

Welcome to Medinah!



Ladies Handbook

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Welcome to Medinah Shriners!

BE AN INFORMED AND ACTIVE MEMBER!!

Everything you need to know...check out our website:

www.medinah.org

LINKS:

Medinah Temple:
www.medinah.org

International home site with links to hospitals:
www.shrinehospitalsforchildren.org

For Nobles & Ladies:
www.shrinervillage.com

For those men considering becoming a Shriner:
www.beashriner.com



Facebook:
Mighty Medinah (public)
Medinah Shriners (private)
Ladies of Medinah (Ladies only)



Instagram:
Medinahshriners

Welcome to the Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine! What exactly does this mean? What is this organization? And what is their purpose? And how, as a lady do you fit in?

This handbook is designed to help new ladies answer these and many other questions. There are lots of resources available to help guide you, but if we haven't answered these questions in this booklet, feel free to ask any Lady or Noble to help you. For many of us, we have been a part of this organization for so long that we forget what it is to be new to this group. So be patient with us and ask anything, even if you feel the answer is obvious.

To help you, in this booklet is a list of "Terminology" – a dictionary of words and phrases that are unique to the Shrine.

A LITTLE BACKGROUND

Freemasonry began sometime back in the Middle Ages in Europe. It came to the American Colonies and continued to flourish with the Masonic principles of "brotherly love, relief, and truth". It is a fraternity with purpose. There are notable historic people throughout the world who were freemasons, including many of America's founding fathers.

In 1870, a group of Freemasons in New York City got together frequently for lunch at the Knickerbocker Cottage. Walter M. Fleming and William J. Florence were the primary drivers of 13 members who created a new fraternity that would add "fun and fellowship" to the Masonic principles. Secret societies were the rage at the time, and after attending a party in France given by an Arab diplomat, the ritual and degrees to become a Shriner were established using a Middle Eastern theme. To become a member of any Shrine, you must be a Mason in good

standing with your Masonic lodge. Most Shrines throughout the world have a name reflecting a middle-east city, including Medinah, our Shrine in the Chicago area.

A Shriner, like a Mason, is a man who professes a faith in a higher being, sometimes called the “Grand Architect of the Universe”. As a man of faith, he uses the tools of moral and ethical truths to serve mankind. A Shriner binds himself to like-minded men in a Brotherhood that transcends all religious, ethical, social, cultural and educational differences. In fellowship, with his brothers, a Shriner finds ways in which to serve his God, his family, his fellow man, and his country. He recognizes his responsibility for justice, truth, charity, enlightenment, freedom, liberty, honesty and integrity in all aspects of human endeavor. And finally, he joins an organization that believes in “Having fun and Helping kids!”



SHRINER'S HOSPITALS AND SHRINERS CHILDRENS'

With a polio epidemic raging, in 1920 Shriners voted at their annual convention to establish their first “Shriners Hospital for Crippled Children” in Shreveport, Louisiana. While the original purpose was to treat children with polio, over the years, this mission has evolved to treat children with orthopedic conditions (such as scoliosis and brittle bone disease), spinal cord injuries, cleft lip and palate, burns, sports medicine, and other unique conditions regardless of a patient or family’s ability to pay. There are numerous facilities across the United States, Canada and Mexico, and the number is expanding with our mission to treat more kids in more locations.

As health care practices evolve, our system of hospitals is evolving to Shriners Childrens’ to focus on the more prevalent outpatient care while still providing first-class inpatient care when necessary. Our health care system includes expert physicians, nurses and therapists – one of a kind who specialize in the diagnoses that we encounter. Many hospitals and physicians recognize our unique expertise and refer patients who may not have heard otherwise about our health care system. You can refer people too! If you meet someone who you think we might be able to help, just have them call our Chicago Hospital at 773-622-5400 and they will take it from there.

But it’s not just surgery that we provide. Rehabilitation therapy, occupational therapy, and world class research make our health care system second to none! Our health care system is also very proud of its role in medical education. It is not unusual for postgraduates to come to Shriners for their orthopedic rotation. And we are very happy to have a hospital right here in Chicago!

Many of the functions and events we hold are to promote our health care system. And many are just to have fun and fellowship. Whatever we do, we are having fun and helping kids.



TEMPLE LEADERSHIP (Divan)

Medinah has a 5-year line where a Noble is elected each year and serves in those 5 positions before becoming the Potentate. Shrine Leadership positions have, for the newcomer, odd sounding titles. In addition, some positions are elected and some are appointed. Appointments are made by the sitting Potentate.

Potentate – This is, essentially, the President of the Shrine Temple. It is an elected position. The Nobles vote annually for their choice of Potentate.

Chief Rabban – 1st Vice-President. As with the Potentate, this is also an elected position. It is expected that the Chief Rabban will, the following year, be elected to the position of Potentate.

Assistant Rabban – 2nd Vice-President. This is also an elected position. It is expected that the Assistant Rabban will, the following year, be elected to the position of Chief Rabban.

High Priest and Prophet – 3rd Vice-President. Another elected position. It is expected that the High Priest and Prophet will, the following year, be elected to the position of Assistant Rabban.

Oriental Guide – 4th Vice-President. Yet another elected position. In some Temples this is an appointment of the incoming Potentate, but then he has to be elected by the Nobility to become Oriental Guide. It is expected that the Oriental Guide will, the following year, be elected to the position of High Priest and Prophet.

Two other elected and critical positions are: (But not part of the line up to the Potentate Position)

Treasurer – Just what it sounds like

Recorder – Secretary and more!

Appointments: The Potentate makes various appointments of leadership for his year, the Captain of the Guard, Potentate Aides, and various committee and unit heads.

The Board of Directors for the Temple, as with any board, governs the Shrine Center. They are the management team. Another term is “Divan” and the Ladies are the “Divan Ladies.”

TERMS THAT ARE COMMON TO THE SHRINE

Assistant Rabban – the 2nd Vice President of the Temple Divan.

Chief Rabban – Similar to a Junior Warden in the lodge, they are the 1st Vice President of the Temple Divan.

Crescent & Scimitar – the Shrine emblem (as seen on a Noble’s fez)

Divan – the officers elected at each Shrine that govern our organization. The top five are considered “moving Divan” as the normal progression, like the Masonic lodge, is to eventually advance to the top position.

Fez – the red hat worn by all Nobles in Shrinedom.

GLSA – Throughout the world, the Shrines are divided into regional organizations that meet on an annual basis to celebrate, entertain, and have competitions with the various Shrine Clubs and Units. Medinah’s region is Great Lakes Shrine Association (or GLSA) and usually holds its annual convention in the fall. Each of the Shrines in Great Lakes takes turn hosting the event.

High Priest and Prophet – The 3rd vice president of the Shrine, similar to a Senior Deacon.

Illustrious Sir – title of the present and past Potentates. They are addressed as “Illustrious Sir”.

Imperial – the governing body of Shriners International, headquartered in Tampa.

Imperial Session — The annual convention of Shriners world-wide, where they vote on various issues, celebrate, entertain and have competitions from the various Shrine clubs and units. This is usually held in early July. The location changes each year and is decided by the Imperial Sir for that year.

Imperial Sir – title given to an officer of the Imperial Divan.

First Lady – title given to the Significant Other of the Potentate

Lady – the title given to the Significant other or a female friend of a Noble
Noble – the title each Shriner is addressed by.

Official Visit (O.V.) - Annual parties hosted by individual clubs or units of the Shrine in honor of the Potentate and his Lady. All Nobles and Ladies are invited to attend, and most are open to your friends and family.

Oriental Guide – The 4th Vice President and newest member elected to the leadership team, akin to a Junior Deacon in the Masonic Lodge.

Potentate – the President of the Shrine, akin to the “Worshipful Master” in the Masonic Lodge

Potentate’s Aides – A group of Nobles and their Ladies appointed by the Potentate to assist during their year at various events and activities. They have various duties and are headed by a Chief Aide and a Chief Aide Lady.

Recorder – Akin to the Secretary of the Masonic Lodge, they are responsible for various functions within the Shrine, as well as being the chief liaison between the local Shrine and Imperial.

Shriners – Another term for Nobles

Shriners Childrens’ : Our official health care system organization, registered in Colorado, and headquartered in Tampa.

Shriners International – Our official fraternity, registered in Iowa and headquartered in Tampa.

Stated Meeting – Held multiple times per year, a business meeting for Nobles ONLY

Temple – Also known as a Shrine Center

Treasurer – Just like a Masonic lodge, the Treasurer is a member of the leadership team and responsible for the monies of the Shrine

Unit/Club – Within Medinah, there are sub-groups, organized by common interests or geographic location. Nobles can join multiple groups. There are usually no requirements to join, and it’s the best way to meet people and join in the fun.

ATTIRE

So what do you wear for different events? Attire means different things in different parts of the country and is continually evolving. So here are some general guidelines to help. All event flyers should include information as to appropriate attire. If any question, contact the person in charge of the event, or check on the Ladies of Medinah Face Book page. Here are some common definitions:

Ladies		Nobles
Formal/Black Tie	Ball gown, cocktail dress, dressy suit, or evening pants w/ dressy top	Tuxedo or Dark Suit
Cocktail	Cocktail Dress, little black dress or slacks w/ dressy top	Suit/Dress Shirt/Tie
Business Casual	Slacks or Skirt, Blouse, Jacket or sweater	Sport Slacks, Casual Shirt, Maybe Jacket
Casual	Slacks, Capris or Shorts and Casual Shirt/Parade Shirt	Slacks, Shorts, Casual Shirt Parade Shirt

PARADES

Most of the units and many of the Shrine clubs participate in local parades. It’s a way of garnering public recognition for Shriners and Shriners Childrens’. The units typically receive a stipend for participating in the parade. Each club and unit makes their own arrangements with local communities to participate in parades.

There are a few parades where all clubs and units are required to participate: these are called Shrine Parades. At a minimum, it includes a parade at the Great Lakes Shrine Association convention and the Imperial Session convention. It commonly includes a parade on Memorial Day as well as during Addison’s special summer festival. Shrine parades usually include an opportunity for nobles and their ladies to mingle and enjoy food before the parade (a Pre-Glow) or after the parade (After-Glow).

While all Nobles are allowed to participate in parades, Imperial bylaws restrict Ladies from participating. However, ladies are encouraged to attend parades and support their nobles. At Shrine parades, a seating area for the ladies is reserved. Bring your chair, your children, and your grandchildren. All are welcome to come and join in the fun.

To further promote our fraternity and health care system, Shiners and their ladies wear “parade shirts” to parades and other events. Each club and unit will have their own special shirt or uniform that they wear. In addition, each year the Potentate and First Lady will offer a new selection of shirts available for purchase. Whatever you wear, be proud and share your Shriner affiliation!

SHRINE ETIQUETTE

As with any organization, Shriners has their own set of etiquette (social rules) that we follow. All of us, at one time or another, have been self-conscious when we unintentionally didn't follow the rules. To help you, here's a list of the most common ones:

- ◆ Name badges are always worn on the right side of the chest. Badges are worn to Official Visits, numerous parties, and other events. They are NOT worn to outside events nor formal/black tie events. When in doubt, look at any of the Divan ladies and mimic what they are doing. Name badges can be ordered through the office for a small fee.
- ◆ Camel pins are worn by new ladies during their first year on the left side of the chest. It's a way for us to recognize that you are new and that you may need help answering questions.
- ◆ Most events begin with the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer. Please stand if you are able. The men will end the prayer by saying “So Mote It Be” and the women will say “Amen”.
- ◆ A Noble's fez is worn as long as the Potentate is wearing his. The Fez should be placed on the table or the floor when taken off.
- ◆ When sitting with your Noble, the lady is always on his right.
- ◆ When attending a parade, everyone stands at attention when the first flag passes by. For subsequent flags, you may remain seated.
- ◆ Nobles stand when the Potentate or Imperial Potentate is introduced, as well as when applauding for special achievements or for outside speakers.
- ◆ Ladies stand only when the Imperial First Lady is introduced, during prayer, the Pledge of Allegiance, or when applauding for special achievements or outside speakers. When in doubt, mimic what the First Lady is doing.
- ◆ Other than in the Oasis, ladies are not usually welcome to go to the bar. If your Noble is not in attendance, ask one of the Potentate's aides to help you. If it is an event open to the public or for ladies only, then it is okay to go to the bar.

MEDINAH UNITS AND CLUBS

Our Shrine Center has a number of clubs and units that Nobles are able to join. These clubs and units are organized based on an area of interest (such as the Therapy Dogs) or based on a geographic location (such as Lake County). Some are open to ladies to join; many have ladies' meetings or offer activities for ladies when they meet.

Units and clubs have their own bylaws as well as their own officers. They set their monthly meeting schedule, dues, and determine the location where they meet. They provide a more intimate social gathering and are an excellent way of getting involved in the Shrine. Many of the units have an international association and have their own conventions. Some of the units also have competitions both regionally and internationally.

Nobles are highly encouraged to join at least one club or unit. It's the best way to meet people and get involved. Not sure which one to join? There are numerous brochures on the various clubs outside Medinah's office. Call the head or President of the club to find out more information. Or attend one of their meetings to meet people and find out more. Clubs are added frequently, so check the pages inside the annual Calendar Book for a complete listing.



APPENDANT/AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS

There are numerous affiliated Masonic organizations that are open to women and young adults:

Daughters of the Nile:

Daughters of the Nile is an international fraternal organization for women 18 years of age or older. They are mostly related by birth or marriage to a Shriner, Master Mason, or a Daughter of the Nile. They contribute annually to Shriners Childrens' through their Foundation. They give generously of their time and talents by providing volunteer time at the hospital, sewing quilts and special projects requested by the hospital, toys, games and other materials.

For more information: <https://daughtersofthenile.org>

DeMolay:

Under the mentorship of trained advisors, DeMolay is a world-wide organization of boys between the ages of 9 and 21. It teaches young men to live their lives by 7 core values. It provides training in leadership, team building, and networking through community engagement. For more information: <https://beademolay.org>

Job's Daughters:

Job's Daughters is an international organization open to girls between the ages of 10 and 20. Each chapter, called a Bethel, teaches young women the value of leadership, public speaking, charity, respect for parents and elders, and teamwork. Members participate in a variety of activities organized by themselves.

Ladies Oriental Shrine of North America:

Related by birth or marriage to a Master Mason, each court assumes an obligation to extend financial support and assistance to Shriners Childrens'. This includes the hospital fund, sewing and special projects. There are numerous courts through the United States and Canada. The top official of the grand Council holds the title of Grand High Princess. For more information: <https://www.ladiesorientalshrine.org>

Order of the Eastern Star:

The members of the Order of the Eastern Star are dedicated men and women who sincerely reflect the spirit of fraternal love and the desire to work together for good by giving their time to meaningful projects that benefit mankind. The OES mission is to make positive differences in the world with charitable works, lasting friendships, and loving kindness to all mankind.

For more information: <https://easternstar.org>

Rainbow Girls:

The International Order of the Rainbow for Girls prepares young women between the ages of 11 and 20 for responsible and purposeful adulthood through character and leadership development, encouraging unselfish service, and higher ideals in life, and promoting teamwork and effective interpersonal communications. From volunteering for different charities, to working to improve their public speaking, to mastering the lessons of Rainbow, members tackle lots of challenging hurdles but ultimately walk away with a sense of pride and accomplishment. For more information: <https://www.gorainbow.org>

EVENTS

There are a variety of events and activities organized each year at the Shrine. Some are hosted by a club; others are organized by members of the Divan; others are organized by special volunteers. Events vary year to year, but there are many that are usually held. These events are described below. Reservations for all events can be made through Medinah's web-site or through the office.

Official Visit:

Each club or unit will host a party or event once a year in honor of the Potentate. This party is called an Official Visit or OV. The club determines the theme, the location, the dress code and the price to attend. They are open to all Nobles and their ladies. In some cases, they are also open to your families and friends outside the Shrine.

Family Dinner:

The Oasis is open once a month for all Nobles, their family, and friends to get together for dinner. The Potentate sets the calendar for what night each month we will meet, as well as the entrée offered. Prices will vary depending on the entrée.

Stated Meeting:

Held 4 times per year, it is a meeting attended only by Nobles to review business of the Shrine

Ceremonials:

Held twice a year, it is where new Nobles join the Shrine. Ladies are invited to attend a separate program in the Oasis. Then they join their Nobles for the ritualistic play, followed by food and beverages.

Children's Easter Egg Hunt:

This event, organized by a member of the Divan is open to all Nobles and their family. Children and grandchildren can get their picture taken with the Easter Bunny. They will go on an egg hunt for candy and treats.

Pote's Ball:

This is the Potentate's party and is typically a black-tie event. It is usually a high-end dinner with open bar, followed by dancing. Many stay overnight at the Hilton Garden Inn next door where we have a special, negotiated, Shrine rate. Call the hotel directly to get this rate.

Ladies Hospital Fundraiser:

Whether a High Tea, a Fashion Show, or a Shrimp Boil, every year the ladies of Medinah organize a fund raiser for the hospital. This event is open to the public. We always need a lot of volunteers to make this event successful. This is a great place to get involved to meet other ladies.

Family Day or Family Picnic:

Although the actual type of event changes every year, this is an opportunity for all Nobles and their families to spend the day in a fun-filled, kid-friendly environment.

Sportsman's Raffle:

Although every Shriner pays dues, these monies do not cover the cost of operating Medinah Shriners. The Sportsman's Raffle and other events are organized as fundraisers for the Temple. It can only be successful with everyone's help in selling tickets and helping at the actual event. These events are open to the public.

Children's Holiday Party:

Similar to the Easter Egg Hunt, this holiday party is open to all Nobles and their family. Organized by a member of the Divan, children will get their picture taken with Santa, participate in a variety of activities, and have a lot of fun. Everyone must register for this party through Medinah's website or through the office. Children under the age of 12, if registered, will receive a small gift from Santa.

The Hilton Garden Inn next door to the Shrine Center has reduced rates for Shriners. If you would like to stay at this hotel after any event, call them directly at their local number 630-691-0500 and ask for the Shrine Rate when making your reservation.

