

Why Pursue Scottish Rite Masonry?



Although there is no more important degree than that of the Master Mason, the additional 29 Scottish Rite degrees serve to enrich a Brother's comprehension of the philosophy and symbolic teaching he received when he was initiated into Freemasonry.

*When you choose to further your Masonic experience by becoming a 32° Scottish Rite Mason**, you will expand upon your knowledge of Freemasonry's fundamental principles. The moral and ethical lessons we learn together, will continuously remind us of our duties to family, country, humanity, nature and the Great Architect of the Universe. You do not have to receive all 29 degrees to become a 32° Mason. However, receiving a minimum of five degrees is **required**. You must receive the 4° and 32°, along with 3 additional degrees.*

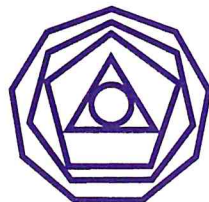
*** Despite its name (explained later in this brochure), the Scottish Rite welcomes all worthy Master Masons regardless of their ethnic origin.*

The Origins of the Scottish Rite

A vague reference to the name "Scottish Rite" can be found in a manuscript dating back to 1733: "Lodge #115 meeting at the Devil Tavern near Temple Bar in London was described as a Scott's Masons Lodge." The exact origin of the name, however, still remains a mystery to this day.

A plausible explanation might be found in late 17th-century European history. When the British Isles were torn by political and religious conflicts, many Scots from the nobility, particularly from the Stuart dynasty, fled to France to seek King Louis XIV's protection. A few of them were already Freemasons. They resumed their Masonic activities in St. Germain-en-Laye, near Paris, and at Versailles, the seat of the French royal court. There, the exiled Scots created more Masonic degrees to expand upon the original three. The French nobility had a fascination for prestigious and grandiloquent titles, so to gain acceptance and attract French members to the Craft, the Scots glamorized their new rituals with impressive names such as Prince of Jerusalem, Prince of the Royal Axe, and Knight of the White and Black Eagle, to name a few. Their influence may have contributed to the use of their name for the degrees that eventually became known as the Scottish Rite or "higher" degrees of Freemasonry.

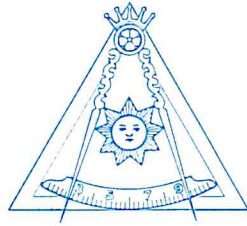
Sources from the 18th century also attest to the existence of a Scottish Rite being practiced in the port of Bordeaux, France, as early as 1743. In 1761 the French Masonic authorities in Paris granted Brother Stephen Morin - a wine merchant from that region - a patent naming him Grand Inspector and "authorizing and empowering him to establish perfect and sublime Masonry in all parts of the world." Morin traveled to America, taking the advanced degrees with him, first to the West Indies, one of the most important French colonies at the time, where he disseminated their lessons. Shortly thereafter, Morin made Henry Francken - a French-speaking Dutch Mason - a Deputy Inspector, which authorized him to spread the Rite into continental America. In 1767, he created a Lodge of Perfection in Albany, New York, which most historians agree was the seed that became the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of the United States of America in 1801. The Scottish Rite is now well established throughout much of the world.



Today, the Scottish Rite is the principal branch of Freemasonry in which a Master Mason may perfect his Masonic knowledge. This path consists of the 4th through the 32nd degrees, which are conferred by the following four bodies.

The Lodge of Perfection

The Lodge of Perfection confers the 4° through the 14°, commonly referred to as the ineffable degrees. In these eleven lessons, the candidate will observe many references, scenes, and characters that recall and build on the first three symbolic degrees he received in his Blue Lodge when he was raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason.



The Council of Princes of Jerusalem

The Council of Princes of Jerusalem confers the 15° and 16°, which teach lessons using settings based on the Babylonian captivity of the Hebrews and the building of the Second Temple.



The Chapter of Rose Croix

The Chapter of Rose Croix confers the 17° and 18°. These degrees teach the spiritual lessons of practicing virtue, caring for humanity, and being tolerant of the faith and creed of others, because the soul of man is the only lasting Temple.



The Consistory

The Consistory confers the 19° through the 32°. These degrees portray many memorable lessons, set in scenes ranging from the days of chivalry through the 20th century.



The 32° degree marks the completion of this High Degree education. The title of Sublime Prince of the Royal Secret is then conferred upon the candidates, with all the rights, privileges, and duties attached to it. The officers of the Valley of Northern New Jersey then present them with the prestigious 32° medal. In celebration of the event, Princes of the Royal Secret are encouraged to wear their medals at all Scottish Rite reunions.

VALLEY MEMBERSHIP PROMOTION AWARD

"THE BLUE HAT"

As part of our commitment to recognize Scottish Rite Masons who dedicate their time and effort in recruiting new members to our Valley, the Executive Council has established a "Membership Promotion Award" to recognize these individuals. The award itself consists of a Scottish Rite Blue Cap, which allows the Brother to wear it at any Scottish Rite function, when AASR Regalia is required.

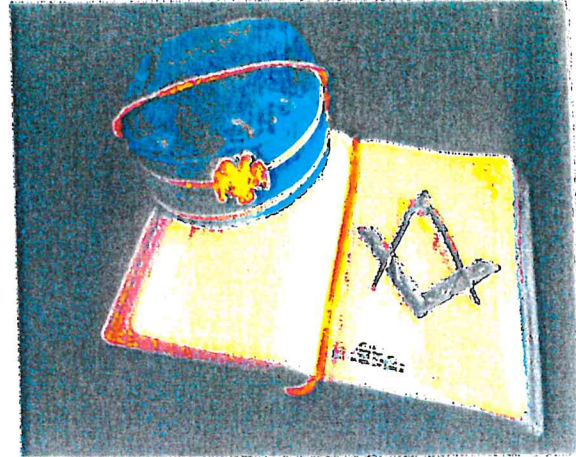
General Rules and Guidelines:

To be eligible for the Blue Cap:

- A brother Scottish Rite Mason in good standing must topline sign 5 new petitions where the 5 candidates join the Rite in one and the same reunion;

or

- A brother Scottish Rite Mason in good standing must topline sign a cumulative of 10 new petitions in his lifetime. In either cases, and also as a requirement of eligibility for the award, the topline signer must act as a liaison between the Valley Office and the candidate and play the role of a mentor to these candidates, answering questions about the Scottish Rite, informing them as to the details of the next degree dates and the various statewide functions and events, and all other related logistics. A recommendation for the Blue Hat can be made by any member of the Executive Council, the Valley Office or the Valley's Chairman of Membership Promotion Committee. The Deputy, the Deputy's Representative, or the Executive Council reserve the right to make any exceptions to the above rules



HAUTS GRADES ACADEMY



HGA is a program designed to promote the education, knowledge, and engagement of members in the Scottish Rite, NMJ. The Scottish Rite was known as the *Hauts Grades* in its early beginnings. The program is made up of three exciting levels:

Level One – The candidate will delve into the ritual of all twenty-nine Scottish Rite, NMJ degrees

Level Two – The essay portion of the curriculum will allow for self-reflection and review of Scottish Rite degrees selected personally by the candidate.

Level Three – A written research paper on a topic of the candidate's choice, which will be pre-approved and reviewed by the HGA committee. Research topics can vary between

history, ritual, and the philosophy of the Scottish Rite. At full completion, the graduate will earn the honor of becoming a Scottish Rite Hauts Grades Academic, and will be entitled to include the letters HGA after his name. A certificate and HGA jewel will also be awarded upon completion, but an enriching educational experience is the overall goal. Go to scottishritenmj.org/hauts-grades-academy to find out more!



“We will strive to be a fraternity that fulfills our Masonic obligation to care for our Members”



The Children’s Dyslexia Centers, Inc.



Established by 32° Masons in 1994, these Children's Dyslexia Centers have been

actively engaged in helping early elementary through high school-aged children and their families overcome the painful obstacles of dyslexia by providing specialized tutoring to help enable children with dyslexia read and write more effectively. These services are currently available at 42 centers in 15 states, and are provided free of charge to all children with dyslexia, regardless of economic status or Masonic affiliation. The program also continues to support clinical research that focuses on dyslexia. We strongly encourage you to volunteer and help make these centers even more successful.



The Scottish Rite Masonic Museum and Library



The Scottish Rite Masonic Museum and Library in

Lexington, Massachusetts, opened its doors to the public in 1975 as a gift to the American people in celebration of the 200th anniversary of the birth of our republic. It is almost exclusively funded by the Freemasons of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite in the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction of the United States of America. This American history museum offers changing exhibitions, which make it a unique attraction for people of all ages and interests. Visitors from all over the United States find it to be a true experience in discovery for anyone fascinated by American history and culture.

Its other convenient, state-of-the-art facilities include an auditorium for educational and community events, and a Museum library, which collects and preserves more than 60,000 books, 1,600 serial titles, and 2,000 cubic feet of archival materials on the history of America and fraternal organizations. Among its other precious documents and artifacts, its rare Masonic manuscripts are preserved in humidity- and temperature-controlled storage areas and vaults.

Knights of St. Andrew



The stated purpose of the Knights of St. Andrew is to work diligently for our Brethren of the Scottish Rite Bodies. We, the members of the Knights of St. Andrew of the Valley of Northern NJ Scottish Rite, do hereby establish

this elite order as a service organization dedicated to the promotion of the principles and practices of Freemasonry, the Valley of Northern NJ and the Scottish Rite. The Chapter is created to serve the Valley of Northern NJ Scottish Rite by working diligently with our elder Brethren in the Rite, and by so doing serve our younger Brethren who may now or hereafter become Masters of the Royal Secret.

The Knights of St. Andrew of the Valley of Northern NJ solemnly declare that the Constitution, By-laws, purposes and activities of this Priory will conform to, abide by and never violate the Constitution and Code of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of the State of New Jersey, the Statutes of the Supreme Council of Ancient, Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry for the Northern Jurisdiction of the United States of America or the By-laws of the Valley of Northern NJ Scottish Rite.



The Scottish Rite Grand Almoner's Fund



The Scottish Rite Grand Almoner's Fund helps fulfill the obligation to care for our Brothers and their families that we took

under oath when we became Masons.

Every dollar donated goes toward helping those who have faced incredible hardships including personal tragedy; natural disasters such as Superstorm Sandy that ravaged the East Coast in 2012 or the 2017 hurricanes that flooded Louisiana, Texas, Florida, and Puerto Rico; or many other emotional and financial challenges.

We make assistance available to those experiencing a personal difficulty as soon as we are made aware it. This fund exists to make certain that we assist and alleviate the suffering of distressed Brethren facing overwhelming adversity.