

The Structure of Freemasonry

American Freemasonry resembles two sets of stairs that begin and end together, as this chart of Masonic structure shows. A Mason's first step is to become an Entered Apprentice. He climbs to the third step where most Masons stay. If he wants to go on in Masonic hierarchy, he enters either the Scottish or York rites. Many authorities say the Scottish Rite was begun by Scots emigrés in France; the York Rite is named after York, England where, by legend, the first Masonic body was organized.

In the Scottish Rite a Mason climbs 30 steps, or degrees. The name he takes on at each degree is written on each step in chart. Where there are two names the top is used by northern Masons, the italicized one by southern Masons. Some figures a Mason meets in Rite ceremonies stand on the steps (from bottom): King Solomon, King Cyrus, acolyte, George Washington, Sultana. Each degree teaches a moral. To earn degree candidate learns the moral and participates in ceremony dramatizing it. A 32nd is the

highest degree a Mason can earn. The 33rd is awarded by the Supreme Council, ruling body of the Rite.

A Mason in York Rite advances 10 degrees, known by name and not by degree number. On chart are figures he meets at each degree or the degree symbol. Figures are: temple workman, Past Master (Virtual), Israel tribesman, High Priest of Jews, King Hiram of Tyre, Knight of Malta, Knight Templar, equal in prestige to 23rd in Scottish Rite.

Under the arch are organizations allied to Freemasonry. Master Masons are eligible for Grotto and Tall Cedars of Lebanon. Girls with a Mason in the family can join Job's Daughters or Rainbow Girls; women, the Eastern Star; boys, DeMolay. Only 32nd Masons or Knights Templar can join the Shrine. Shrine's wife can be a Daughter of the Nile.

Most important of masonry symbols are the open Bible with square and compass on it (left); Solomon's temple (below Bible); and the G with the all-seeing eye inside (upper right). In the U.S. the G stands for God.

SCOTTISH RITE

1st Entered Apprentice

2nd Fellowcraft

3rd Master Mason

4th Secret Master

5th Perfect Master

6th Princes and Judge

7th Master Elect of Nine

8th Master Elect of Five

9th Elect of Fifteen

10th Elect of Thirty

11th Sublime Master Elect

12th Grand Master Architect

13th Master of the Ninth Arch

14th Grand Elect Mason

15th Knight of the East or Sword

16th Prince of Jerusalem

17th Knight of the East and West

18th Knight of the Rose Croix

19th Grand Pontiff

20th Master of the Symbolic Lodge

21st Master of the Symbolic Lodge

22nd Prince of Lebanon

23rd Knight of the Royal Arc

24th Chief of the Tabernacle

25th Knight of the Brazen Serpent

26th Prince of Mercy

27th Commander of the Temple

28th Knight of the Sun

29th Knight of St. Andrew

30th Grand Elect Knight K.H.

31st Grand Inspector

32nd Sublime Prince of the Royal Secret

33rd Sovereign Grand Inspector General

34th Sublime Prince of the Royal Secret

35th Grand Inspector

36th Grand Inspector

37th Grand Inspector

38th Grand Inspector

39th Grand Inspector

40th Grand Inspector

41st Grand Inspector

42nd Grand Inspector

YORK RITE

1st Entered Apprentice

2nd Fellowcraft

3rd Master Mason

4th Secret Master

5th Perfect Master

6th Princes and Judge

7th Master Elect of Nine

8th Master Elect of Five

9th Elect of Fifteen

10th Elect of Thirty

11th Sublime Master Elect

12th Grand Master Architect

13th Master of the Ninth Arch

14th Grand Elect Mason

15th Knight of the East or Sword

16th Prince of Jerusalem

17th Knight of the East and West

18th Knight of the Rose Croix

19th Grand Pontiff

20th Master of the Symbolic Lodge

21st Master of the Symbolic Lodge

22nd Prince of Lebanon

23rd Knight of the Royal Arc

24th Chief of the Tabernacle

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27th Commander of the Temple

28th Knight of the Sun

29th Knight of St. Andrew

30th Grand Elect Knight K.H.

31st Grand Inspector

32nd Sublime Prince of the Royal Secret

33rd Sovereign Grand Inspector General

34th Sublime Prince of the Royal Secret

35th Grand Inspector

36th Grand Inspector

37th Grand Inspector

38th Grand Inspector

39th Grand Inspector

40th Grand Inspector

41st Grand Inspector

42nd Grand Inspector

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