

Masonic Youth Group Support

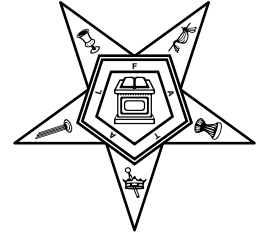
The Order of the Eastern Star supports the activities and members of the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls (ages 11 through 20), the International Order of Job's Daughters (ages 10 through 20), and the Order of DeMolay (for boys ages 13 through 21). The purpose of these youth groups is to train these fine young citizens to be leaders in the community and promote an interest in becoming future members and leaders in the Order of the Eastern Star.

Additional Facts

- The Order of the Eastern Star is not a "secret society." Secret societies are underground and hard to find. We are easily found within the community. We do enjoy a distinctive means of identifying each other, and only members are allowed in a closed meeting.
- You can afford membership in the Order of the Eastern Star. Financial position is not considered in the Order. Members come from all economic stations of life.
- Members of all religions may belong to the Order of the Eastern Star. We only require a belief in the existence of a Supreme Being.
- After your Initiation into our Order, you may attend meetings and social affairs, and work on fundraising projects as your time permits. There is no "required" obligation of time.
- There is no mandatory memory work, except the means of making yourself known if you wish to visit a Chapter or if you become an officer. A short proficiency examination is encouraged.
- Members are patriotic. We strongly support the government of the United States of America.

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What is the Order of the Eastern Star?



You may have been wondering, "What is the Order of the Eastern Star?" Simply stated, it is one of the largest fraternal organizations in the world to which both women and men can belong. The Order has over six hundred fifty thousand members belonging to over 2,200 chapters in twenty seven countries around the world. Thirty-four thousand five hundred of those members belong to the two hundred seven Chapters in the State of California.

Who Can Join Eastern Star?

Women eighteen years of age, or older, with a specific Masonic affiliation, or who have been members for three years in either the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls or the International Order of Job's Daughters, and men who are Master Masons and members of a Masonic Lodge recognized by the Grand Lodge of California, F. & A.M., are eligible to become members.

The Masonic relationship required for a woman to become a member must be one of the following: the wife or widow, daughter or stepdaughter, legally adopted daughter, daughter-in-law, mother or stepmother, mother-in-law, sister, stepsister or half-sister, sister-in-law, niece, great-niece, daughter of a sister or brother of an affiliated Master Mason, granddaughter, great granddaughter, grandmother. The Master Mason whom a woman might be using for her affiliation to belong to the Eastern Star does not have to be a member of the Order himself.

Women who are Majority members or who have three years of active membership in either the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls or the International Order of Job's Daughters may join without a Masonic relationship.

In addition to the above requirement, to join Eastern Star, you must also:

- be of good moral character
- believe in a Supreme Being
- be at least 18 years old
- believe in and obey the laws of the United States of America
- have resided in California for at least one year prior to submitting a petition
- be willing to assume the obligation of the Order and participate in the ceremony of initiation
- not be convicted of a felony (or adjudged an habitual criminal) under the law of any state or of the United States.

When and Why was Eastern Star Formed?

Dr. Rob Morris, known as the "Poet Laureate of Masonry," conceived the Order of the Eastern Star in 1850. Dr. Morris created the degrees of the Eastern Star around the lives of five Biblical women. They are Jephtha's Daughter, whom he chose to call Adah; Ruth, Esther, Martha, and, from the Second Epistle of John, the Elect Lady, to whom he gave the name Electa. The reason Dr. Morris chose these women was that each of them exemplifies sublime virtues, the tenets of the Order: *Fidelity, Constancy, Loyalty, Faith, and Love.*

Even though our ritual is based on heroines from the Bible, the Order of the Eastern Star is clearly *not* a religion. It does not pretend to take the place of a religion or to serve as a substitute for the religious beliefs of its members. We welcome petitioners from all faiths.

Purposes and Goals

The Order of the Eastern Star is an organization where women and men with high moral character, a desire to work for the betterment of others, and a drive to make the world a better place can contribute their time, energy, and wisdom to our Order for the good of all mankind.

A Way of Life in Eastern Star

In these days of moral uncertainty in our communities, Eastern Star provides us with an avenue to express our compassion and concern, not only for our Sisters and Brothers in the Order of the Eastern Star, but also for others who benefit from our efforts as well.

Each of us has an inner need to do something for others. Sometimes it is difficult to determine just how to begin.

The men and women who join our Order make friends and enjoy the fellowship of fraternal Sisters and Brothers who share similar goals, while being afforded the opportunity to utilize their charitable nature to benefit others. In addition, the Order provides structure, resources, and support for accomplishing benevolent objectives.

Most importantly, the Order of the Eastern Star takes *good citizens and makes them even better.* We strive to remain in the forefront in the development of the American promise of human opportunity and personal fulfillment.

How Do I Become a Member?

If you are not familiar with anyone in a Chapter in your area, you may contact the Grand Secretary of the Grand Chapter of California for the name, address, and phone number of a Chapter in your area to express your desire for additional information.

The Chapter you intend to join will provide you with a petition, which you must fill out completely. It should be returned to the Chapter Secretary, as soon as possible, with the appropriate fees.

Your petition will be submitted to an Investigation Committee composed of members of the Chapter that you wish to join. Shortly thereafter the members of the Investigation Committee will contact you individually to set a time and place for a meeting. This is done:

1. To ask a few very simple questions.
2. To provide you with an opportunity to meet some of the Chapter members.

3. To provide you with an opportunity to ask and to receive answers to any additional questions that you might have.
4. To verify your Masonic affiliation.

The information that the Investigation Committee receives will be reported to the Worthy Matron.

If all of the information is in order, the report of the Investigation Committee will be submitted to the Chapter members at a stated meeting and a vote will be taken. If the vote is favorable, you will have been elected to receive the Degrees of the Order of the Eastern Star. The Secretary then will notify you of your initiation date, which will usually be within sixty days of your election.

Eastern Star's Special Charity Projects

The California Eastern Star Foundation:

- Benevolent Fund for the relief of qualified indigent and distressed members
- Disaster Fund for members needing assistance in the time of a catastrophic disaster in our State
- Marguerite Rennie Memorial Fund and J. Clifford Lee Memorial Cancer Fund
- Memorial Cancer Dressings Stations Fund
- Cancer Research Fund
- Medical Research Fund
- College or university scholarship awards to students of any race, creed, or color
- Heart Research Fund

Eastern Star Homes of California:

- A Senior Living Community for older members who belong to California Chapters

Vision Statement

The Order of the Eastern Star is a fraternal organization of men and women committed to providing an environment of friendship and fellowship, regardless of age, by implementing innovative ideas, facilitating positive change and planning for the future, while working cohesively with our Masonic Family.