

## DUSTY SQUARE AND COMPASS PROGRAM

One of the foremost ingredients of a successful program is **ATTITUDE**, therefore, you must believe that Dusty Square and Compass is one of the best programs ever, then it will be.

### Purpose:

- 1.) To re-acquaint a Brother Master Mason with the basic requirements of gaining admittance into a tyled Lodge who, for whatever reason has been away from the Lodge for such a long time that he may have forgotten some of the basics. These can include, but not limited to the signs, words, grips, steps, due guards, the G.H.S. of D., and substitute word.
- 2.) To re-acquaint a new Brother as part of his counselor program, assisting him in gaining admittance back into a Lodge directly following his MM degree.
- 3.) Dusty Square is a perfect time to reaffirm the Lodges mission statement, goals, and changes that may have taken place in the Lodge, and Masonry in general. Most important, to inform the Brethren as to the plans of the Lodge for the future.
- 4.) To be a fun and useful tool to make its votaries wiser, better and consequently happier.

### Note:

Programs in Lodge should be as a direct result of goals the Lodge has established, not simply to have programs for programs sake. We must always remember to set our goals and programs based on what we want to accomplish not based on what we have done in the past.

All programs should be tailored to:

Promote and obtain new members or maintain current members.

**DUSTY SQUARE AND COMPASS DOES BOTH**

Here are some helpful hints to make a Dusty Square and Compass a successful event. Please remember that these are not to be considered all inclusive or mandatory, but seem to have worked. If you have better ideas use them.

- 1.) Be innovative. (Your mind can be your best assist or your biggest limitation.)
- 2.) Good advanced and repetitive advertising helps a great deal... (News articles, teaser ads, post cards, letters, and yes - phone calls)
- 3.) When you combine this event with awards like 10, 25, or 50 year presentations you will see a better turn out.
- 4.) Meals are always super.
- 5.) Humor, you get too serious, you go to sleep, (Skit)
- 6.) Hold on one night, not over several nights. This works better because of all the other activities people are involved with. However, consider mini-courses at each meeting and hold a review, say 15 minutes before each meeting in the prep room. (Try using a greeter, someone with a friendly smile and warm hand shake informing all who enter about the evening events and reminding all about the Dusty Square refresher.)
- 7.) Plaques or certificates of competition are a good supplement.
- 8.) Name tags should be worn by all.
- 9.) Follow up with the Brother after the program with a phone call or written note thanking them for attending.

Note:

As a point of order, a current dues card should be required as proof of membership.

Please grant the liberty of the Lodge to allow spontaneous questions and response from the participants.

Every effort must be made to put the Lodge at ease.

The following is an outline of an actual Dusty Square and Compass degree: (But remember, your own program is always better because it is tailored for your Lodge by you. This is only an example.)

1.) Have Lodge room set up as though ready for a degree. The dress code can be formal or suit and tie, but a nice touch is to have the officers in their aprons and collars. Have all the rods and furniture in the proper place and the stair case out and on display.

2.) Check dues cards as Brothers enter Lodge room.

3.) Welcome(example)

Brethren, at this time we are here to honor your request for Masonic Light. We will endeavor to re-acquaint you with some of the basics you were taught as you advanced through Masonry. Hopefully, it will make it easier for you to gain admittance into a Lodge regardless of the location.

We will introduce you to our Lodge Education Officer, an exciting new position in the Lodge. He will bring you a message of great importance.

During this evening we will spend a few minutes discussing some of the recent changes in Masonry. Before going further however, relax Brothers, the principles have not nor will they ever change. We are nevertheless, at a very exciting time in our history. We are a fraternity deep seeded in tradition however, we are actively finding new ways to become relevant in our modern society, and preparing for the 21st century.

Then:

4.) Have the officers in their stations, the MC in the center of the Lodge room about to give commands, and the Brothers on the side lines.

5.) As the lights dim the MC walks over to a Dusty Brother saying the words Brother, do you remember the WM saying a prayer ...Vouchsafe thine aid...and do you remember where you were first made a Mason. (Let him answer if he can, if he can not, remind him that it was in his heart.) Ask him to rise and bring him toward the center of the room. Then reply it was here... in a just and lawfully.....

6.) At this point rehearse the lecture with the assistance of one of the officers. Do this right up to the obligation.

Note:

It is imperative that we state emphatically that at this point he was made a Mason and not on the third degree.

Only ask the Brother to accompany you as he may not be able to kneel or step off properly. If time permits have the Master come down to the alter and give the obligation.

Special Note:

As the case will undoubtedly be, the Dusty Mason may perhaps notice a difference in the obligation. It is imperative that you allow only a knowledgeable, articulate Brother to explain the difference and why we do it this way as opposed to the former inappropriate way.

Also, as the EA degree is the most important degree in Masonry which sets the stage inspiring the desire for further light. In the Dusty Square we must take the same approach.

7.) Allow that Brother to sit down and get another Brother and bring him to the west of the alter. (Participation works)

8.) Have the Master present him with a new, fresh, real, white leather apron, and the accompanying apron talk. Have him escorted to the SW where he is taught how to wear his apron as an EA.

9.) Allow him to be seated.

10.) Bring the deacons or how ever many other officers needed to put enough individuals directly in front of the Brothers on the sidelines. The MC then asks them to:

a.) Step off as an EA.

b.) Give the due guard and sign. The due guard and sign...

c.) Advance to the Dusty Brothers and rehearse the grip and word of an EA. (Make sure all have an opportunity to experience this.)

e.) Present the working tools of EA.

Note:

For example when presenting the working tools do it in front of the sideliners. (Not from the east.)

11.) Introduce the Fellowcraft degree. Either make reference to the stair case or have a qualified Brother do a small part of the Stair Lecture.

a.) Have the officers step of as FC.

b.) Show the position during the obligation.

c.) Give the due guard and sign.

d.) Give the grip and words along with the proper dialog.

e.) Explain what word is necessary to gain admission to a FC degree.

f.) Explain the working tools.

g.) Take a Dusty Brother to the east and tell about the letter G.

12.) Make a transition to the MM degree.

a.) Have the officers step off as a MM.

b.) Show the position during the obligation.

c.) Give the due guard and sign.

d.) Give the grip and word along with the proper dialog.

e.) Explain what word is necessary to gain admission to a MM degree.

f.) Explain the working tools.

Note:

Please understand that all the basics given do not have to be done by the MC. He may if he wishes, but it works if he keeps the program flowing and gives the commands. Example: Brothers JD and SD give the due guard and sign of a MM.

13.) At this point you now seat everybody and begin by saying:

You might recall that upon your return into the Lodge after the first section, you represented a character, no less a person than our G M H A. Have someone qualified relate the story starting with the sanctum sanctorum, the south, west, and east gates, the temple rubble, sea captain, everything right up to the raising. The Raising should be demonstrated, but please use a young member, or officer.

Then line up all of the officers in front of the now not so Dusty Brothers and go through the method of giving the G H S of D.

Followed by giving the G M W and the method of receiving it, along with the S G of a MM.

Each Brother should receive this individually. This is a very touching moment.

14.) Take a breather, stand up and stretch.

15.) This is now a very good time to review some of the basic rules or etiquette and decorum in the Lodge. It should not take a very long time as you have a more important task ahead.

Some topics are:

1. Method of prayer
2. So Mote it be
3. How to wear apron out of suit coat never under
4. 3 raps up 1 down
5. Rising to address the Master
6. Why Worshipful?
7. Voting
8. Walking between the 3 great lights and the Master.
9. Entering or retiring from the Lodge.
10. The list goes on.

16.) This is a nice time to give any awards that are due.

and/or

17.) Address by the Master or Lodge Education Officer.

Note:

Some of the topics that should be discussed are:

- 1.) The Lodges Mission Statement, or Definition of Purpose.
- 2.) Some of the changes at the Grand Lodge Level/individual level.

Like:

- a) Prince Hall
- b) LEO
- c) Leadership in the Lodge
- d) How we are going to bring Masonry into the 21st century.  
The long and short term goals of the Lodge.
- e) The list is endless.

18.) Questions and Answers.

19.) A nice way to close is by giving a quick review of the signs at closing, followed by dimming the lights and taking one of the Formerly Dusty Brother to the west of the alter and re-obligating him (seated in a chair.) He does not repeat it.

20.) Bring the Brother to his seat, thank all who attended and go thorough a perfect, flawless closing.

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