

## THE SCOTTISH RITE-A FAMILY TRADITION

There is nothing more precious than a family tradition. To withstand time, traditions must be built on a solid foundation. A Scottish Rite family tradition is built upon patriotism and brotherly love, benevolence, encouraging all that is good, kindness and charity and standing up against all that is cruel and oppressive. Its observance uplifts everyone under its influence to do good to others, to forgive enemies, to love neighbors, and to return good for evil. The Scottish Rite tradition embraces the highest moral laws that will withstand the test of any ethics or philosophy.

*Human progress is our cause, Liberty of thought our supreme wish, Freedom of Conscience our mission, and Guarantee of equal rights to all people our ultimate goal!*

*-The Scottish Rite Creed*

## SCHOLARSHIPS

In an effort to fulfill our call to advance human progress, the **Scottish Rite Foundation** offers a number of scholarship opportunities for young men and women to attend a college or vocational school.

These scholarships are not necessarily for students with the highest grade point average, but are for students who show potential due to their leadership abilities, volunteer experience, participation in social, civic, religious and fraternal activities, or who have overcome hardships or disabilities.

## DISASTER RELIEF

The **Supreme Council of the Scottish Rite** is dedicated to providing assistance to people and communities affected by disasters such as hurricanes, fires, floods, and earthquakes. Through the Scottish Rite Foundation, we provide relief directly to the areas in need.

In recent years, the Supreme Council has created a scholarship fund for the victims and families affected by the September 11 disaster, and provided funds for those impacted by the devastation of Hurricane Katrina.

## THE SUPREME COUNCIL, 33°

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The double-headed eagle is the unique symbol of the Scottish Rite, and the motto of the Thirty-third Degree is *Deus meumque jus* (God and my right), which some say was the war cry of the Knights of the Temple, who are symbolized by members of the Thirtieth through Thirty-third Degrees.

## THE FOURTEENTH AND THIRTY THIRD DEGREE RINGS

### What is their significance?

*Scottish Rite rings, formally presented as part of the 14° and 33° ceremonies, symbolize the close alliance between the member and the Fraternity and the solemn covenants we have made with each other to the performance of specific duties.*

### 14° RING

This ring is gold, and bears the Hebrew letter *yod* enclosed in a triangle. The letter is the initial of the lost Masters' Word and is a reminder of the legend and lessons of the 13° Royal Arch and 14° Perfect *Elu*. Inscribed on the inner band is the motto *Virtus junxit mors non separabit* (Virtue has united and death shall not separate). It may also be inscribed with the owner's name and date he received the degree.



### 33° RING

This ring is a triple band of gold which may bear the numerals 33 in a triangle, although not necessarily. On the inside band is engraved the motto *Deus meumque jus* (God and my right), as well as the owner's name and the date he received the Thirty-third Degree.



# THE SCOTTISH RITE

*a family tradition*



After joining the fraternity, a Master Mason soon discovers the amazing wealth of additional opportunities to learn about and to participate in Freemasonry. While there is no Masonic degree more important than that of Master Mason, there is a long tradition—almost as old as Freemasonry—of “high degrees” that expand upon and elaborate the teachings and lessons of the first three degrees. Enthusiastic Masons eager to learn and to participate more are prime candidates for Masonry beyond the Third Degree.

### –SCOTTISH RITE CONFERRAL–

The conferral of degrees in the Scottish Rite is quite different from the first Three Degrees you received in your local Blue Lodge.

- Conferral is traditionally during a 1, 2 or 4 day Reunion (our term for a new class of initiates) usually in the Spring and Fall.
- One person is chosen to represent everyone in the receiving of the degrees.
- Degrees are conferred as theatrical events before candidates as an audience rather than as a participatory ceremony.
- These theatrical presentations may involve stages with elaborate scenery and costumes.



The **American Scottish Rite** is a collection of degrees that build upon the legends of the **Blue Lodge**.

- The rite offers a total of 30 degrees beyond 3° Master Mason.
- Each degree is based on an idea of progressive ethical awareness and self-knowledge through self-reflection and dramatic allegories.

The **Scottish Rite** degrees give insight to the expansion of Masonic legends.

- The Lodge of Perfection, 4°–14°, is concerned with events following the murder of *Hiram Abiff*
- The 15° and 16° explain the return of *Zerubbabel* from Babylon to rebuild the temple at Jerusalem.
- The 17° and 18° center around re-instituting the word under the Law of Love as taught by *Jesus* and other religious reformers.
- The 19°–30° culminate with the Degree of Knight Kadosh, a spiritual knighthood similar to the Knight Templar, and develop the **Scottish Rite's** myth of Masonic succession from crusading knights.
- The 31° teaches us that it is human to err. That it is far nobler to sin & repent than to have never fallen from grace in ones life.
- In the 32°, Master of the Royal Secret, the candidate is taught equilibrium in the Southern Jurisdiction

## SCOTTISH RITE HONORS

Above and beyond the 32°



KNIGHT COMMANDER  
OF THE COURT OF HONOR

- Must be a Thirty-Second Degree Mason in the Southern Jurisdiction for at least 46 months.
- Must distinguishing himself in service to Masonry, to the Scottish Rite, or to humanity.
- Nominations are made by the SGIG or Deputy of an Orient.
- Selections are made by the Supreme Council at its Biennial Session.
- Only 2.5% of our members have been so recognized. This honor, like all Scottish Rite honors, cannot be requested and if requested must be refused.



THIRTY-THIRD DEGREE,  
INSPECTOR GENERAL HONORARY

- Possibly the most recognized Masonic honor is the Thirty-third Degree of the Scottish Rite.
- Must be a KCCH for at least 46 months.
- 33rd Degree nominations are made by the SGIG or Deputy of an Orient.
- Selections are made by the Supreme Council.
- Only 1.5% of our members hold this distinction



GRAND CROSS  
OF THE COURT OF HONOR

- This is the highest individual honor that the Supreme Council bestows.
- It is voted very rarely to Thirty-third Degree Masons and only for the most exceptional and extraordinary services.
- There are usually about seventy living recipients of the Grand Cross at any one time.



The RiteCare® program was established to help children with speech and language disorders. Through the program, trained professionals provide diagnostic evaluation and treatment of speech and language disorders, as well as learning disabilities.

With over 170 RiteCare® facilities, the Scottish Rite is able to help thousands of children to talk and to read. Our professional clinicians work tirelessly with children who have difficulties with attention and memory. Many of these children struggle to process auditory information, making it difficult to speak and understand the spoken word or to read.

The RiteCare® facilities are staffed by speech/language pathologists and other trained personnel. These dedicated professionals take on the painstaking challenge of freeing children from a lifetime of disability.

The RiteCare® program is open to anyone, regardless of the family's ability to pay. Donations provided to the Scottish Rite Foundation help to keep this essential program operating. Helping children is an important mission of Scottish Rite Masons.

As a general rule, the RiteCare® facilities accept preschool-age children with speech and language pathologies or school-age children who have difficulty learning to read. Some centers offer literacy training for adults as well. The facilities also offer training for young people who are interested in the field of speech pathology.

