

THE “COOKBOOK”  
MASONIC COOPERATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAM

- I. Purpose. The purpose of the Masonic Cooperative Education Program (the “Program”) is to develop a means by which Scottish Rite Bodies may partner with Grand Lodges in their Orients and with Blue Lodges within each individual Valley to develop an effective Masonic Education Program.
  
- II. Goal. The goal of the Program is to develop cooperative relationships with Grand Lodges and Blue Lodges to promote and encourage substantive Masonic education programs.
  
- III. Implementation. A series of specific steps would be undertaken to implement this Program. Such steps are as follows:
  - A. Contact with Grand Master. The SGIG/Deputy will contact the Grand Master and request permission to present a Masonic education program.
  
  - B. Implementation on the Valley Level. Each Valley would identify all of the Blue Lodges within their territorial jurisdiction. To the extent possible, each Valley would assign to each Lodge a “Blue Lodge Ambassador.” This person would be appointed by the Personal Representative, receive a Certificate of Appointment, have his name published in the Valley newsletter and have the announcement made at a public meeting. In other words, make it known that the Ambassadors are important people fulfilling a strategic role for Scottish Rite in furtherance of Masonic education.

Each Ambassador would contact the Master of the Lodge to which they are assigned. It would be assumed that in many cases this would be the home Lodge of the Ambassador. The Ambassador would request permission from the Worshipful Master to conduct two Masonic education programs. These programs will be developed and delivered to the Ambassadors for their use.

With the permission of the Worshipful Master, the Blue Lodge Ambassador, or his designee, would present a quality Masonic Education Program and discuss that such is being done through the Scottish Rite and the Masonic Cooperative Education Program. If done properly, these programs should generate significant interest. The Ambassador would then identify interested individuals and request the Worshipful Master to appoint a Masonic Education Committee within the Blue Lodge. The Ambassador would be an *ex officio* member of such committee. The Ambassador would be responsible for providing the Masonic Education Committee with direction on how to implement Masonic education programs. The Scottish Rite Valley would furnish each Lodge, free of charge, with a Masonic work that could be used to prepare Masonic education programs. Brent Morris’s book, *The Complete Idiot’s Guide to Free Masonry*, could be such a book. This book can be obtained from the publisher at a reduced cost when

ordered in bulk. There are also a number of other excellent Masonic works that can be obtained through the Scottish Rite Research Society for those Lodges seeking more of a challenge. However, Brent's book is excellent and could provide years of Masonic education programs on a simple and easy-to-understand level.

Once the Masonic Education Committee was established, the Ambassador would only have to make sure that it is functioning properly. If the program goes well, it can be requested that the Masonic Education Program be made a standing committee of the Lodge.

- IV. Discussion. The Program would enable the Scottish Rite to reach out to our respective Grand Lodges in a very cooperative effort. It would demonstrate the strong resolve of Scottish Rite to work with our Grand Lodges and to enhance and promote craft Masonry. In a very tangible way, the Program would also enhance the standing of Scottish Rite in the Blue Lodges and make its presence more well known. This would certainly enhance our strategic goal of Masonic education and would probably be an excellent recruiting tool to enhance our membership. In short, it would provide Scottish Rite the opportunity, with a minimum of investment, to potentially make a profound impact on our Lodges in a very positive and endearing fashion.