

How Do I Become a Royal Arch Mason?

Joining a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons isn't to 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 fees. Don't forget the two signatures from current members of the Chapter.

For more information on joining a Chapter please visit the Grand Chapter of Illinois Royal Arch Mason website at ram-il.org and look under the Becoming a Member tab.

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 10, 1850 at a special communication of the Grand Lodge in Springfield.

Today, there are over 50 Chapters in Illinois, some with over 200 members. Each chapter has its own personality and areas that it specializes in. These could be Chapter Education, Fellowship, Ritual Work or a combination of the three.

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 13 Districts each of which have between two and five chapters and overseen by a District Deputy Grand High Priest. He is the direct and local representative of the Grand High Priest who presided 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, Committee reports are given, 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 2021, there are over 3500 Chapter Members in Illinois.



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

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 Masonry provided an opportunity for Master Masons desiring further light to explore some of the deeper mysteries of the Craft. The four capitular degrees, in all of which candidates take an active part, are truly some of the most propound and impressive in Freemasonry.

The Work of the 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 capitular 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 Master’s 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 right 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.

Our Degrees

Mark Master Degree

This Degree is founded on the ancient custom of requiring each workmen to place his mark upon his work. It teaches that the world demands substantial service which should measure up to certain standards, must pass the square of safeguarding authorities, 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 Degree teaches that this responsibility increases in proportion to the power that is placed in one’s hand, and that the truly great men, 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

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.

Petition for Degrees

Full Name_____

Age_____ Birthdate_____

Home Address

City_____ State____ Zip_____

Email_____

Home Number (____)-_____-_____

Cell Number (____)-_____-_____

Lodge Name_____ No_____

Location_____

Occupation_____

Resided in Illinois for __Years__Months

Have you ever before petitioned a Chapter of Royal Arch Masonry Yes__No__ If Yes, provide the following.

Chapter Name_____ No_____

Chapter Location_____

Your Signature_____

Recommended by Companions

_____ Chapter No_____

_____ Chapter No_____

Petition read_____

Referred to Companions_____,

_____, _____

Action taken _____

Result Elected____ Rejected____

Mark Master Degree_____

Past Master Degree _____

Most Excellent Master Degree _____

Royal Arch Mason Degree_____