

Chapter Sweetheart & Sweetheart Court

Rules and Regulations



The following rules & regulations are set by the State Sweetheart Committee for inclusion in all Chapter Sweetheart programs and must be observed by all young ladies attending DeMolay functions or representing the Order in any official capacity away from her home Chapter.

General Expectations:

To encourage and support DeMolay by inclusion and participation with Chapter meetings, functions, and fundraising. To develop leadership opportunities for young female participants within the DeMolay organization.

The Chapter and the Sweetheart

- DeMolay members, in choosing to elect a Sweetheart, have taken upon themselves a great responsibility that lasts throughout the term of the Sweetheart. She must NOT be left to fend for herself! The Sweetheart should be an invited, honored guest at Chapter functions. She should be invited to all open functions, and she should be given advanced notice of what, if anything is expected of her (greetings, a speech, etc.), and of the appropriate attire for the occasion. She should be a part of the Chapter's text, email and Chapter's newsletter or social media communications.
- The Chapter should elect their Sweetheart at the same time as the Chapter's officers are elected for the Term of Office. Sweethearts serve a one-year term. The Sweetheart-elect should be installed immediately during her Chapter's Installation of Officers in the Fall term, or at a Sweetheart Ball. She can be installed by the Master Councilor, the Past Chapter Sweetheart, and/or the current State Sweetheart, if she is present. Chapters will need to supply their Sweetheart a sash, a tiara, and either a gift or a Past Sweetheart pin when she leaves office. For more information on regalia and how to obtain, replace, or retire it - please contact the State Sweetheart Coordinator.
- The Chapter must fill out the Certification of Election Form for Sweethearts just as they do for Officers of the Chapter.

Requirements to become a Sweetheart

- ***The Chapter Sweetheart*** – a candidate for Sweetheart must be nominated by a Chapter member and voted on for the Chapter's approval. She should be between 15 and 20 years of age before her installation. Exceptions to this age limit can be made only with the approval of the Chapter Advisors and the State Sweetheart Advisor. She must fill out the application form and/or letter of intent, with written parental permission, and return to the Chapter before her election. She must be willing to work with the Chapter members and the Parent's club. She does not have to be a member of IORG or IOJD to be a Sweetheart but should be willing to learn and be held accountable to the precepts and values that are withheld of Masonic Youth.
- ***The Sweetheart Court*** – candidates for Sweetheart Court shall also be nominated and voted on for the Chapter's approval. Members of the Sweetheart court may be between 12 and 20 years of age. Exceptions to this age limit shall not be made, as these are the same age requirements of DeMolay young men. The same expectations for application process and behavior requirements of a Sweetheart Court member apply as they do for Chapter Sweetheart.

The Role of a Sweetheart

- A Sweetheart should exemplify the highest ideal of womanhood. She is under constant observation and must always conduct herself in a lady-like manner. Her aim should be to boost morale by adding beauty, charm, and excitement to all functions she attends. She should go out of her way to pay attention to each DeMolay member, to be friendly to all, and to not forget about the youngest DeMolays.
- A Sweetheart may not attend DeMolay meetings, but she may be in the Chapter room while the meeting is in recess. She should attend the Installations and other public events, after-meeting activities, and other functions of the Chapter. A Sweetheart, in conjunction with the Parents Club, should engage in fundraising for the benefit of the Chapter, and assist the Master Councilor in welcoming guests to a Chapter's functions.

Travel Expectations:

Our Sweetheart program has long been a supporting role for our DeMolay youth, for the support of the DeMolay order. Travel is an important part of a DeMolay's experience and is also a merit bar they may obtain for doing so. Not only is travel a personally enriching activity that young women may participate in – but it also enriches the entire DeMolay experience for both the Sweethearts and the DeMolay youth. When we are together, we are better!

- When attending an event, a Sweetheart must have a female chaperone 25 years of age or older with her at all times. This is especially important for the safety of the Sweetheart, and also protects the integrity of our Sweetheart and the Sweetheart Program.
- If a Sweetheart's mother or immediate female family member is unable to be present and preside as a chaperone, it is the responsibility of the Sweetheart to obtain approval from the Sweetheart Coordinator for a replacement chaperone. The communication request will be submitted and reviewed for approval, in writing, no less than 48 hours prior to the event. Please understand that failure to do so will result in a Sweetheart not being allowed to attend a function unchaperoned.
- No Sweetheart is allowed in the Chapter room unless the Chapter is in recess. Exceptions apply to this at the sole discretion of the Chapter Dad for purposes of calendar and Chapter communication with the Sweetheart Program.
- A Sweetheart should NEVER be alone with a DeMolay or Male Advisor during travel to events, EVER!

Chaperones for the Sweetheart

The Sweetheart must have a female chaperone at least 25 years old with her at all times during DeMolay functions. She may have her parent(s) with her as a Chaperone(s). At no time should a Sweetheart or Sweetheart Court member be alone with a DeMolay, nor a male during any Chapter function or any event. If a female is unavailable to chaperone a Sweetheart, please reach out to the Sweetheart Coordinator – she will see if there may be another appropriate individual female available to assist as a chaperone so that your Sweetheart or Court member may be present for events.

Dress Code:

A Sweetheart's attire should be in conformity to the dress code of the event, and of DeMolay decorum. As a DeMolay Sweetheart you are held to a stricter guideline of dress than most others. Remember you are a role model and should accordingly set a standard. It is always better to be "overdressed than underdressed." Ladies - a good rule of thumb - if there is a question about your choice of attire, it's probably best to be left in the closet! That also being said, please keep in mind that your Chapter Mom Advisors and Sweetheart Coordinators are also always available for wardrobe decision making guidance – don't hesitate to ask if you are unsure if something is inappropriate or not!

The following dress code should be followed at all times and should be promoted to the other female visitors. It is the Sweetheart's responsibility to always know and adhere to the dress code, keeping in mind that she is representative of the DeMolay organization and an advocate for our Masonic youth.

General dress code rules:

- Proper undergarments must be worn. Bra and underwear must be worn. (Pasties or nipple covers are not appropriate undergarments.) Ladies, there are so many products out there to make sure that a dress is properly fitted. You are attending a formal event as a female guest woman working with a male youth organization – this is not the time for “nightclub” attire. Let's be professional and presentable.
- Tattoos and piercings must be in good taste, or they must be covered. Questions about tattoos or piercings should be forwarded to the Chapter Mom or Sweetheart Coordinator.
- Personal hygiene must be followed – hair must be groomed, and body care is expected. (Deodorant/Teeth/Hair, etc.)
- Length of attire – shorts, skirts, or dresses must come no higher than the fingertips of a young woman's own fully-extended arm and should not expose more than $\frac{3}{4}$ of her thigh. Splits in clothing follow the same – fingertip length. This is a very lenient code but please realize that when you sit, you are to sit properly to remain properly covered at all times.

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Formal Attire (Installations, Formal Dances, and Public/Formal Ceremonies, including Conclave):

- A full length and properly fitting dress - it may be strapless or spaghetti straps, however the dress must fit – it should not be pulled or tugged at to remain properly fitted.
- If the dress has an open-back, it must not dip below the waistline.
- Chapter Sweetheart regalia - sash & crown

Business/Semi Formal Attire (Chapter meetings, dinners and Chapter visitations or other Masonic events when formal attire is not necessary):

- Appropriately fitting slacks and top, dress or skirt/pants. No crop tops, no cut outs.
- Chapter Sweetheart regalia - sash & crown.

Casual Attire (Athletic tournaments, fun activities and when the other two above don't apply):

- Properly fitting nice jeans or shorts are acceptable. Please note: no alcohol, tobacco, illicit drug references, nor foul or suggestive language may be worn on the clothing.
- If you have a DeMolay shirt, you are encouraged to wear it to promote the organization.
- You should not need to wear your sash or crown at these types of events, but it is at the discretion of your Chapter Advisors.

Swimsuits:

Sweethearts are encouraged to participate in fun activities with the DeMolay youth! That's why we're here – to support our brothers and sisters! When at a pool function with DeMolays or other Sweethearts - you will need to wear a proper cover up to and from the pool. If your swimming suit ties, these need to be double knotted to prevent accidents.

- Bottoms and tops must cover entirely.
- Full piece suits are encouraged but not required. The same applies to the full piece bathing suits – they must be fitted properly to cover fully without pulling or tugging.
- 2-piece suits are acceptable – however no “triangle” bikini tops, no string bikinis, no G-strings or thong bathing bottoms.

Any discrepancies with the dress code or violations of the dress code can and will be addressed by the Chapter Sweetheart Advisor, Chapter Advisory Council Chairman, Sweetheart Coordinator, or the Executive Officer.

Violations of these stated rules can be cause for suspension or removal from your position. Your appropriate behavior and attire will display a positive image of the DeMolay Sweetheart program.

Conduct Expectations:

Conduct unbecoming of any Chapter Sweetheart or Sweetheart court member, according to the bulwarks and precepts of the Order of DeMolay, may result in the probation or dismissal of any Sweetheart, and should also be brought before the Chapter's advisory council for consideration.