

Lodge Recognition Program

The *Lodge Recognition Program* is designed to recognize all lodges in Minnesota. District Representatives (DRs) will meet with lodge officers to assess your progress from the previous year. There are again four levels of recognition this year, beginning with *Lodge in Good Standing*; progressing through *Bronze*, *Silver* and *Gold*.

- All lodges will be recognized for attainment of a level.
- All lodges start simply as a *Chartered Lodge*. Lodges which meet the appropriate criteria progress to the *Lodge in Good Standing* or higher level. Before moving to the next level, your DR must ensure that you are able to - or have met - each bulleted requirement.
- Levels are attained when all the bullet points designated to it have been accomplished. Note some criteria have been added.
- The evaluation period will coincide with the lodge's term of officers.
- The Grand Master (or his designee) will work with each Area Deputy to determine recognition at the next Annual Communication or other convenient time.

Levels of Recognition

LODGE IN GOOD STANDING:

- Must be able to pass the Lodge Certification Program, as certified annually by the DR.
- Must submit an annual report and send in net per capita fees by the end of January of each year.
- Must hold a minimum of 9 lodge meetings per year.
- The Master and both Wardens (or their proxies) must attend the Annual Communication during their year.
- Must host a minimum of one LEO Program per year.

BRONZE:

- DR to ensure that the lodge qualifies as a *Lodge in Good Standing*.
- Raise a minimum of **one** brother per year - this may be accomplished through a One-Day Class or with support of other lodge(s).
- Establish and maintain a Mentor program.
- Stated meetings are held according to by-laws.
- Hold regularly scheduled Officers' Meetings.
- Have a minimum of one brother in the lodge officer line who is not a PM.
- Host a minimum of two LEO Programs per year.
- Host a minimum of two social and /or community programs per year.
- The lodge must be represented at an area conference.
- Host at least one charity presentation (preferably MMC) per year.

SILVER:

- DR to ensure that the lodge qualifies as a *Bronze* Lodge.
- Raise a minimum of one brother per 50, with a minimum of two brothers, in addition to any One-Day raising(s).
- Can put on degree work, including all lectures, but may utilize support of other area lodges for a minority of positions (DR / AD discretion).
- Assign a Mentor to every new brother.
- The lodge must have a functioning regular newsletter OR website.
- Light refreshments or meal served before or after every meeting.
- Host a minimum of four LEO Programs per year.
- Host a minimum of three social and/or community programs per year.

GOLD:

- DR to ensure that the lodge qualifies as a *Silver* Lodge.
- Raise a minimum of 1 brother per 30 brothers with a minimum of 3 raised via traditional degrees within the lodge, presenting all degrees including lectures.
- Host a minimum of six LEO Programs per year.
- Publish a Lodge newsletter, at least five issues annually, AND have a functioning lodge website.
- Mentors are assigned for one year and each new brother is involved as a volunteer in a minimum of two events.
- Conduct at least one program per year supporting our appendant bodies
- A meal must be served before or after each meeting, on or off site.

- Conduct a minimum of one evaluation per new brother within the first year of his mentorship and as a member of the lodge.

Categories

1. ANNUAL COMMUNICATION – This requirement is equal at all levels. The Master and both Wardens are required to attend, or their proxies. We encourage Secretaries, LEOs, up-and-coming line officers and other members to attend, especially the breakout sessions which are always highly educational.

2. RAISING – Minimum expectations on raisings per term are as follows:

Bronze – 1 brother per year

Silver – 1 brother per 50 brothers, minimum of 2

Gold – 1 brother per 30 brothers, minimum of 3

3. MENTOR PROGRAM – The backbone of membership retention is a good mentor program. If a new Mason is given a good start they'll continue with the Lodge for years.

Bronze – Mentor program established and mentors assigned to new candidates

Silver - Mentor assigned for one year, records kept.

Gold – Mentor assigned for one year, record kept on tasks accomplished. Each new Mason within the first year should also keep records and evaluate their mentor and the lodge.

4. DEGREE WORK – Our goal is that each Lodge is able to perform its own degree work

Bronze – Work may be done at another lodge or using a One-Day Class

Silver – The Lodge can do the degree work, with assistance from other lodges, i.e. lectures

Gold – The Lodge performs all degree work, without help, including lectures

5. LODGE CERTIFICATION – This requirement is equal at all levels. Each Lodge is examined annually by their DR.

6. ANNUAL REPORT AND PER CAPITA – This requirement is equal at all levels. Each lodge is required to submit their Annual Report and Per Capita to the Grand Lodge by January of each year.

7. LEO PROGRAM – A good educational program, like a good meal program, brings members to lodge night. Should be a 15-minute program, give or take.

Lodge in Good Standing – one per year

Bronze – 2 per year

Silver – 4 per year

Gold – 6 per year

8. CHARITIES – This requirement starts at the *Bronze* level. Each lodge should have a minimum of one presentation from Minnesota Masonic Charities (MMC) or other worthy charitable program per year. MMC preferred.

9. WEBSITE or NEWSLETTER – Required of *Silver* lodges and higher, a functioning website OR newsletter at minimum will have contact information, directions to the lodge, an events calendar, a list of officers, and, in the case of websites, a link to the Grand Lodge website, lodge history and a welcome message to visitors and prospective members. The GL website committee will assist any lodge in setting up a website. *Gold* lodges must have both.

10. OFFICER MEETINGS – Required of *Bronze* lodges and higher, officer meetings allow coordination of the proceedings of Stated and Degree meetings, and inspire planning. They are best held at least a week prior to meetings of the lodge, but, for convenience, may be held on the same day, provided that the meeting ends in time for officers to welcome members and guests as they arrive.

11. REFRESHMENTS – A good meal program is a highlight in well-functioning lodges, and *the festive board*, that is, a hearty supper among brethren, was standard in years past. Build toward it, first with light refreshments, then actual luncheons or dinners. This will help you draw more men to your meetings, and build bonds of brotherhood. Thank your volunteer ‘chefs’. Greet the brethren while in the meal line. Advertise your meals to your members, and ask for RSVPs to help planning.