



Masonic Degree & Appendant/Invitational Body Information

The Three Masonic Degrees

Masonic ritual is designed around the symbolic story of the building of a great, spiritual temple, as represented by the Temple of Solomon. The three Masonic degrees are designed to represent three stages of life: youth, manhood, and age.

The Entered Apprentice degree



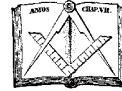
The Entered Apprentice degree represents youth because it teaches the most basic lessons of belief in God, the necessity of charity to mankind, the importance of truth, and the value of keeping one's word.

To obtain this degree, the Apprentice goes to each of the primary officers in the lodge, who each question and examine the new member. As in the earliest days of the craft guild, the Entered Apprentice must memorize a series of questions and answers. This requirement has several purposes:

- Show dedication. The Entered Apprentice can demonstrate that he has made a proficient study of the lodge and its workings.
- Prove affiliation. If the Entered Apprentice wants to visit another lodge where no one knows him, he can vouch for his own knowledge and prove he's an Entered Apprentice by answering the questions in proper form.
- Continue tradition. By learning these questions and answers, he becomes a link in the long chain of millions of men who have passed the ritual down through the centuries.

After the questioning, the Apprentice kneels at the altar, places his hand on the Bible or the Volume of Sacred Law, and takes the *obligation* (oath) of an Entered Apprentice.

The Fellow Craft degree



The second degree is the Fellow Craft, which represents manhood, the middle period of life. During this degree, the importance of education and work, and the awesome power of God, are taught to the Mason.

The obligation he takes as a Fellow Craft is longer than that of the Entered Apprentice and increases his duties to his brethren. In addition to secrecy, he promises to help his brothers, and to obey the rules and laws of the lodge.

Although the Entered Apprentice degree is known to Masons as initiation, the Fellow Craft is said to be passing. It is a passage through the adult stage of life, when we learn and experience new things every day.

The Master Mason degree



The Master Mason degree is the third and last degree ritual of the lodge. In the course of the degree, the new Master Mason is taught the importance of living a life true to the principles of morality and virtue.

The Master Mason degree represents age. The brother is encouraged to reflect on his deeds and make peace with his God because death is a strong theme during this degree. How a man lives and dies is the most important message the degrees of Masonry convey.

The York Rite

More correctly, the American Rite, is based on the early remnants of Craft Masonry that were practiced in the early 1700's. The formation of the first Grand Lodge of England in 1717 specified that the lodges were to confer only the degrees of Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft, and Master Mason, all other degrees being considered spurious. However, many lodges had been conferring other degrees

that they considered an integral part of Masonry, in particular that of the Royal Arch, and formed their own Grand Lodge in 1751, terming themselves the "Ancients" and the other Grand Lodge members the "Moderns." With the merger of the two Grand Lodges in 1813 into the United Grand Lodge of England, the lodges agreed that only the three accepted degrees of Masonry would be used by the lodges, but the degree of the Royal Arch would be attached to Chapters allied directly to these lodges and bearing the same number as the lodge, though as a separate body. Thus, unlike the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, which claims to hold the power of conferring the first three degrees of Masonry in addition to those under its jurisdiction, those found in the York Rite have rightfully acknowledged the fact that they are considered appendant to those of Ancient Craft Masonry. It is still the practice in English Masonry that a Masonic member is not considered to be in possession of all the degrees of Ancient Craft Masonry until he has been exalted to the Royal Arch.

Early American Lodges operated in a similar manner until the establishment of the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons. For a period in US history, the Cryptic degrees were controlled by various state Grand Chapter jurisdictions, until the establishment of the General Grand Council. The Chivalric Orders have been controlled by the Grand Encampment since the early 19th century in the United States. All three bodies are technically autonomous Masonic entities, only the requirement of membership in the Royal Arch connecting the Cryptic degrees and Chivalric Orders together.

Appendant to the York Rite Bodies are several additional Masonic bodies, most of which are invitational in nature. Membership in many of them is predicated on membership in the Royal Arch, though some have memberships predicated on other bodies of the York Rite, or membership in all of the York Rite bodies. Many are found in other jurisdictions outside of the United States, but several are uniquely American in their origin.



The Capitular Degrees
General Grand Chapter - www.ramint.org

**Virginia only subsection following this section*

The Capitular Degrees are a set of four degrees controlled by the Royal Arch Chapter. They center on the construction phases of Solomon's Temple, with the exception of the degree of Past Master, hence the title of Capitular. The degree of Past Master is the vestigial remnant of the former custom that the degree of the Royal Arch could only be conferred on a Past Master of a Symbolic Blue Lodge. In the United States, these degrees are considered as proprietary to the Royal Arch, while in England there is no Past Master degree as found here, and the Mark Master degree is controlled by its own Grand Lodge. The Most Excellent Master degree is also part of the Cryptic Degree in England. As stated in the forward, the Royal Arch overseas is controlled by Chapters attached to English Blue Lodges. The Royal Arch Chapters have occasionally been referred to as the "Red lodge" in older Masonic publications, though they should more accurately be described as the "Red degrees." In the United States, all Chapter business is conducted in a Royal Arch Chapter, the other bodies being only opened for the conferral of degrees. Some jurisdictions open Mark Master Lodges as "table lodges," which act as a social focus for the local York Rite bodies



Mark Master

A Degree that emphasizes the lessons of regularity, discipline, and integrity. It is a most impressive Degree centered on the story of the Fellowcraft of the quarry and

their role in the building of the Temple. Its importance in English Craft Masonry can be judged by the fact that it operates as a separate Grand Lodge, and is highly sought by members of the Craft in that jurisdiction.



Past Master

A Degree that emphasizes the lesson of harmony. This Degree is conferred because ancient custom required that a Mason must be a Past Master in order to be exalted to the Royal Arch. In some Grand Jurisdictions this Degree is conferred upon all sitting Masters of the Blue Lodge. The Degree confers no actual rank upon the recipient, but is exemplified to maintain the ancient custom.



Most Excellent Master

A Degree that emphasizes the lesson of reverence. This Degree is centered on the dedication of the Temple after its completion, particularly the consecration of the Sanctum Sanctorum and the descent of the Host into the Temple. It is complimentary to the Mark Master Degree and completes the symbolic lessons introduced in that Degree.



The Royal Arch

The completion of the Master Mason Degree and the summit of the original Degrees of the Blue Lodge as practiced in the Antients Lodges of England before 1820. The Degree explains the origins of the Substitute Word found in the Master Mason Degree, the recovery of the Ineffable Word, and its concealment within the Royal Arch Word. This Degree,

together with the Master Mason Degree, may have once been exemplified as one large or "super" Degree, with the Master Mason Degree explaining the loss of the Master's Word and the Royal Arch explaining the recovery of the Master's Word. The presiding body is a Chapter, and the presiding officer is a High Priest (titled Excellent).



The Cryptic Degrees

General Grand Council - www.ggccmi.org

The Cryptic Degrees are a set of three degrees controlled by the Select Masters Council. The degrees get their name from the reference to a hidden or secret vault in the degrees, hence the term Cryptic. Only the first two degrees are regularly worked, the third degree, that of Super Excellent Master, is worked as an honorary degree, not being required as a requisite for membership in the Council. It is also somewhat peculiar in its association with the Cryptic degrees, as it is more closely allied in theme and character with the Royal Arch and the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross. The history of the body as a whole is also shrouded in uncertainty and controversy. Though there is early evidence of Councils of Royal and Select Masters being worked in the United States, the degrees were worked variously by their own Councils, Royal Arch Chapters, and even Lodges of Perfection of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite. Though the Scottish Rite has long relinquished any claim to these degrees, several Grand Jurisdictions (VA & WVA) still confer them as a part of Capitular Masonry. In England, the degree of Most Excellent Master is grouped with this body. In the United States, all business is conducted in the Select Masters Council, the other two bodies only being opened for the conferral of degrees. Some jurisdictions hold "table councils"

in similar manner to "table lodges" as a social focal point of their local York Rite bodies.



Royal Master

A Degree emphasizing the lessons of patience and fortitude. The Degree centers around the Fellowcraft Masons who were artificers fabricating the fittings and furniture of the Temple. It is unusual in that the first part of the Degree depicts events taking place before the death of the Grand Master Hiram Abif, and the last part depicts events occurring after his death.



Select Master

A Degree emphasizing the lessons of devotion and zeal. The Degree centers on the construction and furnishing of a Secret Vault beneath the Sanctum Sanctorum of the Temple, and the deposition of those secrets pertaining to the Craft by the three ancient Grand Masters of the Craft. This Degree bridges the events surrounding the concealment and loss of the Ineffable Word and the events leading to the recover of the Word in the Royal Arch Degree. The presiding body is a Council, and the presiding officer is a Master (titled Illustrious).



Super Excellent Master

A Degree emphasizing the lessons of loyalty and faithfulness. The Degree centers around the events leading to the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple at the hands of the Chaldeans. The Degree is narrated by small interludes of biblical prophecy that highlight the end of the first Temple and the construction of the second Temple. It is noteworthy for its scenes of the Jewish court of Zedekiah and the Chaldean court of Nebuchadnezzar. This degree is an

honorary one, and a member of the Council not needing to have it in order to hold membership or office.

The Virginia Capitular Degrees*

The Virginia Capitular Degrees are a set of 6 degrees controlled by the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Virginia. They center on the construction phases of Solomon's Temple, with the exception of the degree of Past Master, hence the title of Capitular. All Chapter business is conducted in a Royal Arch Chapter, the other degrees being only opened for the conferral of degrees. The Cryptic degrees were incorporated and chronologically reordered with the Capitular Degrees.

Mark Master

A Degree that emphasizes the lessons of regularity, discipline, and integrity. It is a most impressive Degree centered on the story of the Fellowcraft of the quarry and their role in the building of the Temple. Its importance in English Craft Masonry can be judged by the fact that it operates as a separate Grand Lodge, and is highly sought by members of the Craft in that jurisdiction.

Past Master

A Degree that emphasizes the lesson of harmony. This Degree is conferred because ancient custom required that a Mason must be a Past Master in order to be exalted to the Royal Arch. In some Grand Jurisdictions this Degree is conferred upon all sitting Masters of the Blue Lodge. The Degree confers no actual rank upon the recipient, but is exemplified to maintain the ancient custom.

Select Master

A Degree emphasizing the lessons of devotion and zeal. The Degree centers on the construction and furnishing of a Secret Vault beneath the Sanctum Sanctorum of the Temple, and the deposition of those secrets pertaining to the Craft by the three ancient Grand Masters of the Craft. This Degree bridges the events surrounding the concealment and loss of

the Ineffable Word and the events leading to the recovery of the Word in the Royal Arch Degree. The presiding body is a Council, and the presiding officer is the Illustrious Master.

Royal Master

A Degree emphasizing the lessons of patience and fortitude. The Degree centers around the Fellowcraft Masons who were artificers fabricating the fittings and furniture of the Temple. It is unusual in that the first part of the Degree depicts events taking place before the death of the Grand Master Hiram Abif, and the last part depicts events occurring after his death.

Most Excellent Master

A Degree that emphasizes the lesson of reverence. This Degree is centered on the dedication of the Temple after its completion, particularly the consecration of the Sanctum Sanctorum and the descent of the Host into the Temple. It is complimentary to the Mark Master Degree and completes the symbolic lessons introduced in that Degree.

The Royal Arch

The completion of the Master Mason Degree and the summit of the original Degrees of the Blue Lodge as practiced in the Antients Lodges of England before 1820. The Degree explains the origins of the Substitute Word found in the Master Mason Degree, the recovery of the Ineffable Word, and its concealment within the Royal Arch Word. This Degree, together with the Master Mason Degree, may have once been exemplified as one large or "super" Degree, with the Master Mason Degree explaining the loss of the Master's Word and the Royal Arch explaining the recovery of the Master's Word. The presiding body is a Chapter, and the presiding officer is a High Priest (titled Excellent).

Super Excellent Master

A Degree emphasizing the lessons of loyalty and faithfulness. The Degree centers around the events leading to the

destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple at the hands of the Chaldeans. The Degree is narrated by small interludes of biblical prophecy that highlight the end of the first Temple and the construction of the second Temple. It is noteworthy for its scenes of the Jewish court of Zedekiah and the Chaldean court of Nebuchadnezzar. This degree is an honorary one, and a member of the Council not needing to have it in order to hold membership or office.

*Generally available at Grand Chapter



Grand Encampment, KT, USA www.knightstemplar.org/

The Chivalric Orders are a set of three Orders culminating in the grade of Knight Templar, and controlled by that body. This body is markedly different from its foreign counterparts, in that it exhibits a paramilitary structure and outlook on Masonry, being the only branch of Masonry in the world that is a uniformed body. Its requirement that its members be professed Christians has led to calls of condemnation from other Masonic bodies and organizations both inside and outside the United States, claiming that the body is more of a Christian organization rather than a Masonic body. These have had little effect on the body, however, as many of the organizations criticizing the body have similar degrees among themselves. The American body is also arranged different from its nearest relatives in England. The American body includes the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross, which is not conferred in any other organization, though it has very close cousins in the Irish and American Order of Knight Masons and in the English Allied Masonic Degrees grade of the Red Cross of Babylon. Also, in the United States, the Order of Malta is conferred on members before being eligible to receive the Order of the Temple, whereas in England, the Order of Malta is an honorary grade bestowed on Knights Templar. In the United States, all business is transacted in the Order of the Temple, the other bodies only being opened

for the conferral of the Orders. In England, the Order of Malta meets and operates as a separate body in addition to the Order of the Temple.



Illustrious Order of the Red Cross

An Order emphasizing the lesson of truth. Elements of this Order were practiced in Ancient Lodges before the final form of the Master Mason Degree came into use. It is still practiced in the full ceremonial form by the Knight Masons of Ireland and the Knight Masons of the United States, and as the Red Cross of Babylon in the English Order of the Allied Masonic Degrees.



Order of Malta

An Order emphasizing the lesson of faith. This Order requires the Mason to profess and practice the Christian faith. The pass degree of the Mediterranean Pass, or Knight of St. Paul prepares the candidate for the Order by introducing the lesson and example of the unfearing and faithful martyr of Christianity. The Order is centered on allegorical elements of the Knights of Malta, inheritors of the medieval Knights Hospitaller.



Order of the Temple

An Order emphasizing the lessons of self-sacrifice and reverence. It is meant to rekindle the spirit of the medieval Knights Templar devotion and self-sacrifice to Christianity. The history of the Masonic Order is long and convoluted, with the Order's ritual differing between that conferred in England and in the United States. That practiced in the United States has a slight militant zeal to the lesson of Christianity, whereas the English ritual is more allegorical. However, the American ritual is most impressive, and more emphasis is placed on the solemnity and reverence associated with the

Crucifixion, Resurrection, and Ascension of Christ. The presiding body is a Commandery, and the presiding officer is a Commander (titled Eminent).

The "Chair Degrees" of York Rite masonry, so called as the candidate must be the installed or a past presiding officer of the respective York Rite body. They may also differ somewhat in name or character from one jurisdiction to another.



Order of High Priesthood -

A chair degree conferred upon installed or past High Priests. Sometimes referred to as the Anointed Order of High Priesthood.

In antiquity, this degree was known as the Order of Melchizadek.



Thrice Illustrious Master -

A chair degree conferred upon installed or past Illustrious Masters.

It is also known as the Order of the Silver Trowel from the jewel of the degree.



Knight Crusader of the Cross -

A chair degree conferred upon installed or past Eminent Commanders.



Sovereign Order of Knights Preceptor -

All present and Past Commanders of Constituent and Subordinate Commanderies of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America in a jurisdiction where there is not any Chapter of the Order may

petition for membership in the Order of Knights Preceptor. The Grand Chapter of the Order of Knights Preceptor meets annually at the time and place of the Annual Meeting of the Grand Council of Allied Masonic Degrees of the United States of America.

Past Commanders Association In some jurisdictions, an association for all present and Past Commanders of Constituent and Subordinate Commanderies of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America.



Appendant and Allied Bodies

The following bodies are appendant to the York Rite bodies due to the requirement that their members must also be members of the York Rite or one of its bodies; or are allied to the York Rite by the requirement that their members must be Masons.

First are the invitational bodies, in which the candidate must be a member of the York Rite or one of its bodies, be invited by a member of the invitational body, and pass a ballot for membership.

Second are the allied Masonic bodies, which require the candidate to be a Mason and may have additional requirements, such as being invitational or requiring other Masonic or fraternal affiliations or memberships.

Many of the following organizations are exclusive in nature and their memberships represent the more dedicated and select of the Masonic fraternity's membership. This selectivity is usually exhibited in the limitations of the body's membership size and/or its selection processes and requirements.

Unrestricted Invitational Appendant Bodies

These bodies are open to members of the York Rite by invitation only, but there is no restriction on the number of members allowed per body.



© - The York Rite Sovereign College of North America -



www.yrscna.org -

An invitational body dedicated to the assistance and promotion of York Rite Bodies and degree work. The presiding body is a College, and the presiding officer is a Governor (titled Preeminent). The body works one main degree, that of Order of Knight of York, and one honorary degree, that of Order of the Purple Cross of York.



* - The Order of Knight Masons of the U.S.A. -



www.knightmasons.org -

An invitational body originally sponsored by the Knight Masons of Ireland. It is also known as the "Green Degrees." In England, the parts of the degrees are worked as part of the Order of Allied Masonic Degrees under the title of the Red Cross of Babylon. Membership once required affiliation with the Knights Templar in Ireland, but only with the Royal Arch in the U.S.A. The presiding body is a Council, and the presiding officer is a Chief (titled Excellent).

Degrees worked are:

- " Knight of Sword
- " Knight of the East
- " Knight of the East and West
- " Installed Chief (Chair Degree)



- Knights of the York Cross of Honour (KYCH) -



www.kych.org -

An invitational body composed entirely of York Rite Masonic leaders. Members must be a Past Master of a Symbolic Lodge, a Past High Priest of a Royal Arch Chapter, a Past Master of a Royal and Select Masters Council, and a Past Commander of a Knight Templar Commandery; and nominated by a KYCH. A past Grand presiding officer receives the title of Knight of the York Grand Cross of Honour (KYGCH) if he serves in such a capacity after becoming a KYCH. Membership is unlimited in the presiding body. The presiding body is a Priory, and the presiding officer is a Prior (titled Eminent). *Council Leadership in Virginia excluded



- The Commemorative Order of St. Thomas of Acon

www.stthomasofacon.org

An invitational body composed of York Rite Masons selected for their contributions and dedication to the Masonic bodies and orders. Membership requires affiliation with the Knights Templar. The modern Order commemorates an early body of English Knights Templar founded during the 3rd Crusade. Membership is unlimited in the presiding body. The presiding body is a Chapel, and the presiding officer is a Master (titled Worthy).

Restricted Invitational Appendant Bodies

These bodies are open to members of the York Rite by invitation only, with strict limitations on the number of members allowed per body.



The Allied Masonic Degrees (AMD) - www.amdusa.org



- An invitational body dedicated to the preservation and exemplification of Masonic side degrees of antiquity. EDITOR'S NOTE: In some jurisdictions the AMD Councils are limited to presenting research papers. Membership requires affiliation with the Royal Arch and is limited to 27 members per presiding body. The presiding body is a Council, and the presiding officer is a Sovereign Master (titled Venerable). European AMD Councils open and transact business on the Order of St. Lawrence the Martyr. In addition to the AMD Council, there are two subordinate bodies attached to the Council, which operate as separate bodies outside the United States.

The Description of these Degrees can be found on St. Andrew's in America Council No. 1a, AMD, NC WEB SITE

Degrees worked are:

- " Order of St. Lawrence the Martyr
- " Knight of Constantinople
- " Grand Tilers of Solomon
- " Excellent Master
- " Masters of Tyre
- " Architect
- " Grand Architect
- " Superintendent
- " Ye Antient Order of the Corks
- " Red Branch of Eri and Appendant Orders (Honorary Degree)
- " Royal Ark Mariner (separate Lodge outside the

USA)

- " Order of the Secret Monitor (separate Conclave outside the USA)
- " Installed Sovereign Master (AMD Chair Degree)
- " Installed Master (OStLM Chair Degree)
- " Installed Commander Noah (RAM Chair Degree)
- " Installed Supreme Ruler (OSM Chair Degree)



The Red Cross of Constantine and Appendant Orders (RCC) - www.redcrossconstantine.org

An invitational body composed of highly dedicated and long serving York Rite Masons. Membership requires affiliation with the Royal Arch, and belief in the Trinitarian Christian faith. Membership is limited to 45 members per presiding body. The presiding body is a Conclave, and the presiding officer is a Sovereign (titled Puissant).

Degrees worked are:

- " Knight of the Red Cross of Constantine
- " Knight of the Holy Sepulchre
- " Knight of St. John the Evangelist
- " Installed Viceroy (Chair Degree)
- " Installed Sovereign (Chair Degree)



The Order of Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priest (HRAKTP) - www.hraktp.org

An invitational body composed of highly dedicated and long serving York Rite Masons. Membership requires affiliation with the Knights Templar, and members must be Past Eminent Commanders of a Knight Templar Commandery. Originally, this body conferred 33 degrees, but now only one is conferred. Membership is limited to 33 members per presiding body. The presiding body is a Tabernacle, and the presiding officer is a Preceptor (titled Eminent).

Additional Masonic Organizations

The following lists some of the additional Masonic organizations found in the Masonic family. Included are the bodies of Adoptive Masonry and Masonic sponsored youth organizations. It does not list the other organizations allied to Masonry such as the AAONMS, Shriners, Daughters of the Nile, Tall Cedars of Lebanon, or Grotto.

Research and Fellowship Bodies

These bodies are open in membership to any Mason. They exist as Masonic research and social fellowship groups.

The Philalethes Society -  - <http://freemasonry.org/>
A Masonic research society that is open to Masons and is dedicated to Masonic research. This body includes many noted Masonic authors and researchers. The presiding body is the Society, and the presiding officer is a President.

The Grand College of Rites of the United States of America -



- www.grandcollegeofrites.org
A Masonic research society that is open to Master Masons and is dedicated to the study, history, and preservation of extinct Masonic Rites, rituals, and ceremonies. The membership of this body is predominately composed of York Rite Masons. The body gathers annually for the transaction of business and the presentation of papers. The presiding body is the Grand College, and the presiding officer is a Grand Chancellor (titled Most Illustrious).



The Society of Blue Friars

An invitational Masonic literary body whose membership is composed solely of published Masonic authors, and limited to 20 members. It is unique in its honorary status, there being no fees or membership dues assessed, and its members

retain membership ad vita. The presiding body is the Society and the presiding officer is a Grand Abbot (titled Most Illustrious).



The Masonic Order of the Bath - **WEB SITE**

Qualifications for membership:

- 1) You must be a Master Mason in good standing in Lodges recognized as "regular".
- 2) There IS NO #2.

The presiding officer is titled "Most Honorable Commander-General".

Generally meets in Washington DC as part of Masonic Week.



The High Twelve International -
www.high12.org

A Masonic luncheon club, open to Masons currently expanded to three Countries. The name of the organization derives from a Masonic term meaning noon. Its stated purpose is to inculcate the ideals taught in Masonry by uniting in the happy bonds of a fraternal hour, those ideals being the strengthening of Masonic ties, participation in community activities, and the furtherance of the public school system. There are no degrees, ritual, or ceremonies. It fulfills the role of the "Table Lodges" found in some jurisdictions, but without the formality or ritual associated with those organizations. The presiding body is a Club, and the presiding officer is a President

Historical Invitational Bodies

These bodies preserve the unique Masonic history and heritage associated with colonial and early American Masonry.



The National Sojourners, Inc. -
www.nationalsojourners.org

An invitational body composed of Masons who are or were commissioned, warrant, or senior non-commissioned officers in the Armed Forces of the United States of America, and dedicated to the preservation and perpetuation of the Masonic fraternal heritage and its history in the Armed Forces of the United States of America. Provisions exist for the admission of honorary members who do not meet the prerequisite qualifications. This body inculcates the principles of the former English and American "military" Lodges, which operated under lawful Craft warrants from the 1700's through the early 1900's. The Grand Lodge of the Philippines was organized as a result of the efforts and work of this body. A side body of the Sojourners is the Heroes of '76. The presiding body is a Chapter, and the presiding officer is a President

Invitational Bodies of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite

The Royal Order of Scotland occupies a unique place in American Masonry, as it is controlled by the Grand Lodge of Scotland, and was "usurped" in a sense when Albert Pike was appointed the Provincial Grand Master and allied it with the A.A.S.R. However, the statutes in the U.S.A. still conform to those of the mother Grand Lodge and the body is open to 32° Scottish Rite Masons by invitation and Knights Templar by special waiver.



The Royal Order of Scotland (ROS) -

www.roosusa.org

An invitational body composed of highly dedicated and long serving Scottish Rite Masons. While allied with and considered a Scottish Rite Degree in the United States, this Order was once under the jurisdiction of the York Rite, being controlled by the Grand Lodge of Scotland, and as a result of this former disposition, it is also open to Knights Templar by waiver of the Provincial Grand Master. Membership requires affiliation with the Scottish Rite (32°) and a Trinitarian Christian, or a Knight Templar; and the recommendation of a member. This is the only Masonic body that is considered to be an authentic Royal Order. The Degree of Knight of the Rosy Cross is believed to contain remnants of the original investiture ceremony of the Most Ancient and Most Noble Order of the Thistle, the Royal Scottish Dynastic Order. The Masonic body is under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Scotland. In the United States of America, the body operates as a Provincial Grand Lodge, and the presiding officer is a Provincial Grand Master. It is unlimited in membership.

The two degrees worked are:

- " Degree of Heredom of Kilwinning**
- " Degree of Knight of the Rosy Cross**

Invitational Bodies of Ultra-craft Masonry

Ultra-craft Masonic bodies are those that simply lie outside of those of the Rites, or in simpler terms, requiring only Masonic affiliation with a recognized Masonic Blue Lodge. Technically, every appendant body is part of ultra-craft masonry, though here the term is used in connection with bodies not controlled by either of the two Rites of the United States.



The Societas Rosicruciana in Civitatibus Foederatis
(SRICF) - www.sricf.org

An invitational body composed of highly dedicated and long serving Masons, and dedicated to the esoteric and philosophical study and examination of Masonry.

Membership requires affiliation with a Symbolic Lodge, and a profession of the Christian faith. While membership in the York Rite Bodies is not necessarily required, most of the members of the SRICF often hold membership in the York Rite and many of its appendant bodies. This body is in fraternal amity with the Masonic Societas Rosicruciana in Anglia (England), the Masonic Societas Rosicruciana in Scotia (Scotland), the Masonic Societas Rosicruciana in Gallia (France), and the Masonic Societas Rosicruciana in Portugallia (Portugal). Advancement to the higher degrees within the body is determined upon merit and service.

Membership is limited to 72 members per presiding body.

The presiding body is a College, and the presiding officer is a Chief Adept (titled Worthy).

Degrees worked are:

- " I Zelator**
- " II Theoricus**
- " III Practicus**
- " IV Philosophus**
- " V Adeptus Minor**
- " VI Adeptus Major**
- " VII Adeptus Exemptus**
- " VIII Magister Templi**
- " IX Magus**

Affiliated Adoptive Masonic Bodies

These are Masonic organizations whose memberships include both men and women in their bodies. The York Rite is an active participant and supporter in Adoptive Masonic bodies.



The Order of the Amaranth - www.amaranth.org/
An Adoptive Masonic organization. The organization was founded in 1873. Membership is limited to Masons, their spouses, and female relatives. It was originally intended to be an additional degree of the Order of the Eastern Star, but was rejected by that organization. It was then set up as a separate organization. Until 1921, members had to be affiliated with the Order of the Eastern Star. The presiding body is a Court, and the presiding female and male officers are a Royal Matron and Royal Patron.



The Order of the Eastern Star (OES) - www.easternstar.org/

An Adoptive Masonic organization. The organization was founded in 1857. Membership is limited to Masons, their spouses, and female relatives. Meetings require the presence of a Mason in order to open and transact business. The presiding body is a Chapter, and the presiding female and male officers are a Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron.

Degrees worked are:

- " Obedience (Adah)
- " Devotion (Ruth)
- " Fidelity (Esther)
- " Faith (Martha)
- " Charity (Electa)



The Order of the White Shrine of Jerusalem -

An Adoptive Masonic organization. The organization was founded in 1894. Membership is limited to Masons, their spouses, and female relatives. Members must profess the Christian faith. Meetings require the presence of a Mason in order to open and transact business. The presiding body is a Shrine, and the presiding female and male officers are a High Priestess and Watchman of Shepherds.



Social Order of the Beauceant (S.O.O.B.) -

www.knightstemplar.org/soob

As the wives, widows, mothers, daughters and sisters of Knights Templars, they are the only ladies' fraternal order whose eligibility is determined by the husband's membership in the Commandery.

A new Assembly may be constituted wherever there is an active Commandery of Knights Templar of sufficient size to warrant it, and there are several eligible ladies

Masonic Youth Organizations

These organizations are youth organizations sponsored and supported by the Masonic bodies. The York Rite is extremely active in its involvement with these groups.



- **The Order of DeMolay (IODM)** - **demolay.org**

A Masonic youth organization for young men aged 12 to 21 years. Membership does not require family Masonic affiliation, nor does it confer any Masonic membership. The organization is dedicated to providing guidance and development of civic leadership and social values in young men. A side body of the DeMolay is the Order of Knighthood.

The presiding body is a Chapter, and the presiding officer is a Master Councilor.

Degrees worked include:

" Initiatory Degree

" DeMolay Degree

" Degree of Chevalier (Honorary Degree)



- The Order of Job's Daughters (IOJD) -
www.jobsdaughtersinternational.org

A Masonic youth organization for young women aged 10 to 20 years. Membership is limited to girls with a male Masonic relative. The organization is dedicated to the development of civic leadership and social values in young women. The presiding body is a Bethel, and the presiding officer is an Honored Queen.

Initiation ceremony that is separated into three epochs?:

" First Epoch

" Second Epoch

" Third Epoch



- The Order of the Rainbow for Girls (IORG) -
www.gorainbow.org

A Masonic youth organization for young women aged 12 to 20 years. Membership does not require Masonic affiliation, nor does it confer Masonic membership. The organization is dedicated to the development of civic leadership and social values in young women. The presiding body is an Assembly, and the presiding officer is a Worthy Advisor. There is one main degree, that of the Initiation Degree, and one honorary degree, that of the Grand Cross of Colors Degree.