

The Masonic Light Award Program Overview

The Grand Lodge of Minnesota A.F. & A.M.

This Grand Lodge of Minnesota Masonic Light Award Program is designed to build competency and Masonic knowledge in at least seven of nine areas through guided study and in-Lodge activities.

Procedure for Enrollment/Completion

1. Enroll with the Grand Lodge of Minnesota office by filling out an enrollment form available on the Grand Lodge website. An enrollment form can be mailed to your address if requested and you do not have access to the internet. There is a minimal cost you will need to include with the enrollment form (currently \$20.00 for postage and supplies).
2. A lapel pin and guidelines for the program are sent to you.
3. As you complete any one of the competency areas and send it to the Masonic Light Award Program Coordinator, you receive a certificate with seal for that area of competency.
4. After completion of two proficiencies, you will be given a Masonic Light Award Coffee Mug either in person or by mail.
5. Collect seven seals and receive a personalized Award Medallion from the Grand Master or his representative.

Contact Information for the Program

- For all questions regarding the Masonic Light Award Program, please contact the Masonic Light Award Program Coordinator at the following address/phone/email. For enrollment, please contact the Grand Secretary. Remember that competencies and papers get mailed to the Coordinator; enrollment goes to the Grand Secretary.

Masonic Light Award Program Coordinator
Rick Vance
15736 Highview Drive
Apple Valley, MN 55124
952-210-8743
Rfvance@charter.net

Grand Secretary
Keith Reiersen
11501 Masonic Home Drive
Bloomington, MN 55437
952-948-6700
grandsecretaryminnesota@gmail.com

Rules/Guidelines

1. The competency areas may be completed in any order you choose. You are encouraged to work on more than one competency at a time. **All objectives must be completed on or after the date of your registration for this program. No objective may be grandfathered in.**
2. Each competency has a minimum number of points to be earned to complete it (100 points). Each competency has this clearly marked at the top of each form. **Some competencies have required objectives (marked in boldfaced type) and these must be done to complete the competency areas.**
3. With the consent of your Lodge Education Officer or Worshipful Master you may substitute an objective (other than the listed ones) with one of your own that has equal or greater hours of work and keeps with the spirit of the original written objective. Please use your discretion. Write on the competency form what the substituted objective was. **Required items cannot have substitutes.**
4. When a competency is completed (i.e. has achieved the minimum amount of points), take it to your Lodge Education Officer (or if you don't have a Lodge Education Officer, to the Worshipful Master of your Lodge) for his verifying signature. After making a photocopy for your records, return a copy to the Masonic Light Award Program Coordinator, including all attachments mentioned in the next Guideline.
5. Please return all papers, reports, quizzes, correspondence courses, etc. along with your competency form you have done to complete the objectives. These will all go to the Masonic

Light Award Program Coordinator. We will acknowledge all papers if published or distributed by the Grand Lodge.

6. If you have questions, comments, suggestions, or additional recommended objectives, please communicate with the Masonic Light Award Program Coordinator. The Coordinator's contact information is located on this form in the previous section.
7. One objective completed cannot count for multiple things in different competencies (ex. Reading "Designs Upon the Trestleboard" cannot count for both Lodge Administration and Leadership).
8. Upon successful completion of any of the competencies, you will receive confirmation after the Masonic Light Award Program Coordinator has received it and it is duly completed, after which you will receive a seal to be placed on your Award of Light Certificated (given to you when you complete your first competency and turn it in).
9. Upon completions of any seven of the nine competency areas, you will be invited to attend the next Grand Lodge Annual Communication to receive your personally engraved Award of Light medallion from the Grand Master of Masons of Minnesota or his representative.

Overview of Nine Areas of Education:

Leadership

- Complete the Masonic Service Association Leadership course
- Attend a Leadership school
- Make a presentation at a Leadership school
- Organize and conduct a Lodge activity
- Hold an office in Lodge
- Serve on a Lodge or Grand Lodge committee
- Serve as chairman of a Lodge or Grand Lodge committee
- Read a book on Masonic Leadership
- Write a review of a book on Masonic Leadership
- Give a report in Lodge on a book about Masonic Leadership

Masonic History

- Read a book concerning any one of the history areas; Your Lodge - Minnesota Masonry - Masonry in the United States- Masonry in other countries
- Write a report about Masons who are currently in government
- Update or write a history of your lodge
- Write a paper on the history of the ritual coming to the United States or Minnesota
- Research and write on the relationship of Freemasonry to American history or Minnesota history
- Prepare and give a talk in lodge on the biblical and historical reference to King Solomon's Temple
- Prepare and write an article on the relationship of the established church to Freemasonry
- Conduct an interview with a long-time Mason or well-informed Brother and then write a report on the interview
- Write a biography of a well known. Minnesota Mason

- Research and report on the advances and declines of Minnesota Masonry from the Grand Lodge Proceedings
- Read a book or article on the transition from operative to speculative Masonry
- Arrange for a guest lecturer to give a presentation at a Table Lodge
- Take pictures of buildings in the area which have a Masonic history and present a report to the lodge

Ritual

- Participate in a degree
- Present a lecture for a degree
- Write an interpretation of a lecture or some part of a degree
- Attend a Lodge for Instruction
- Observe a degree in a Minnesota Lodge other than your own
- Visit a Lodge under a jurisdiction other than the Grand Lodge AF & AM of Minnesota
- Conduct a posting examination in open Lodge
- Take a monitor examination
- Become a Certified Lecturer
- Write a research paper on some aspect of Masonic ritual

Masonic Philosophy & Symbolism

- Read a book on Masonic symbolism
- Read a book on Masonic philosophy
- Prepare and give a talk in lodge on symbolism of any aspect of the degrees
- Prepare and give a talk in lodge on the biblical symbolism of any of the degrees
- Prepare and write an article on the relationship of Masonic principles to contemporary society
- Write a paper on your personal views of Masonic philosophy
- Take or obtain pictures of buildings richly endowed with Masonic symbolism

- Interview an older or well-informed Brother regarding Masonic philosophy or symbolism and report on it
- Prepare and give a talk in lodge on the philosophy of the anti-Masonic movement
- Prepare and give a talk in lodge on the relationship of the customs and objects of ancient craft Masonry to today's fraternity

Computers & Masonry on the Internet

- Read a book on introduction to computers, then write a review of the book and give a report in lodge
- Take a course on computers, then write a review of the course and give a report in lodge
- Use a program to develop, move, store, retrieve, and print Masonic information.
- Use a program as a database for lodge members
- Join a Masonic computer forum./blog and write a review of the forum activities and give a report in lodge
- Create a Masonic web page for your lodge or other Masonic group
- Write a paper on Masonry on the Internet
- Create a Facebook Group Page on Masonry or your Lodge while maintaining compliance with the Grand Lodge of MN AF & AM Computer and Internet Policy.
- Complete the Correspondence Course on the Grand Lodge of MN AF & AM Computer and Internet Policy.

Contemporary Enlightenment

- Belong to and participate in an Educational Lodge in Minnesota
- Belong to a Research Lodge
- Subscribe to a Masonic magazine.
- Belong to the Minnesota Masonic Book Club
- Subscribe to the Masonic Service Association's Short Talk Bulletins
- Present a reading in Lodge and lead the discussion on the material
- Write a report on information obtained from any of the books, resources, or magazines
- Carve an object from stone, display it and describe the experience to the Lodge
- Collect ten articles mentioning Masonry from non-Masonic publications
- Prepare and give Masonic lecture to a non-Masonic group

Mentoring

- Participate in a candidate investigation
- Present the Minnesota Masonic Mentoring Program Power Point Presentation to a Lodge
- Present the "What Every New Mason Should Know" Power Point Presentation in a Lodge with newly raised Master Masons.

- Assist a candidate with his proficiency exam
- Lead a candidate through the Mentor Program
- Have your Mentee complete the Degree quizzes and go over answers
- Review Quest Books with your Mentee
- Do a Degree Walkthrough with a new Mason on whichever Degree he has most recently received
- Take part in putting on (organizing or attending) a "Dusty Square and Compass" program in lodge

Lodge Administration

- Complete the Minnesota Code Study correspondence course
- Attend a Secretary's school
- Read the Lodge Secretary's Handbook
- Conduct a Masonic funeral or memorial service
- Serve as an Installing Officer for a Lodge Installation
- Direct a formal reception for the Grand Master or other distinguished guest
- Attend a Masonic funeral or memorial service, Lodge installation, or formal reception
- Read a book on Masonic Administration
- Prepare a book review of a book about Lodge Administration
- Present a report in Lodge on book about Administration

Concordant/Appendant Bodies

- Be a member in good standing with a recognized Concordant/Appendant body
- Be an elected officer/head of body of your Concordant/Appendant body
- Read books regarding your Concordant/Appendant body, prepare reports on them, and present during your Concordant/Appendant body meeting
- Participate in a Degree/Ritual Work for your Concordant/Appendant body
- Participate in the Scottish Rite Master Craftsman Program
- Participate in a Shrine Club, Shrine Circus
- Serve on a committee within your Concordant/Appendant body

Degree Part Point Values

EA Degree: WM = 15 points, SW = 5 points, JW = 5 points, SD = 10 points, JD = 3 points, SS = 1 point

FC Degree: WM = 15 points, SW = 5 points, JW = 5 points, SD = 10 points, JD = 3 points, SS = 1 point

MM Degree: WM = 20 points for both parts, SW = 10 points for both parts, JW = 5 points, SD = 15 points for both parts, JD = 3 points, SS = 1 point, Ruffian = 5 points, 1st Craftsman = 10 points, 2nd and 3rd Craftsmen = 5 points, Wayfaring Man and Sea Captain = 1 point

Links to Reading Lists

1. Please go to the Grand Lodge Website at <http://www.mn-masons.org/>
2. Click Masonic Education on left sidebar.
3. Click Masonic Light Award on left sidebar.
4. Click on one of the listed Suggested Reading Lists to receive an extensive listing of Masonic literature.
5. To request a paper copy be mailed to you, please contact the Masonic Light Award Program Coordinator
6. Another excellent e-Library full of Masonic publications is located on Phoenix Masonry.org at the following link; http://www.phoenixmasonry.org/main/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=44&Itemid=140
7. A suggested reading list from The Livingston Masonic Library (New York) Reading Courses can be found at this link; http://www.whatsamason.org/reading_material.pdf