

New Member Orientation Package



Welcome To the Order of DeMolay

Welcome To DeMolay!

Welcome to DeMolay Canada! You have just joined the greatest Chapter of the greatest youth fraternity in the world. To give you a better understanding of our Chapter and our Order, we have written a brief outline of some DeMolay practices; our history and the DeMolay structure here in Alberta. We are proud of DeMolay, and we hope that you will work with us to keep it that way.

During your initiation, you probably found our ceremonies surprising and confusing. Perhaps you were even wondering what you had gotten yourself into. As a result, it's possible that many of the things that were said to you did not sink in. Don't worry, it's tough to take in all that information all at once. However, throughout your DeMolay career, which we hope is a long and enjoyable one, you will need to be familiar with the things that we taught to you during your initiation. That is the purpose of this manual; to better acquaint you with the organization and conduct within the order.

The basic purposes of our organization have been outlined in our ritual, and you should endeavor to conduct yourself in accordance with these principles. While some phrases used in our ritual, may on occasion seem a little out of date, the fundamental concepts still hold true to this day and you can make this world a little bit better to live in by practicing them.

The obligation you took at the altar is very important. So important in establishing the principles and precepts of our order that we ask you to memorize this obligation. It is called the Initiatory Degree Proficiency. You must repeat this obligation in your chapter before you become a full voting member. Once you perform this Obligation in front of your chapter and the DeMolay Degree Obligation, which you will have conferred upon you later, you are eligible to vote on all chapter matter.

The Initiatory Degree which you have received, outlined the basic precepts that our organization stands for:

Filial Love- Respect for our parents and appreciation for our families

Reverence for Sacred Things- Acknowledgement of spiritual values and respect for the beliefs of others. (We do not dictate any religious values but encourage you to search and decide for yourself.)

Courtesy- Treating others as you would like to be treated.

Comradeship- A recognition of brotherhood and friendship.

Fidelity- Being true to your promises.

Cleanness- Responsibility in your thoughts, words and actions.

Patriotism- Appreciation for Canada, its past, present, and future.

If you look at your obligation you will notice that it closely follows these precepts in order. If you memorize a paragraph a day you should have no trouble with the obligation; it is much easier than it looks.

Soon after you receive the Initiatory Degree, you will receive the DeMolay Degree. Unlike the first degree, this is a play. It portrays Jacques DeMolay (a 13th century martyr), and three of his preceptors when they were tried before the French Inquisition. Jacques DeMolay was the leader of a group called the Knights Templar. In the early 1300's, the King of France persecuted them. The Inquisition demanded that DeMolay surrender all of the properties of his order and reveal the names of all the members. When he refused, he was burned at the stake. DeMolay showed unfaltering loyalty, bravery, and fidelity despite bribes, threats, and torture. It is for this reason he was chosen as the exemplar of our order.

After this play, there is a final obligation that you will be expected to memorize. You will then become a full member of our chapter with full voting privileges.

Some points that were outlined to you that you should try to follow:

Attendance Register: When you enter a chapter, the Sentinel should greet you. Beside him is a book that you are expected to sign before you enter the Chapter Room. You should sign in your appropriate office if you are an officer, or in the Members section if you are not an officer or if you are visiting another chapter.

Word of the Day: This is the word given by the Master Councillor to the Sentinel and usually has some significance relating to the meeting. You should obtain it from the Sentinel when you sign the Attendance Register and remember it, as you will be required to repeat it later in the meeting. The purpose of the word is to ensure only DeMolay are in attendance at the meeting. During the meeting, the Master Councillor will ask the Deacons to collect the word of the day and you should give it to the Deacon in a whisper along with the grip of the degree.

Use of the Gavel: One Rap: Seats the Chapter or calls for attention
Two Raps: All officers of the Chapter rise
Three Raps: All rise

Speaking in Chapter: Every DeMolay is entitled to voice his opinion on items being discussed by the chapter, and we urge you to exercise your rights by speaking out on those issues. The Order has been established in such a way that the DeMolay, as a chapter can manage and plan their own activities. If you don't voice your opinion, you may soon find that the Chapter is deciding to do things that you may not be interested in. As a result, you may find that you are not interested in the Chapter any longer or are not having as much fun. If this happens, you have only yourself to blame. One of the key items in DeMolay is to get involved and this is one of your main opportunities. When addressing people in the chapter, your fellow members of DeMolay are referred to as brothers. If you wish to speak you must first stand up and wait to be recognized by the Master Councilor. Once you have been given the floor start with "Brother Master Councilor through you to" whomever you wish to speak to. Advisors are referred to as

Dad and their last name while members are Brother and their last name or position in the chapter. If you want to talk to the entire chapter say “Brother Master Councilor through you to the floor” and then carry on with what you wish to say. If you don’t get it now, don’t worry you’ll pick up most of the things in this package once you have sat through a meeting.

Kneeling: You are expected to kneel during all DeMolay prayers. When the Master Councilor asks the chaplain to lead the Chapter in prayer, he will rap three times to have the Chapter rise. He will then say, “All Active DeMolay will kneel on left knee, All others will remain standing.”

You should kneel when the Chaplain kneels and rise when he rises. The way to kneel is on your left knee with your right elbow on your right knee, and your right hand supporting your forehead while your left hand cups your right knee and elbow. Be sure to ask a fellow member if you need any help with this.

Leaving the Chapter Room: If you must leave the chapter room, rise and wait to be recognized by the Master Councilor, he will then say Brother (your name), you will then say, “Brother Master Councilor” and state your reason for rising. After he has given you permission to retire, remove your cape and jewel, go to the Altar and give the proper sign of the Degree and then turn and leave. Always walk on the square in open Chapter.

Pledge to the Queen: During all meetings you will be asked to pledge allegiance to her Majesty the Queen of Canada. Here is that pledge:

Master Councilor:

Brethren, you will join me in pledging allegiance to Her Majesty the Queen of Canada.

All:

I do pledge that I will bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the 2nd, Queen of Canada, her heirs and successors according to the law, so help me God.

Officers of the Chapter: There are four elected Officers of a Chapter:

Master Councilor
Senior Councilor
Junior Councilor
Treasurer

The Master Councilor appoints the rest of the officers at the beginning of a term. They are:

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| Senior Deacon | Senior Steward | Scribe |
| Junior Deacon | Junior Steward | Chaplain |
| Marshall | Sentinel | Standard Bearer |
| Orator | Almoner | 7 Preceptors |

Chapter Sweetheart: This is a girl who has been elected at a business meeting to serve as the official hostess at all Chapter functions. She is usually a member of Job's Daughters International, as an organization similar to DeMolay but for girls and will keep us up to date on all activities that are happening in Job's Daughters.

Advisory Council: Each chapter has, assisting it, a group of interested adults. Their purpose is to assist you in the operation of an active Chapter. The council usually appoints an Advisor to assist on all committees. If you have any requirements in these committees, the advisor is there to offer counsel and assistance, but always remember that it is your responsibility to do the work. The Chapter Dad is a member of the council who serves directly with the chapter and assist the Master Councilor during the meetings. He is the advisor who works closest with the Chapter in their day-to-day activities.

Committees: Each term the advisory council appoints a series of committees. Make sure that you are involved in one, as you will enjoy your DeMolay experience if you become involved and have input into what is happening with the organization. Committees include fundraising, membership, communication, and many more.

Activities

Every Chapter has a variety of activities to keep every member busy as much or as little as he would like. No member is expected to attend every function but you are encouraged to attend as many as possible. In this way you will gain the most out of DeMolay. These activities include civic services, sports, fundraising, dances and much more. The activities of a chapter are only limited by the imagination of the members. Don't be afraid to speak up and say that you would like to do a certain kind of activity; there are probably a lot of members that love to do the same thing. We encourage you to become involved and to participate, as this is the only your chapter will grow and prosper. Key activities that are held include:

Installations: This is the activity DeMolay has when setting up a new slate of Officers. It is a formal event where the members of a chapter receive new positions for the next six months and is usually followed by some form of fun activity like a dance or laser tag. These are open to the public and we encourage you to bring your friends and relatives. It is also a good opportunity to bring a friend to show him a little bit about DeMolay. These installations are held twice a year.

Workshops: These are put on by the Alberta DeMolay Association (A.D.A.) for all the members in the province. It is usually held in February and is a weekend where we go to a camp and learn lots about DeMolay and hang out with our brothers from across Alberta.

Convention: Once every year, in October or November, all the DeMolays in the province, and some from other places, travel to a hotel somewhere in the province to have a blast. An entire weekend full of activities including swimming, games, dances, and staying up all night, convention is one of the most exciting events of the year and one of that you'll want to make sure you don't miss.

Other Activities our chapter does include:

- Lock-in Laser Tag
- Sporting events such as Football and Wall Climbing
- Volunteering at Soup Kitchens
- Paintball

A Few Last Thoughts...

We encourage you to become involved and to participate, as this is the only way your chapter will grow and prosper. Select a committee that interests you and put in your ideas. Remember that you will only get out of DeMolay what you are prepared to put in. The big advantage to DeMolay is that you always seem to get a lot more out with a little more effort. Try to become as involved as possible, here are just a few ways that you can make your DeMolay experience the best it can be.

1. Attend as much stuff as you possibly can, go to all the meetings and all the activities
2. Start memorizing your obligations. You'll find the first one attached to this package. The sooner you do your obligations the sooner you'll be able to vote on important chapter matters.
3. Participate in one of the committees. When you join a committee, start brainstorming ideas with the other members of the committee. If there is another committee that interests you that you haven't been a part of, join that one as well, there's no limit to the number of people on a committee.
4. Read your DeMolay Leader's Resource Guide. In a month or so you should receive a package in the mail all about DeMolay. Inside will be your Leaders Resource Guide, look through it, it's your key to learning all about the order.
5. One of the best ways to learn about the order is by completing your Leadership Correspondence Course. Sit down with some of your brothers and use your Leadership Resource Guide to complete the 5 courses. You can get these from Workshop as well as from one of your Chapter Advisors.

These are just a few ideas to get you started and they're just guidelines. Don't limit yourself to these things or feel that you need to get all these things done immediately. Hopefully your

DeMolay career will be a long and enjoyable one so you have lots of time to do things in DeMolay. Good luck! Both you and your chapter will benefit from your involvement and remember the most important thing is to have fun.

If you have any more questions, anyone in your chapter would be more than willing to help, but in particular it is the job of the Junior Councilor to help answer any questions you might have.