e.: August visitation report is due by September 5th) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare monthly reports of visitations, observations, and calls for action, to be submitted to the State Chairman and D.D.G.M.s within 5 days of receiving the District reports (i.e.: August District visitation report is due to you by September 5th; compiled District and Zone reports due to the State Chairman by September 10th)

The purpose of our committee visitations is:

- We need to demonstrate our support to the youth.
- We need to be open to finding out how we may be of better assistance to our youth members.
- We need to provide an opportunity for our youth to learn more about Masonry and its Appendant Bodies.

As sponsors to these Masonic Youth Groups, we need to provide more than a building for them to meet. Granted, a meeting location is essential to their operation, but we also have a human interest towards their success. We have a responsibility to provide for them, to protect them, and to perpetuate their success. For example, if they need additional quality adult leaders, we need to help them seek out those leaders. If they have a need for youth members, we need to assist them in developing programs to promote their organization and recruit new members, possibly by requesting referrals from our own members. If they are short of funds, we need to network on their behalf, urging local Masonic Groups to consider providing financial support for their benefit.

This is why your continued communication and timely reports are so important.

Official Visits: Roles, Responsibilities, and Talking Points

Official Visits to Lodges with the D.D.G.M.	Official Visits to the Youth Groups
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your role: Traveling Companion/Committeeman 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your role: Masonic Liaison/Committeeman
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your audience: Master Masons 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your audience: Youth Members and Advisors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your presentation: Brief but thorough 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your presentation: Fluid but comprehensive
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talking Points (not limited to only these) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talking Points (not limited to only these)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Introduce yourself and state your affiliation with your Lodge and any Masonic Youth Groups (if any) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Thank the Master Councilor (DeMolay), Honored Queen (Job’s Daughters) or Worthy Advisor (Rainbow) by name for the opportunity to visit his/her Chapter (DeMolay), Bethel (Job’s Daughters) or Assembly (Rainbow) and speak on behalf of The Grand Lodge of Florida
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide a brief introduction to Masonic Youth Groups (DeMolay, Job’s Daughters and Rainbow), their membership requirements and age limits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Introduce yourself as a member of The Grand Lodge Masonic Youth Activities Committee and state your affiliation with your Lodge and any Masonic Youth Groups (if appropriate)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ask for any Mason to raise his hand if he knows a member of his family, community, church, etc., who meets these requirements and could benefit from membership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ask for any adult volunteer to raise their hand if he/she was a member of the Masonic Youth Groups, or Boy/Girl Scouts, in his/her youth
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Laud our youth organizations as providing the foundation for their members to grow as the future leaders for our Fraternity and its sister organizations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Describe the Masonic recognition opportunities for their particular group (including Grand Master’s Youth Award, Youth Scholarship, Adult Recognition)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ask for any active or senior DeMolays who are members of the Lodge to rise for proper recognition (applause); mention that Florida DeMolay is currently trying to improve its alumni relations program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ask the youth (generally; not binding) if they are considering joining the adult groups when they are of lawful age
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Encourage the Masons to visit a local Masonic Youth Organization to display their support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide a brief introduction to Masonic Organizations (Blue Lodge, Appendant Bodies and Ladies’ Organizations) – be sure to include a synopsis of membership requirements and minimum age requirements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Note the importance of exposing the youth to Masonic Tenets through active participation as adult advisors and volunteers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Offer to serve as a Grand Lodge liaison, to provide for more effective communications between their organization and their sponsoring bodies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Describe the recognition programs sponsored by the Masonic Youth Activities Committee, for non-Masonic youth groups (Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Describe how this improved communication can help their group (new members, new adult advisors/volunteers, increased donations, etc.)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Offer to stay behind after the meeting to answer questions about the youth groups or their locations throughout Florida 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ask to join the line of communication facilitated by the group (email distribution, Facebook group, etc.)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Thank the R. : W. : D.D.G.M., the W.M., and the Craft for the opportunity to speak in support of our youth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Thank the M.C., H.Q., or W.A. and the members of the organization for the opportunity to speak on behalf of The Grand Lodge of Florida

As our youth groups recruit new members, the organizations themselves will grow in popularity and status. We will ultimately be calling on more of our Florida Lodges to sponsor youth organizations; it will be the responsibility of our Committeemen to facilitate these conversations; finding Lodges which are both willing and able to sponsor a new youth organization and communicating this willingness to the State Chairman so that appropriate arrangements can be made with the jurisdictional leaders of each organization.

During his presentation, at the approval and discretion of the D.D.G.M., the District Committeeman should encourage each Lodge to host a special presentation where they recognize the local youth groups in the community. Youth Groups appropriate for recognition include DeMolay, Rainbow Girls, Job's Daughters, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, JROTC, etc.

Additionally, it should be stressed that our Youth Groups teach good morals and that we need to work hard to encourage more young people getting involved.

And last, a conversation will be held between the State Chairman and District Deputy Grand Masters of Florida, requesting that attention be offered to the Masonic petition form (GL601), which asks:

- Have you ever been a member of the Order of DeMolay? What Chapter?
- Would you be interested in serving with one or more of our youth organizations?

This information could easily be captured and forwarded to the youth leaders – as appropriate – for additional program development.

Grand Lodge Support of Youth Activities

MASONIC YOUTH ASSOCIATION, INC.:

The Masonic Youth Association, Inc., is a 501(c)(3) Corporation. Incorporated under the Laws of the State of Florida as a Charitable Corporation, all contributions are tax deductible. Since its inception, this association has helped to support state leadership for our Masonic Youth Organizations within Florida. All Lodges, Appendant Bodies, Clubs, and Groups, as well as each of us individually, are encouraged to contribute and support this worthwhile organization in every way we can.

Benefitting Masonic Youth Members

YOUTH ACTIVITIES SCHOLARSHIP AWARD: A scholarship in the amount of \$500.00 will be awarded to a member of each Masonic Youth Group. The recipient will be chosen by their State Leaders according to their guidelines. These scholarships will be presented at our Annual Communication in 2018.

GRAND MASTER'S YOUTH AWARD: A certificate and pin will be presented to the outstanding member in each DeMolay Chapter, Rainbow Assembly, and Job's Daughters Bethel for the 2017 year. This presentation should be made by the District Deputy Grand Masters or the State, Zone, or District Chairmen of the Masonic Youth Activities Committee whenever possible. We strongly urge that these presentations be made during an Open Meeting, such as an Installation of Officers. The order form is included in this packet.

DeMOLAY CHEVALIER AND RAINBOW GRAND CROSS OF COLOR RECOGNITION: A Grand Lodge Certificate may be presented to the recipients of these honors. When possible, these certificates should be presented at a stated meeting of the Youth Organization where the youth to be recognize is a member, or in a Particular Lodge during a Special Communication or it would also be appropriate to suspend Labor during a Called or Stated Communication for this program and ceremony.

It is also suggested that you find out from your local Masonic Youth Leaders when they present these honors, attending the ceremonies for the purpose of presenting these awards at that time. Certificates should be presented by the District Deputy Grand Master or Zone or District Chairmen of the Masonic Youth Activities Committee. Certificates are available from the State Chairman.

Benefitting Masonic AND Non-Masonic Youth Members

YOUTH RECOGNITION AWARD: Each Particular Lodge should plan a night with their local Youth Group: DeMolay, Job's Daughters, Rainbow, Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts, JROTC, Little League, etc. Ask them to present a program of their own to the Lodge and then present them with a Grand Lodge Certificate of Recognition. A Particular Lodge may want to present that Youth Group with a donation which would be appropriate and most certainly appreciated. A Grand Lodge Certificate of Appreciation is also awarded to that Particular Lodge hosting the program.

BOY SCOUT EAGLE SCOUT OR GIRL SCOUT GOLD/SILVER AWARDS AND JROTC RECOGNITION: A Grand Lodge Certificate may be presented to the recipients of these honors. When possible, these certificates should be presented in the Particular Lodge during a Special Communication or it would also be appropriate to suspend Labor during a Called or Stated Communication for this program and ceremony.

It is also suggested that you find out from your local Scout Masters when they have their Eagle Scout "Court of Honor," attending the ceremonies for the purpose of presenting these awards. Certificates should be presented by the District Deputy Grand Master or Zone or District Chairmen of the Masonic Youth Activities Committee. Certificates are available from the State Chairman.

Benefitting Masonic Youth Adult Advisors/Volunteers

ADULT LEADERS RECOGNITION: The Adult Leaders of our Youth Groups do not belong to these organizations and do not work with them for any fame or glory. They do it because they want to make a difference and enjoy working with our young people. Our Youth Groups have their own ways to recognize and reward our Adult Leaders; however, as Masonic sponsors, we should recognize these adult volunteers and present them with Certificates of Appreciation for their individual efforts. This should be done in their Particular Lodge or in a Chapter/Bethel/Assembly Stated Meeting by the appropriate representative.

Benefitting Masons supporting the Youth

MASONIC LODGES OR BROTHERS RECOGNITION: Lodges and Brothers should be encouraged to take an active part in the sponsorship and support of our Youth Organizations. Many individual Lodges or Brothers go above and beyond in their efforts to support our Youth without being on an Advisory Board or connected in some manner with the Youth Organizations. It should be encouraged by the District and Zone Chairmen to recognize those individual Lodges and Brothers that make a difference in the youth of today by their support and contributions to the Fraternities. A Certificate of Appreciation can be presented to worthy Brothers and Lodges as desired.

CONCLUSION:

My Brothers, the youth of today will be the future of our country and the future of our Fraternity. The more we help mold the good morals for America's youth, the better off is our country's future. Our Masonic Youth Organizations are our best tool to have an impact on that future. Your work to help DeMolay, Rainbow for Girls, and Job's Daughters grow and prosper is extremely important.

Fraternally,

Bro. R. J. "Jody" Meguiar, State Chairman
Masonic Youth Activities Committee
(813) 766-8271
jmeguiar@fldemolay.com

Information on Masonic Youth Groups in Florida

	DeMolay International	Job's Daughters International	The International Order of the Rainbow for Girls
Emblem			
Target Demographic	Young Men aged 12-21	Young Ladies aged 10-20	Young Ladies aged 11-20
Tenets / Virtues	Love of Parents, Reverence, Courtesy, Comradeship, Fidelity, Cleanness, & Patriotism	Faith, Patience & Reward, as outlined by the life of Job (Job 42:15)	Faith, Hope & Charity, through Love, Religion, Nature, Immortality, Fidelity, Patriotism, & Service
Requirement for Membership	Belief in a Supreme Being (no specific religion or creed), Good Character & Reputation	Belief in God, Good Character & Reputation	Belief in a Supreme Being (no specific religion or creed), Good Character & Reputation
Masonic Relation Required?	No; <i>Two active or Senior DeMolays, as well as a Master Mason, must sign each petition as sponsors</i>	Preferred, but not required; <i>If no Masonic relation can be identified through exhaustive search, petitioners may be sponsored by two Majority Members and a Master Mason</i>	No; <i>Two active or Majority Members, as well as a member of the sponsoring organization must sign each petition as sponsors</i>
Organizational Honors for Youth Members	<p>The Degree of Chevalier is bestowed upon active or Senior DeMolays over the age of 17, for unusual meritorious service to the Order of DeMolay.</p> <p>The Cross of Honor and Legion of Honor are also bestowed by DeMolay's International Supreme Council, but for adult service, leadership, and influence.</p>	<p>No Honors for Youth Members.</p> <p>The Degree of Royal Purple is approved by the Supreme Guardian Council, to honor Majority Members who have been especially generous in dedicating their time and efforts to promoting their Bethels and Job's Daughters International.</p>	<p>Grand Cross of Color: A designation given to girls and adults who have given exceptional service to an assembly of the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls.</p> <p>Traditionally Grand Cross is conferred upon a girl who is a Past Worthy Advisor and has served her assembly above and beyond what is expected.</p> <p>This is the highest honor that Rainbow can confer on a Rainbow Girl, Master Mason, Eastern Star, Amaranth, White Shrine of Jerusalem or Majority member of Rainbow.</p>
Pledge Group?	Yes – the Order of Squires for boys aged 9 to 11	Yes – the “Jobie to Bee” program for girls aged 7 to 10	Yes – the Rainbow Pledge group for girls aged 8 to 10
Founder	Frank S. Land	Ethel T. Wead Mick	Rev. W. Mark Sexton
Founding Location & Date	Kansas City, Missouri 1919	Omaha, Nebraska 1920	McAlester, Oklahoma 1922

Information on Awards presented by the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts

	Boy Scouts of America Eagle Scout	Girl Scouts of America Gold Award	Girl Scouts of America Silver Award
Emblem			
Target Demographic	Boy Scout Members over the age of 18 (so long as the requirements were completed prior to his 18 th birthday)	Girl Scout Senior Members (ages 15 or above)	Girl Scout Cadettes - between the ages of 11 – 14 (or in grades 6 – 8)
Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Earn a minimum of 21 merit badges (13 of which are specifically required) • Demonstrate Scout Spirit, an ideal attitude based upon the Scout Oath and Law, service, and leadership • Complete an extensive project that the Scout plans, organizes, leads, and manages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete two Girl Scout Senior or Ambassador Journeys; or complete one Girl Scout Senior or Ambassador Journey and have earned the Silver Award • Plan and implement an individual “Take Action” project that reaches beyond the Girl Scout organization and provides sustainable, lasting benefits to the girl’s larger community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete a Cadette Journey prior to beginning their project • Once the journey is completed, girls must complete a 50-hour service project that is sustainable and educational