

# PETITION FOR THE DEGREES OF FREEMASONRY

Bradenton, Florida this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_. To the Master, Wardens, and Members of Manatee Lodge No. 31, F&AM:

Having conceived a favorable opinion of the Ancient and Honorable Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons, and a sincere desire of being serviceable to my fellow creatures, unbiased by friends, and uninfluenced by mercenary motives, I do freely and voluntarily offer myself as a candidate for initiation into the mysteries of your time-honored institution, and if elected, will cheerfully conform to all the ancient and established usages and customs of the Fraternity, which I understand are based on the highest principles and moral precepts and incorporate no unseemly conduct.

**(The Petitioner will answer each of the following questions fully - print or type, except for signature:)**

Do you believe in the existence of one ever-living and true God? \_\_\_\_\_

What is your full name? \_\_\_\_\_

Where do you reside? \_\_\_\_\_, City \_\_\_\_\_, State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

How long resided there? \_\_\_\_\_ How long resided in Florida? \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Where resided in the past 5 years? \_\_\_\_\_

What is your present occupation? \_\_\_\_\_ How long? \_\_\_\_\_

What is your business address? \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

By whom, and where employed in the last 5 years? \_\_\_\_\_

Where were you born? City \_\_\_\_\_, State \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth? \_\_\_\_\_ Age? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you know of any physical, mental, legal, or moral reason which would prevent you from becoming a Freemason? \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, explain: \_\_\_\_\_ Have you ever pled guilty, or been convicted of *any* crime? \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, give details of when and where: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you married? \_\_\_\_ Wife's name: \_\_\_\_\_ How many dependents? \_\_\_\_ Age and gender of dependents \_\_\_\_\_

Have you previously applied for, been proposed, or rejected as a candidate for the Degrees in any Masonic Lodge? \_\_\_\_ If so, when and what Lodge? (explain fully) \_\_\_\_\_

Do you believe, or have you ever believed in the overthrow of the government of the United States of America by force or infiltration, or been a member of an organization who advocates the same? \_\_\_\_ If yes, explain fully: \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever been a member of the Order of Demolay? \_\_\_\_ What Chapter and when? \_\_\_\_\_

Offices held: \_\_\_\_\_

Would you be interested in serving with one or more of our youth organizations? \_\_\_\_\_

(OVER)

**REQUIRES BACKGROUND CHECK (Form GL-601A)**

**FACTS CONCERNING FREEMASONRY**  
*(PETITIONER MUST READ THE FOLLOWING)*

Having expressed a desire to become a Freemason, we presume you are willing to consider thoroughly the step you propose to take. The exact nature of our Institution being unknown to you, we deem it advisable that you should be informed on certain points, the knowledge of which may affect your decision to apply for membership.

Freemasonry interferes neither with religion nor politics, but has for its foundation the great basic principles of the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man. No atheist can be a Freemason. Freemasonry strives to teach a man the duty he owes to God, his neighbor and himself. It includes the practice of virtue, and makes an extensive use of Symbolism in its teachings.

It cannot be too strongly emphasized that Freemasonry is not to be entered in the hope of personal gain or advancement. Admission thereto must not be sought from mercenary or other unworthy motives. The aim of the true Freemason is to cultivate a brotherly feeling among men, and to help whomsoever he can.

Freemasonry is not a Benefit Society. This fact cannot be too strongly emphasized. We do not subscribe so much a year to entitle us to draw sick pay or other benefits, or to make provisions for those who survive us. However, each Mason is expected to provide for the future of his family. No man should enter the ranks of Freemasonry in hope or expectation that he will derive any financial benefit from it. Masonic Charity is directed towards those who, from unforeseen circumstances and through no fault of their own, have met with misfortune. To be eligible for resident, non-resident or other relief programs a Florida Mason must have been a member in good standing of a Florida Lodge for not less than 10 years, the last 3 years whereof must have been continuous at the time application is made, and he would not be eligible for such relief if he had already attained the age of 70 years at the time he became a Florida Mason.

Loyalty to one's country is an essential qualification in Freemasonry, and only those are acceptable who cheerfully render obedience to every lawful authority. Disloyalty in any form is abhorrent to a Freemason, and is regarded as a serious Masonic offense.

Freemasonry has in all ages insisted that men should come to its doors entirely of their own free will, and not as a result of solicitations, or from feelings of curiosity, but simply from a favorable opinion of the Institution, and a desire to be ranked among its members.

We have no authority at present to give you further information regarding the Fraternity you propose to join, but we have imparted sufficient information to enable you to conclude that Freemasonry is not contrary to the principles which mark a man of upright heart and mind, and has in it nothing inconsistent with one's civil, moral or religious duties.

We think it advisable to inform you that your admission to our Craft will entail certain financial obligations which you should be able to discharge without detriment to yourself or those dependent on you. In addition to the fees payable on your entrance, there will be annual dues for the support of your Lodge.

Before presenting this petition be sure in your heart that you are not prompted by mere curiosity, the desire for commercial gain, or for social prestige. For such motives Freemasonry has no reward.

**I have read , understand, and acknowledge the above FACTS CONCERNING FREEMASONRY'**

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(Petitioner must initial)

I hereby certify on my honor that all these answers are true and correct, and that I have read, understood and agree with all statements made on this application form, and I hereby agree that I will not petition any other body of Masonry for Degrees for a period of six months after receiving my Master Mason Degree, or until I have passed a satisfactory examination in the catechism of the Master Mason Degree.

**SIGN YOUR FULL NAME (in ink)** \_\_\_\_\_

(Type or print your full name) \_\_\_\_\_

Initiation Fee (First Degree) í í í í í í í í í í í í í í í í .. \$80.00 (to accompany this petition)  
 Background Check Fee í í í í í í í í í í í í í í í í .. \$15.00 (to accompany this petition)  
 Fellow Craft (Second Degree) í í í í í í í í í í í í í í í í ...í í \$60.00  
 Master Mason (Third Degree) í í í í í í í í í í í í í í í í ..í . \$40.00  
 Annual Dues í í í í í í í í í í í í í í í í ...í í í í í \$80.00  
 George Washington National Memorial Association í í í í í í í í . \$ 5.00 (to accompany this petition)  
 Masonic Home Endowment Fund (Voluntary) í í í í í .í í í í í í . \$ 7.30 (billed with dues notice)

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

We recommend the above petitioner as a candidate for the Degrees of Masonry, based upon our belief that he is of good moral character, temperate, and industrious.

**(Must have two (2) recommendations)**

Signatures of Members of Manatee Lodge to which this petition is directed { \_\_\_\_\_ (Print Name)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ (Print Name)

**REFERENCES**

(NOTE: SHOULD BE DIFFERENT FROM ABOVE RECOMMENDATIONS)

Each petitioner is required to furnish in the space provided below, the names of three (3) persons (preferably Masons, local) as references that have known him for a period of five years or more.

	NAME	STREET ADDRESS	CITY,STATE	PHONE
(1)	_____	_____	_____	_____
(2)	_____	_____	_____	_____
(3)	_____	_____	_____	_____

**TO BE COMPLETED AFTER THE INVESTIGATION**

I acknowledge receipt of the original background investigation obtained by the Lodge this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and that my social security number has been redacted.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

(The following may be filled in and used when necessary:)

**JURISDICTION**

(See Art. X, Sec. 17 and Regulations 18.1 to 18.02)

The committee on this petition to which was referred the question of Jurisdiction report that we have examined the law and the subject carefully, and are satisfied that this Lodge (circle one) **HAS** or **DOES NOT HAVE** jurisdiction over the candidate.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Committee)

**WAIVER OF JURISDICTION**

By \_\_\_\_\_ Lodge No. \_\_\_\_\_  
at \_\_\_\_\_  
this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_,

**PETITIONS COMMITTEE QUALIFICATIONS**

The Committee on this petition to which was referred the question of qualifications report that, in our opinion, under Masonic Law, the candidate (circle one) **IS** or **IS NOT** disqualified for initiation in Masonry in consequence of his

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Committee

**PETITION OF:**

\_\_\_\_\_ To Manatee Lodge #31, A&AM

Fee of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ paid \_\_\_\_\_ (date) \_\_\_\_\_ (Secretary)

Received by the Lodge \_\_\_\_\_ (date)

Referred to Brothers:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date Balloted upon \_\_\_\_\_ Result \_\_\_\_\_

Date Fee Recd \_\_\_\_\_ Date Degree \_\_\_\_\_ Date Proficiency \_\_\_\_\_

EA \_\_\_\_\_

FC \_\_\_\_\_

MM \_\_\_\_\_

**REPORT OF COMMITTEE**

We have diligently inquired into the character and qualifications of the petitioner and are satisfied the he (circle one): **IS** or **IS NOT** a fit person to be made a Mason.

Therefore recommend: (circle one:)

Acceptance \_\_\_\_\_  
Rejection \_\_\_\_\_  
Acceptance \_\_\_\_\_  
Rejection \_\_\_\_\_  
Acceptance \_\_\_\_\_  
Rejection \_\_\_\_\_  
(Committee)

**LODGE RECORDS**

Date Received \_\_\_\_\_  
Date Supplemental \_\_\_\_\_  
Notice to appear for EA \_\_\_\_\_

# APPLICANT BACKGROUND WAIVER\*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_  
(First) (Middle) (Last) (Suffix)

Current Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Street) (Apt/Suite)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(City) (State) (Zip Code)

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_  
(Month) (Day) (Year)

Social Security No: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ \*\*

I hereby authorize Manatee Lodge No. 31, F&AM, (Lodge) to which I have submitted a Petition for the Three Degrees of Freemasonry, for Dual Membership, of for Affiliation, to contact any company or individual they deem appropriate to investigate my background, criminal and civil court history, character, and qualifications. I further consent to their review of any and all information obtained as a result of this investigation. I understand that any matter deemed inappropriate by the Lodge, as having possible adverse effects on the Lodge, The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Florida (Grand Lodge), or Freemasonry as a whole is justification for the rejection of my Petition. I hereby waive my right to bring any cause of action against the Lodge, the Grand Lodge, or their respective Officers or Members, for defamation, invasion of privacy, of for any other reason arising from their investigation and rejection of my Petition.

I agree that if my Petition is accepted, I will abide by all the By-Laws, Rules and Regulations as set forth by the Lodge and the Grand Lodge.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_

I acknowledge receipt of the original criminal background investigation obtained by Manatee Lodge this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_, and acknowledge that my Social Security number has been redacted.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**\* The current cost of this report is \$15.00; payment must be made a part of the Petition and is non-refundable.** The report will be delivered to the petitioner at the conclusion of the investigation. Petitioner will sign for the report on the original Petition, located on the back below the References.

\*\* Note to Secretary: Upon execution of the receipt portion of this form by the Petitioner, you are to redact (delete the first five numbers) of the Petitioner's Social Security number.