

A stone statue of a man in a military uniform, standing in profile and holding a sword. The statue is made of a light-colored, textured stone. The man is wearing a bicorne hat, a high-collared jacket with epaulettes, and breeches. He is holding a sword with both hands, the blade pointing downwards. The background is a blurred outdoor scene with green foliage and a cloudy sky.

Shriner Primer

The Ultimate Guide

Introduction

If you do not think golfer Arnold Palmer, astronaut Edwin “Buzz” Aldrin, country crooner Brad Paisley and race car driver Sam Hornish Jr. have anything in common besides celebrity, you need the Shriner Primer.

If you think that “Potentate” is the strength of hot sauce that lies somewhere between “mild” and “hot” at your favorite burrito joint, you need the Shriner Primer.

And if you think the only thing Shriners – those guys in the odd-looking, tasseled, red hats in your local Independence Day parade – do is ride around in tiny cars, you really need the Shriner Primer.

Consider the following 20 pages our version of the CliffsNotes® on Shriners International. Spend a few minutes perusing this booklet, and we hope you will have a better insight into the Shriners fraternity and Shriners Hospitals for Children®. At the very least, you will be able to amaze your friends with your knowledge of trivia. At the very most, you will be inclined to continue learning more!

Shriners of the Times

Shriners International, simply put, is a fraternity.

It all started in Manhattan back in 1870, when some members of what is widely considered the world's oldest fraternity, Masonry, were hanging out at their favorite tavern. The guys felt like their band of brothers needed a little spicing up. They thought Masonry, which traces its roots to stonemasons and craftsmen of the Middle Ages (more on page 4), was a tad too focused on ritual. These guys wanted a fraternity that stressed fun and fellowship.

Leave it to an analytical mind – Walter M. Fleming, M.D. – and an artistic type – Billy Florence, an actor – to take that thought and run with it. Florence conceptualized the idea for a Near East-themed organization after attending a party thrown by an Arabian diplomat. Fleming added the structure to Florence's proposed pomp-and-circumstance, drafting the fraternity's name, initiation rites, rituals and rules. Together, the men designed the new fraternity's emblem,

devised a salutation and determined the red fez with a black tassel would be the group's official headgear. And local Shriners chapters, it was decided, would be called "temples."

The first such temple, Mecca Shriners, met in New York City in 1872. Thanks to a pretty good public relations campaign on behalf of the new fraternity's governing body – known (then) tongue-twistingly as The Imperial Council of the Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine – word about the group spread fairly quickly, even without the Internet or cell phones. Membership grew rapidly across the United States in the early 1900s and even spread to Canada, Mexico and Panama. More recently, temples have been created in other parts of the world, including Puerto Rico, the Philippines and Germany. There is also a new temple in Cuiabá, Mato Grosso, Brazil.

Today, there are hundreds of thousands of Shriners belonging to hundreds of temples and thousands of clubs located throughout the world.

Shriners are Masons

Becoming a Shriner is not as simple as walking into a temple, paying dues and donning a fez. To become a Shriner, a man first must be a Master Mason.

Why? Let's back up.

The fraternity of Freemasonry is the oldest, largest and most widely known fraternity in the world. It is impossible to Google the exact date Freemasonry began, but we do know it dates back hundreds of years to the time when stonemasons and other craftsmen gathered after work in shelter houses, or lodges. Over time, the men organized into Masonic guilds, and the tools of their trade – the square and compass – became the symbol of their brotherhood.

Time passed, and the need for Masons declined. So, Masonry evolved into an organization that began to accept members who were not craftsmen. Today, Masonry is built upon a foundation of improving character and strengthening

communities, though the square and compass are still the symbols of the fraternal brotherhood.

Just as Shriners have temples, Masonry has a basic organizational unit called the Blue Lodge or Craft Lodge. (Groups of lodges are organized under governing bodies known as Grand Lodges.) Members of the Lodges are required to read up on their fraternity and earn a series of Masonic degrees. Once they have completed the third and final degree, members are titled Master Masons. Of course, for those men wishing to delve deeper into Freemasonry – in essence, continuing their Masonic education – there are additional courses of study, known as the Scottish Rite and York Rite.

Once a Mason earns the Master Mason title, he can join the Shriners fraternity. In short, all Shriners are Masons ... but not all Masons are Shriners.

Shriners Terms & Titles

Non-Shriners often have a hard time wrapping their heads around some of the rituals, symbols and terminology used in the Shriners fraternity. What is an Imperial Potentate? How about a Divan? And what is up with the fezzes?

Fez-iquette

Let's start with the fez – the rhombus-shaped, tasseled, red hat most commonly associated with Shriners.

The fez was adopted as the official headgear of Shriners in 1872. Named after the town of Fez, Morocco, where it originated, the hat seemed to portray the Near East theme the original founders of the fraternity were looking for.

Today, the fez is worn at Shriners functions and in parades and outings as an effective way of gaining exposure for the fraternity. It is not unlike wearing a baseball cap to support your favorite team. Only, in this case, the fez draws attention to the fraternity, helps recruit

new members and spreads the word about the Shriners' philanthropy, Shriners Hospitals for Children (more on page 14).

There are strict rules when it comes to the fez, though. Only certain Shriners may have their titles on their fezzes, and the tassel can only be secured with two pins or clasps on the left side of the fez. Additional pins or adornments are off-limits!

The Emblem

Just like Mercedes-Benz is known for its three-pointed-star symbol, Shriners International is known for its emblem, the Crescent. Carrying on the Near East theme, the emblem is composed of the claws of a tiger, united at the base in a gold setting. In the middle is the head of a sphinx. The emblem bears the motto "Robur et Furor," which means "Strength and Fury." The Crescent hangs from a scimitar, while a five-pointed star is beneath the sphinx.

Greetings and Salutations

Since 1872, Shriners have used the salutation "Es Selamu Aleikum," Arabic for "Peace be with you!" The response: "Aleikium Es Selamu," or "With you be peace."

The Chain of Command

Now on to the Shriner hierarchy.

To better understand it all, it helps to begin at the local level. The group of elected officers who run each temple is called the Divan. Granted, the number-one definition of divan is a long, backless sofa, but a Divan also refers to a government bureau. For Shriners, the Divan is the Board of Directors.

The top dog in the Divan is known as the Potentate, defined as "the chairman or CEO of the Board of Directors."

The second in command is called the Chief Rabban.

Within each temple there can be any number of "clubs" or "units" formed for a certain purpose. The best-known

examples are the units of clowns and motor patrols (the “little-car” guys), often the most visible in the community. There are also clubs and units for people with various other interests, as well. From golfing and boating, to classic cars and motorcycles – there truly is something for everyone! New units and clubs can be formed to meet the changing needs and interests of temple members.

The temples are governed by a body of representatives. A group of representatives from the temples convenes once a year to make policy decisions and create legislation regarding the fraternity and philanthropy.

Representatives may be elected to the Imperial Divan, Shriners International's 13-member governing body. The chief executive officer of Shriners International is the Imperial Potentate, who serves a one-year term.

Women and Shriners

Alongside most Shriners is a strong woman. While it is true that women are not eligible to join Shriners International, there are several organizations for women that support the fraternity and the philanthropy, Shriners Hospitals for Children. In most cases, these organizations are open to the wives, widows, daughters, granddaughters, sisters and nieces of Shriners. They include Daughters of the Nile, Ladies Oriental Shrine of North America and Shrine Guilds of America.

- Daughters of the Nile contributes to Shriners Hospitals for Children in a number of ways, including donating clothing, quilts, toys and volunteer hours. Since the group was founded in 1913, Daughters of the Nile has contributed millions of dollars to Shriners Hospitals for Children.
- Ladies Oriental Shrine of North America was founded in 1903 for the purpose of extending good fellowship among families of Shriners. The ladies provide financial support and assistance

to Shriners Hospitals for Children, with an emphasis on the hospital fund, hospital sewing and special projects.

- Shrine Guilds of America, established in 1947, provides independent support and aid to Shriners Hospitals for Children and concentrates on the education of children during their hospitalization.

Kids Count, Too

Not to be left out, children have opportunities to get in on Shriners fun by participating in groups like DeMolay International, International Order of Job's Daughters and the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls.

- DeMolay International is a Masonic-sponsored organization for young men ages 12-21 that focuses on developing civic awareness, personal responsibility and leadership skills.
- The International Order of Job's Daughters is an organization of young women ages 10-20 who are related to

a Master Mason. Members participate in social activities, service projects and charitable works. Job's Daughters actively supports the Hearing Impaired Kids Endowment Fund, which purchases hearing-assistive devices for children.

- The International Order of the Rainbow for Girls, originally founded by a member of a Masonic Lodge, is open to girls ages 11-20, regardless of Masonic affiliation. Members participate in service projects and fundraisers.

Shrining Stars

Many famous faces have proudly worn the red fez of the Shriners fraternity. These include entertainers, heads of government, business leaders and sports legends. A few Shriners you may have heard of include:



Buzz Aldrin
Astronaut



Arnold Palmer
Golfer



Sam Hornish Jr.
Race Car Driver



Brad Paisley
Country Singer



David Ragan
Race Car Driver



Dave Thomas
Entrepreneur

Join the Fraternity

For information about joining Shriners International, please visit beashriner.com, e-mail membership@shrinenet.org, or call **813-281-0300**.

Shriners Hospitals for Children

As membership in the Shriners fraternity grew in the early 1900s, so did the call for establishing an official charity. In 1919, the Imperial Potentate-elect pitched the idea of establishing a hospital to provide free care for children with orthopaedic problems. The idea was mulled over and, in 1920, a committee was established to explore the idea. This committee concluded there should not be just one hospital; there should be a health care system throughout North America that provides medical care regardless of the families' ability to pay. It was an idea that appealed to Shriners, who, as we know, like to do things in a big way. The first hospital opened in Shreveport, La., in 1922.

*Orthopaedic, Burn, Spinal Cord Injury,
and Cleft Lip and Palate Care*

Today, there are 22 Shriners Hospitals for Children. The majority specialize in orthopaedic care – treating injuries and problems of the bones, joints and muscles, as well as complicated conditions, such

as brittle bone disease, and the orthopaedic problems related to spina bifida and cerebral palsy.

Four hospitals specialize in providing medical care to kids with burn injuries. Shriners Hospitals for Children entered the field of burn care in the 1960s after recognizing a lack of medical expertise in the field. The health care system treats children with acute burns; conducts reconstructive and restorative surgeries on kids with healed burns; treats children with severe scarring that limits mobility; and also helps kids with scarring or facial deformities caused by burns.

Spinal cord injury care is provided at three Shriners Hospitals for Children. These hospitals provide long-term rehabilitation and intensive physical, occupational and recreation therapies for children with spinal cord injuries.

Shriners Hospitals for Children officially established a cleft lip and palate program in 2005. Available multidisciplinary services include surgery, orthodontics, hearing, speech and psychological therapies, and additional supports. Some of our hospitals provide care for more than one of these service lines.

Outstanding Research

"Today's research is tomorrow's patient care" is a well-known saying at Shriners Hospitals for Children.

All 22 Shriners Hospitals for Children are involved in some form of research. Shriners Hospitals for Children has research affiliations with major universities. Generally, these investigations focus on improving and expanding treatments for severe burns, understanding complex musculoskeletal disorders, and improving techniques used to treat both mobility problems and spinal cord injuries.

Educational Opportunities

Shriners Hospitals for Children takes an active role in medical education. Most of our hospitals have residency or teaching affiliations with other hospitals or universities. Shriners Hospitals for Children also provides training in other medical areas, including nursing, physical and occupational therapy, and orthotics and prosthetics.

While there are many elements to Shriners Hospitals for Children, there is only one purpose: to improve the lives of children.

Receiving Care

Children up to age 18 are eligible for care at Shriners Hospitals for Children if there is a reasonable possibility they can benefit from the specialized services available. Acceptance is based solely on a child's medical needs.

No Barriers to Care

At Shriners Hospitals for Children, all care and services are provided regardless of the families' ability to pay, thanks to our generous donors.

How You Can Help

Shriners Hospitals for Children needs your help! Learn more about making a one-time gift, recurring gift or a planned gift by visiting **donate2shc.org** or by calling **855-401-4897**.

Shriners Hospitals for Children Locations

Boston

51 Blossom St.
Boston, MA 02114

Canada

991 Boul. Decarie
Montreal, Quebec,
Canada H4A 3J1

Chicago

2211 N. Oak Park Ave.
Chicago, IL 60707

Cincinnati

3229 Burnet Ave.
Cincinnati, OH 45229

Erie

1645 W. 8th St.
Erie, PA 16505

Galveston

815 Market St.
Galveston, TX 77550

Greenville

950 W. Faris Rd.
Greenville, SC 29605

Honolulu

1310 Punahou St.
Honolulu, HI 96826

Houston

6977 Main St.
Houston, TX 77030

Lexington

1900 Richmond Rd.
Lexington, KY 40502

Los Angeles

3160 Geneva St.
Los Angeles, CA 90020



Shriners Hospitals for Children®

Mexico City

Av. del Imán No. 257
Col. Pedregal de
Santa Ursula
Deleg. Coyoacán
Mexico, D.F., 04600

Northern California

2425 Stockton Blvd.
Sacramento, CA 95817

Philadelphia

3551 N. Broad St.
Philadelphia, PA 19140

Portland

3101 S.W. Sam
Jackson Park Rd.
Portland, OR 97239

Salt Lake City

Fairfax Road at
Virginia St.
Salt Lake City,
UT 84103

Shreveport

3100 Samford Ave.
Shreveport, LA 71103

Spokane

911 W. Fifth Ave.
Spokane, WA 99204

Springfield

516 Carew St.
Springfield, MA 01104

St. Louis

4400 Clayton Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63110

Tampa

12502 USF Pine Dr.
Tampa, FL 33612

Twin Cities

2025 E. River Pkwy.
Minneapolis, MN 55414

If you know a child Shriners Hospitals for Children may be able to help, have their parent or guardian call toll free:

800-237-5055 in the U.S.

800-361-7256 in Canada

Local Shriners Contact:



Shriners International

shrinersinternational.org



Follow us on facebook at
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