

About The Fez Owner's Manual

The Fez Owner's Manual provides the basic knowledge you need as a new member of Shriners International, and it is a great refresher course for veteran nobles, as well.

The manual is meant to help you become a more informed and active Shriner, one who understands the mission statement of the fraternity and lives by the Shriners' Creed. Both are included here for you. You'll also find a dictionary of terms commonly used by fraternity members, a brief overview of protocol, and some interesting facts about our great fraternity and our philanthropy, Shriners Hospitals for Children®.

The manual provides only a glimpse into Shriners International. We hope it provides you with some insight and sparks an interest in you to continue to expand your knowledge as a noble.

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Mission Statement

Shriners International is committed to:

- Being the premier fraternal organization for men of good character
- Providing attractive, quality programs and services for its members, their families and their friends in a spirit of fun, fellowship and social camaraderie
- Fostering self-improvement through leadership, education, the perpetuation of moral values and community involvement
- Serving mankind through the resources of its philanthropy, Shriners Hospitals for Children

Shriners' Creed

Shriners believe in God and that He created man to serve His purposes, among which is service to others in His name.

We believe that care for the less fortunate, especially children who suffer from burns and crippling diseases, is our institutional calling.

We are patriots, each willing to serve his country with fidelity and courage. We cherish independence under law and freedom with responsibility.

We honor family. We respect our parents, wives and children. We should instill in our children the tenets of this creed, and the heritage from which it emanates.

As individuals, we pledge ourselves to integrity, virtue and nobility of character. Our intentions will be honorable, our relations will be trustworthy and our spirits forgiving of each other.

As brothers, we offer each other fraternal affection and respect. Together we will support each other in adherence to this creed, so that we and our communities will be the better because of our fraternity and its principles.

As Shriners, we look beyond ourselves to serve the needs of others, especially children who cannot help themselves. We believe Shriners Hospitals for Children to be the world's greatest philanthropy, and we covenant with each other to support its "temples of mercy" with spirit, time, talent and means.



Shriners International Facts

- Shriners International is an international fraternity based on fun, fellowship, and the Masonic principles of brotherly love, truth and relief.
- Mecca Shriners in New York City was the first temple, formed in 1872.
- There are 195 Shriners temples and more than 2,400 shrine clubs located worldwide.
- The fraternity's official philanthropy is Shriners Hospitals for Children.

Shriners Hospitals for Children® Facts

Shriners Hospitals for Children is a health care system with 22 facilities dedicated to providing pediatric specialty care, innovative research, and outstanding teaching programs for medical professionals.

- There are 20 Shriners Hospitals for Children facilities in the U.S., and one each in Canada and Mexico.
- Children up to age 18 with orthopaedic conditions, burns, spinal cord injuries, and cleft lip and palate are eligible for care.
- All care and services at Shriners Hospitals for Children are provided regardless of the families' ability to pay.
- The first Shriners Hospital opened in Shreveport, La., in 1922.
- If you know a child Shriners Hospitals for Children may be able to help, call the referral number on the back cover of this booklet or your temple office.

Shrine Pledge Of Allegiance

Shriners International is an international fraternity of members throughout the world, therefore, the Shrine Pledge of Allegiance recognizes and honors all countries.

A noble wearing a fez during the pledge should execute a right-hand salute. A noble who is not wearing a fez should place his right hand over his heart.

The pledge is as follows:

"I pledge allegiance to my flag and to the country for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

Prayer

The prayer at Shriners events is non-denominational. During the prayer, a noble wearing a fez should remove it and hold it over his heart. At the end of the prayer, the response is, "So mote it be," which is another way of saying, "The will of God be done."

Salutations

A Potentate or Past Potentate is always addressed as "Illustrious Sir," while an Imperial officer and all past Imperial officers are addressed as "Imperial Sir." Members of the elected temple Divan are addressed by the title of their office or "Noble."

The appropriate salutation among members of the Shriners fraternity is, "Es selamu aleikum," (pronounced AH sell-AHM uh-LAKE-um) which is Arabic for, "Peace be on you." The proper response is, "Aleikum es selamu," (pronounced uh-LAKE-um AH sell-AHM-uh) which means, "On you be the peace."

Shrine Clubs & Units

The best way to enjoy your membership in the Shriners fraternity is to participate, and a great way to participate is to join a club or unit.

Shrine clubs essentially serve as “mini-temples.” Each of Shriners International’s 195 temples is in a specific city, and many times that temple’s jurisdiction is vast. Clubs are created in the temple’s outlying areas to keep nobles active and involved in Shriners activities – kind of like satellite groups, with all members belonging to the same temple.

Units are made up of groups of nobles with similar interests. Service units benefit the nobility or the temple and may include policing, maintenance, first-aid or hospitality. Performing units primarily provide entertainment for Shriners or the general public. Examples include clown groups, marching bands and mini-car drivers. Units usually participate in community parades, and many compete against similar units from other temples.

The main purposes of Shrine clubs and units are to:

- Promote interest in Shrinedom among members by offering fellowship and fun activities for nobles and their families.
- Connect members who have similar interests.
- Raise awareness of the Shriners fraternity in local communities.
- Educate the public about Shriners Hospitals for Children.
- Conduct fundraisers to benefit Shriners Hospitals for Children, and temple, club or unit operations.



Fezzes & Pins

Nobles should wear their fezzes at stated meetings, ceremonials, Shriners parades, special Shriners events and other Shriners-related activities.

The fez is not a bulletin board or advertising space. The only pin permitted on the fez is one to hold the tassel in place. The fez shall be worn in its proper shape, without crushing, creasing or alteration.

A Shriners lapel pin is to be worn on the left lapel of a suit coat or jacket, and is appropriate to be worn at all times.

Famous Shriners

The Shriners fraternity includes a number of past and present heads of government, business leaders, entertainers and sports legends. They include:



Buzz Aldrin
Astronaut



Arnold Palmer
Golfer



Sam Hornish, Jr.
Race Car Driver



Gerald Ford
Former President



Richard Tyson
Actor



John Wayne
Actor



John Diefenbaker
Former Prime
Minister of Canada



Dave Thomas
Entrepreneur



Brad Paisley
Country Singer

A Shriner's Dictionary

There are many unique terms used by nobles. Here is a list of some of the most commonly used words and phrases.

Aide – A noble appointed by a Potentate or Imperial Potentate to assist him with his duties during his term.

Ambassador – A noble appointed by a Potentate to represent him and the temple at club and unit meetings and functions.

Appointed Divan – Six nobles appointed by the Potentate to assist him during his term. They include the First Ceremonial Master, Second Ceremonial Master, Director, Marshal, Captain of the Guard and Outer Guard.

Black Camel – A term used to refer to the death of a member of the Shriners fraternity.

Bylaws – The rules and regulations governing Shriners International and each temple.

Cabiri – A social organization composed of Past Potentates.

Candidate – A Mason who has petitioned for membership in the Shriners fraternity.

Ceremonial – The Shrine initiation ceremony.

Editorial Without Words – The image of a Shriner carrying a little girl and her crutches. This image originated from a photograph and has been reflected in statues, graphics and other media as a symbol of the Shriners fraternity and Shriners Hospitals for Children. It is currently an important part of the visual identity of Shriners Hospitals for Children.

Elected Divan – The collective name of the officers of a Shriners temple: the Potentate, Chief Rabban, Assistant Rabban, High Priest and Prophet, Oriental Guide, Treasurer and Recorder.

Fez – The official headgear worn by members of the Shriners fraternity. It derives its name from the city where it was first manufactured – Fez, Morocco.

Imperial Divan – Thirteen officers elected by the Imperial Council to lead the Shrine fraternity.

Imperial Sir – The title preceding the name of a Shriner who is serving or has served on the Imperial Divan.

Imperial Session – The Shriners' annual convention, generally held during the first week in July. The business of both the fraternity and Shriners Hospitals for Children is conducted at that time. Also, there are parades, unit competitions and social events during the session.

Illustrious Sir – The title preceding the name of a Shriner who is serving, or has served, as Potentate of his temple.

Lady – The title preceding the name of the wife of any Shriner. The wife of a Potentate or the Imperial Potentate is referred to as the First Lady.

Noble – Refers to a member of the Shriners fraternity, and it is also the title preceding the name of any Shriner who is not a past or current Potentate or who has not served on the Imperial Divan.

PCM – Stands for “permanent contributing member.” The purchase of a \$150 PCM certificate, which is tax deductible as a charitable donation, relieves the noble from paying the annual \$5 hospital assessment.

Stated Meeting – Held by a temple to conduct official business.

Shrinedom – The realm of the Shrine fraternity, including its members, governance, programs, activities, organizational atmosphere, etc.

Shriners International – The body of representatives from each of the 195 temples, which determines the direction of the fraternity.

Temple – Any group of nobles chartered by or under dispensation of Shriners International. “Temple” should not be used in the proper name of a group of Shriners. For example, the proper name for the first temple formed is “Mecca Shriners,” not “Mecca Temple.”

Frequently Asked Questions

Why the Near-Eastern theme?

Similar to many college fraternities following a Greek theme, the Shriners fraternity also reflects a particular theme – the Near East. The fraternity's founders, Masons Walter Fleming, M.D., and Billy Florence, an actor, perfected the colorful backdrop for the new fraternity.

What is the prerequisite for membership?

All Shriners must first be a Master Mason in good standing in a lodge recognized by or in amity with the Conference of Grand Masters International. All Shriners are encouraged to continue to participate in Lodge activities and learn from other organizations that have their roots in Masonry.

How are my annual renewal fees divided?

Each temple's dues may vary. But typically, a portion of your dues is paid to Shriners International as a per capita tax. A \$5 assessment goes to Shriners

Hospitals for Children, unless you have purchased a PCM, which relieves you from paying the annual hospital assessment. The balance is used for temple operations.

What are my responsibilities as a Shriner?

Each Shriner is expected to help the fraternity grow by recruiting new members and being as active as possible, and to support the philanthropy by helping identify children who may benefit from the expert medical care provided by Shriners Hospitals for Children.

How can I support Shriners Hospitals for Children?

There are many ways to support the philanthropy, including volunteering at a Shriners Hospital, transporting patients to the hospital for care or visiting the kids in the hospital. You can also support the hospitals by hosting fundraisers to benefit the philanthropy or by making donations to Shriners Hospitals for Children. For information about the many giving opportunities available, please visit **www.donate2shc.org** or call **800-241-GIFT (4438)**.

Can women become Shriners?

Alongside most Shriners is a supportive woman. While it is true that women are not official members of the Shriners fraternity, they play a very important role in many aspects of our organization. There are also several groups for women that support the fraternity and philanthropy. They include Daughters of the Nile, Ladies Oriental Shrine of North America, Shrine Guilds of America, Inc., and Order of the Eastern Star. Organizations for children and young people include DeMolay International, Job's Daughters International, and the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls.

