

COMMON QUESTIONS and ANSWERS

The following is a list of questions that you might be asked by a prospect. They are by no means the only questions you might be asked, but many of the basic questions are given here. Most have responses printed after them, but there are some the answers to which you must obtain on your own. The answers given are not the only answers and may not necessarily be the best for your Chapter, but they provide you with a good base for responses to questions.

1. *What is DeMolay International?*

DeMolay International is a fraternal organization for young men from 12 to 21 years of age, which is run by its own members.

2. *What is the purpose of DeMolay?*

The major purposes of DeMolay include:

- a. providing an opportunity for a young man to be with good friends;
- b. providing leadership training by first-hand experience;
- c. providing a young man with a balanced program of activities; and
- d. helping young men become good citizens.

3. *What is the difference between DeMolay and any other boys' organization?*

There are two main differences between DeMolay and other boys' clubs. First, the membership is select in that a young man is elected to membership by the members themselves. Second, there is a bond of brotherhood between members found in no other organization available to a young man 12 to 21 years. This brotherhood is founded upon the ritualistic ceremonies of our organization. The ceremonies are secret only in the fact that it is not a matter of public property, there is nothing in it which any young man or his parent would not be proud.

4. *Is DeMolay a Religious Order? A Fraternity? A secret Order?*

DeMolay does not recognize or advocate any particular creed or faith but teaches only a profound faith in one living and true God. (Reverence is one of the Seven Cardinal Virtues).

DeMolay is not a Greek letter fraternity and should not be confused with high school or college fraternities. While DeMolay International has secret signs, words, and modes of recognition, it has no secrets from the world so far as its central purposes are concerned.

5. *What type of activities do you have?*

Besides the regular business meetings, the major activities of a DeMolay Chapter can be broken down into three categories: social, civic, and athletic. Social activities range from all types of parties, to dances and picnics plus lots more. Our civic activities are focused on serving the public, whether collecting items for a charity or lending assistance to the local community. (Give some examples of recent social & civic activities of your Chapter). Athletic activities include basketball, softball, bowling, rifle, volleyball, and just about anything else in which enough interest is shown.

6. *What are the requirements for membership?*

The requirements for membership are simple. To join DeMolay International a young man must:

- Be between the ages of 12 and 21.
- Believe in God.
- Be of good character and reputation.
- Apply for membership.

7. *How much does it cost and are there any dues?*

Under a life membership program, a person is required to pay only one all-inclusive induction fee. There are no dues required after the payment of this fee, which is paid before being inducted. The fee for our Chapter is \$ _____.

8. *What is the induction like?*

The degrees of the DeMolay International are serious and very impressive. They contain no horseplay, hazing, embarrassment or ridicule. The induction consists of two different ceremonies: the Initiatory Degree and the DeMolay Degree. The Initiatory Degree is a service of consecration in which you dedicate yourself to unfaltering love of God, Home and Country. The DeMolay Degree is historical and spectacular and is presented in a dramatic form. Its portrayal of the trials, tortures and final martyrdom of the exemplar and namesake of the Order, Jacques DeMolay. This degree teaches a compelling lesson in fidelity and comradeship. Parents are invited to witness the induction.

9. *Am I a full member after induction?*

Yes, to the extent that new members can attend all functions of the Chapter including meetings. However, to vote in Chapter, hold office or participate in some athletic competitions, new members must memorize the obligations he takes in the two degrees. This is not difficult and takes only a small amount of work.

10. *Who are some of the members of DeMolay?*

Some of DeMolay's outstanding alumni include famous radio, television and film favorites such as John Wayne, Walter Cronkite, Dan Rather and Walt Disney. Government officials such as Bill Bradley and Mark Hatfield all benefited from the leadership experiences provided in DeMolay. (Also talk about your own Chapter members. Be sure to mention the names of the members familiar to him, and especially any friends.)

11. *Are there any girls in DeMolay?*

DeMolay is an organization for young men so there are no girl members. Chapters do have activities which include girls such as dances and parties. Also, many Chapters have one girl known as the "Chapter Sweetheart" who attends their functions. Most Chapters also have either a Rainbow Assembly or Job's Daughters Bethel with which they jointly have many functions.

12. *Who sponsors DeMolay?*

A DeMolay Chapter is sponsored by a recognized group of Masons in a community. Masonry is the oldest and largest fraternal organization in the World. Such sponsorship enables DeMolay to have dedicated adult leadership and the use of Masonic buildings to house DeMolay activities. In particular the sponsor of our Chapter is _____. Some Famous Masons are John Glenn, Arnold Palmer, George Washington and Harry Truman.

13. *Who runs the Chapter?*

A DeMolay Chapter is run by the officers and members of the Chapter with advice and guidance given by the Advisors. The officers consist of the members themselves with the principal officers, including the Master Councilor (president), being elected by the membership. To help supervise, each Chapter has an Advisory Council comprised of interested Masons, Senior DeMolays and parents. One of these Council members is designated as the “Chapter Dad” and is the main Advisor to the Chapter members. He is a friend to whom each member of a Chapter can look as a person that can help him with problems. The Advisory Council does not run the Chapter; rather, they assist the Officers when needed.

14. *Where do the parents fit in?*

Regardless of whether the father is a Mason, Senior DeMolay or not, he and the mother may each serve as an Advisor as they are needed. Many Chapters also have a Parents’ Club. Parents’ Club members help the Chapter by providing support, handiwork, crafts and refreshments.

15. *What happens when a DeMolay reaches the age of 21?*

When a member reaches 21 years he is no longer an “active DeMolay,” but becomes a “Senior DeMolay.” These Senior DeMolays may still attend functions, but they cannot hold office or vote. Many Senior DeMolays later become Advisors.

16. *When, where, and how did DeMolay begin?*

The DeMolay movement was founded in 1919 by the late Frank S. Land and a group of nine high school boys in Kansas City, Missouri. It was their desire to form an organization different from any other for young men, and thus they formed the Order of DeMolay (later renamed DeMolay International). It took only four short years for DeMolay to spread nationally and internationally. There are over 1,000 DeMolay Chapters world-wide with a historical membership of over 3 million.

17. *When and where do you meet?*

(Days, time, and meeting location should be inserted here)

18. *What have you gotten out of DeMolay?*

(The answer to this question must be made up by you. Be prepared for it though, and think carefully.)