

## How Do I Become a Royal Arch Mason?

Joining a chapter of Royal Arch Masons isn't too different from how you joined your Lodge:

- You'll need to be a Master Mason, in good standing with your Lodge.
- Learn about the Craft and whether this is the right time for you to continue (in this case) your journey.
- Find out which Chapter you would like to join. Each one has a different "personality" and you should find one that meets your needs. If you don't know which one to join, we can help!
- Realize each Chapter has petition fees, degree fees and dues, just like your Lodge does. You'll need to be prepared to pay these (the petition fee should accompany your petition to an actual Chapter).
- Complete the petition application on the back of this page. Bring it to the Chapter you've selected along with their petition fee. Don't forget the two signatures from current members of the Chapter.
- If you're not sure which Chapter to join, fill out and submit an application/petition online at [RAM-IL.org/submitpetition](http://RAM-IL.org/submitpetition) or complete the application on the reverse side of this brochure and mail it to:

James Tome, Grand High Priest  
631 DeKalb Avenue  
Sycamore, Illinois 60178

We'll put you in touch with a nearby Chapter.

## The Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the State of Illinois

Much like our Grand Lodge is the overarching and governing body of our local Lodges in Illinois, the Grand Chapter is the central authority in the State of Illinois. It was instituted on April 10th, 1850 at a special communication of the Grand Lodge in Springfield.

Today, there are over sixty Chapters in Illinois, from as small as twelve members to as large as over 200. New Chapters are being formed almost every year, with specific missions such as Capitular education or fellowship or to charter where especially active Lodges are located and brethren seek additional Light in the Craft.

There is no "central" location for the Grand Chapter in Illinois, rather the main office tends to be where the Grand Secretary works out of. The state is divided into 18 distinct districts, each with two to five Chapters overseen by a District Deputy Grand High Priest, the direct and local representative of the Grand High Priest, who presides over the Grand Chapter.

The Grand Chapter meets annually at their Grand Convocation, commonly in mid-July. There, the business of the Grand Chapter is transacted, committees produce reports, the officers of the next Capitular Year are elected and installed, and the day is generally filled with events centering around fellowship, leadership, education, and other opportunities.

As of July 2016, there are nearly 4,700 Chapter members in Illinois. In the 2015-2016 Capitular Year, we added 142 new members around the state, continuing a recent upward trend of growing membership.



LONG LOST. NOW FOUND.

THE ANCIENT  
MASTER'S WORD.

WHY NOW MAY BE THE  
RIGHT TIME TO JOIN THE  
ROYAL ARCH MASONS.



**Grand Royal Arch Chapter**  
of the State of Illinois

## Petition for Degrees

First name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Last name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Age \_\_\_\_\_ No. of years a Master Mason \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mobile number \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home number \_\_\_\_\_  
 Lodge name & number \_\_\_\_\_  
 Lodge location \_\_\_\_\_  
 Occupation \_\_\_\_\_  
 Business address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Resided in Illinois for \_\_\_\_\_ years  
 Have you petitioned an Illinois Chapter before? \_\_\_\_\_  
 If YES, provide the following:  
 Chapter name & number \_\_\_\_\_  
 Chapter location \_\_\_\_\_  
 Your petition was  accepted  rejected  not sure  
 I'm also interested in learning more about:  
 Cryptic Masons  Knights Templar  
 Your signature \_\_\_\_\_  
 Today's date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Companion signature \_\_\_\_\_  
 Printed name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Companion signature \_\_\_\_\_  
 Printed name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Companion signature \_\_\_\_\_  
 Printed name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Companion signature \_\_\_\_\_

## Our Degrees

**Mark Master Degree**

This degree is founded on the ancient custom of requiring each workman to place his mark upon his work. It teaches that the world demands substantial service which should measure up to certain standards, and must bear our mark if we would take credit for it.

**Past Master Degree**

Whereas the Mark Master's Degree teaches that men have an individual responsibility, while working in the masses, the Past Master's Degree teaches that power that is placed in one's hands, and that the truly great man, while occupying the highest place of power, bears this responsibility without forgetting for a moment that he is a brother to the lowliest.

**Most Excellent Master Degree**

In this degree, you will witness the completion and dedication of King Solomon's Temple – the very idea upon which all Masonic symbolism has been based. The brother is taught the lesson that he has a responsibility to exploit opportunities to share with less informed brethren his wisdom and Masonic light.

**Holy Royal Arch Degree**

In the Royal Arch Degree ritual itself, the Lost Word of a Master Mason is rediscovered in a beautiful ceremony that takes you through the destruction of King Solomon's Temple, the seventy years of the Babylonian captivity, and the ultimate return to the Holy Land to aid and assist in the rebuilding of the Temple of the Most High. The Holy Royal Arch degree is a natural progression to reveal the "genuine" secrets following the granting of certain substituted ones.

## What is the Royal Arch?



In your journey through the three degrees of Symbolic Freemasonry and as you have learned the proficiency lecture for each degree, no doubt many questions have arisen concerning the meaning of the ritualistic ceremonies, the historical implications, and the "why" of the legends of Freemasonry.

Royal Arch Freemasonry provides an opportunity for Master Masons desiring further light to explore some of the deeper mysteries of the Craft. The four capitial degrees, in all of which candidates take an active part, are truly some of the most profound and impressive in Freemasonry.

The work of a chapter is very closely related to that of the craft lodge, and the Freemason finds a warm and comfortable home in a safe and sacred retreat in the chapter. The degrees afford historical and philosophical background on the work and meaning of Freemasonry.

The supreme degree of Holy Royal Arch Mason, as the culmination of the capitial degrees, is the climax of Ancient Craft Freemasonry and Masonic symbolism. It is described as "the root and marrow of Freemasonry;" it is during this degree ritual that the greatest treasure of a Freemason is brought to light: **the long lost Masters Word**. The value of Royal Arch Freemasonry will be appreciated by all who are exalted to that most supreme degree, particularly by those who are seeking to complete their Masonic education. It reveals the full light of Ancient Craft Freemasonry, presents it as a complete system in accordance with the original plan, and justly entitles you to truly claim the noble name of Master Mason.