

# “Lodge Etiquette”



**The Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Ohio  
Committee on Education and Information  
2013 Mandatory Education Program (2 of 4)**

Preparation: Read the lesson in its entirety prior to the presentation. There is no need to memorize it word for word, but you should be familiar enough with it to present without reading it verbatim.

Materials: None

Instruction: This lesson deals with Lodge Etiquette. Whether you're a new Mason or an "old" Mason, this information is vital to the civilized and proper way to conduct oneself while in Lodge. A suggestion may be to use a demonstration with some of these or even to ask "what is the proper way to...." and then allow a Brother to demonstrate.

Demonstration: The following are items that every Mason should know in regards to the government of his behavior while in Lodge.

**Attire:** Proper attire adds to the dignity and impressiveness of the degrees being conferred. Each Lodge decides the proper attire for its officers. Whether that dress is formal or business casual, is a decision left to the Lodge while the members are dressed according to private taste.

**Aprons, gloves, & jewels:** The apron is to be worn at all times when Lodge is open and is to be worn on the outside of the coat. Lodge officers should wear the respective jewel of their office as well. **Jewels or regalia of bodies other than Grand Lodge or subordinate Lodges are not appropriate in a Lodge meeting and should not be worn therein.**

**Arriving late at Lodge:** When arriving late, the Brother (after being properly clothed) requests the Tyler to obtain permission for him to enter. After entering, the Brother is to report west of the altar, salute the Master, and take his seat. If the Master is engaged, the Brother may report to the west and salute the Senior Warden.

**Addressing the Chair:** Any Brother who wishes to speak whether it be to enter a discussion or make a motion, he must rise to his feet, salute the Master with the due guard and sign of the degree, and address the Worshipful Master.

**Order in the Lodge Room:** All members will behave in a seemingly, gracious manner, regarding every Brother his peer; generous in attitude toward the opinions of others yet kind and firm in sincere convictions during discussions and conduct of business.

**Masonic Titles:** The term “Brother” is neither a sentimental nor a familiar form of address, but a title, a distinction, and an honor, as much as “Right Worshipful Brother” and “Most Worshipful Brother” and should always be used as such.

**Be Respectful:** It is important to the function of the Lodge for Brothers to be respectful to one another. This includes talking while others are addressing the Master or Lodge. This is especially true during lectures and charges. Brothers who have taken the time to learn the ritual work, should be afforded the respect that is due to one who has worked so hard to do so. Talking during ritual work, detracts from the beauty and solemnity of our degrees and is a hindrance to the candidate’s education.

**Cell Phones:** Cell phones are a distraction to our ritual work and should be turned off or on vibrate when in open Lodge. Few things will ruin the solemnity of a degree like the ringing of a cell phone at an inappropriate time during the work. Likewise, surfing the internet or texting during a meeting should only be done in an emergency or when requested to do so.

Assessment:

The best assessment of this lesson is to monitor the behavior and etiquette of our Brethren while in Lodge. Remember, a Brother should never be “dressed down” in front of the Lodge, but a gentle reminder during a private conversation instead will most often be more effective. New Masons need this information as well. Be sure that the Brothers assigned to new Craftsmen are sharing this with them!